

Wai, it matters

Find out more and have your say

We want to know what you think of the draft plan. Now is your opportunity to share your feedback.

Visit **wai-it-matters.nz** to:

- read the draft plan and supporting information
- find out how to learn more and ask questions
- give us your feedback on the draft plan.

We're holding online and in-person hui across Te Taitokerau for you to learn more about our plan and tell us what you think – see wai-it-matters.nz for details.

If you would like us to come and talk at your event or hui please contact us:

Email: freshwater@nrc.govt.nz

Phone: 0800 002 004 or 09 470 1210



Have your say by
4 March 2024.



We want your input on new draft rules for healthier waterways.

Most of our waterways in Taitokerau are in a poor state. Tāngata whenua, our wider communities, and our monitoring data tell us that freshwater ecosystems, the mauri of freshwater, and the habitats of native taonga species are suffering.

Having clean, healthy freshwater is important for our environment, our health, and our livelihoods. For tāngata whenua, water is integral to whakapapa.

We need to act now

The government has set national bottom lines for freshwater. We need to significantly improve the condition of our waterways to meet these minimum national standards. This means changes to how we use our land and water.

The draft Freshwater Plan Change

With input from tāngata whenua and the primary sector, Northland Regional Council has developed a draft plan to improve freshwater health in Te Taitokerau. It sets out what the new vision, outcomes, limits and rules for managing freshwater could be.

The draft plan gives effect to **Te Mana me te Mauri o te Wai**. This kaupapa puts the health and wellbeing of waterways first, human health needs second, and other uses of water third.

What are the draft rule changes being considered?



Protect highly-erodible land (HEL)

- More accurate maps
- Limit vegetation clearance, land preparation and earthworks
- Exclude stock



Eliminate or reduce discharges

- Phase out household wastewater discharges to water
- Tighten requirements for dairy effluent and wastewater treatment plant discharges



Impacts on tāngata whenua values

- More activities will need cultural impact assessments for resource consents
- Increase tāngata whenua participation in freshwater management, leadership and decision-making
- Allocate water for environmental enhancement, to recognise the relationship tāngata whenua hold with wai, and to preserve Te Hurihanga Wai



Keep stock out of waterways and wetlands

- Wider fenced setbacks
- Encourage plant growth along banks and margins



Controls on exotic forests

- Larger setbacks from waterways
- Consent requirements in dune lake catchments