

NGĀ WAI MĀORI KI TE TAITOKERAU

Freshwater in Te Taitokerau



TE MANA O TE WAI

By protecting the health of freshwater, we protect the health and well-being of our people and environment into the future.



Ngā Wai Māori ki Te Taitokerau

Freshwater in Te Taitokerau

The government's set a new national direction for how we must all look after freshwater.

It's designed to restore the health of waterways within a generation. It's a huge task as many of the streams, rivers and lakes in Te Taitokerau are in a poor state. If our wai is unhealthy, then our harbours and estuaries are unhealthy; what happens on the whenua impacts our moana.

It's going to take time and large-scale change to how we currently do many things to achieve the improvements we need to. On top of this, climate change is increasing the pressure on water resources, with Te Taitokerau experiencing more intense droughts and floods, as well as increasing temperatures.

As a council, we have to implement the government's plans and as a result we're preparing a new Freshwater Plan. It's basically a set of new targets, policies and rules which will enable us to improve the health of freshwater.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ISN'T THE SAME KAUPAPA AS THE THREE WATERS REFORMS.

The Freshwater Plan is completely different and is focused on improving the health of our rivers, lakes, wetlands and groundwater while Three Waters is about funding and managing water related infrastructure like wastewater treatment plants and drinking water supply pipelines.



TE MANA O TE WAI

At the heart of the freshwater plan process is the objective of Te Mana o te Wai which is to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed in a way that prioritises:

(a) first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems

(b) second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)

(c) third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future.

He aha te kaupapa o Te Mana o te Wai?

How will Te Mana o te Wai influence anything?

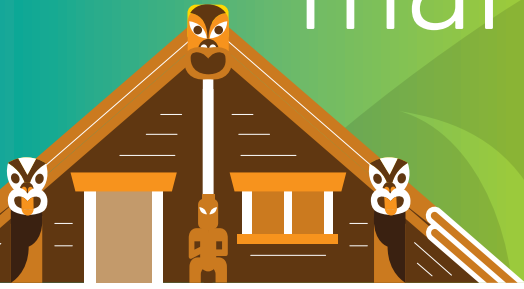
The kaupapa of Te Mana o te Wai must now influence the way we use and interact with freshwater. There are five key requirements of the Te Mana o te Wai kaupapa that apply to developing the new Freshwater Plan:



TE MANA O TE WAI IS ABOUT PROTECTING THE MAURI OF THE WAI, AND RESTORING THE BALANCE BETWEEN WATER, OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

We're committed to better understanding and reflecting Māori values in the way we manage what we do better so our freshwater improves.

Korero mai



NRC WANT TO KNOW
WHAT TANGATA WHENUA
THINK SHOULD BE DONE
DIFFERENTLY WHEN IT
COMES TO FRESHWATER

If your marae, hapū, or iwi, are keen to discuss the Freshwater Plan and let us know your views, or show us areas of wai or awa that are important to you, we can meet kanohi ki te kanohi. Get in touch and let us know what you'd like to do.

YOU CAN CALL ON 0800 002 004 OR EMAIL – FRESHWATER@NRC.GOV.TZ.NZ

You can also use our online mapping tool to tell us what you think needs to be done differently to improve water quality.

This is a really great place to find out more up-to-date detail about everything to do with freshwater in Te Taitokerau.

WWW.NRC.GOV.TZ.NZ/FRESHWATERPLAN

He aha ngā take mō ngā tangata whenua?

What does it really mean for tangata whenua?

The Freshwater Plan is an opportunity for tangata whenua to influence what the rules will be. This includes when resource consents are needed, and how those consents are processed. It's a chance to be involved in real change. It's also the way to influence how much improvement in water quality we should aim for, and how fast we try and achieve it.

We also need input from tangata whenua to:

- Identify things about freshwater that are important to tangata whenua
- Apply different knowledge systems such as mātauranga Māori to freshwater care and monitoring.

Ngā whakatauirā panoni

Examples of what may change

New rules have recently been introduced nationally requiring stock to be kept out of waterways and to protect wetlands. There's also various initiatives supporting landowners to fence off waterways and minimise erosion (the most significant example is the \$300m Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme). But more change will be needed – which might include:

- More rules on what you can and can't do on highly erodible land to reduce sedimentation
- Rules to reduce the risk of faecal contamination (E. coli) especially for swimming sites, drinking water sources and mahinga kai
- Greater protection for wetlands and encouraging the restoration of natural wetlands
- Greater protection for our threatened species
- Greater involvement of tangata whenua in decision making
- More support for freshwater kaitiaki.

He aha ngā mahi o Te Kaunihera ā-rohe o Te Taitokerau mo te hononga ki ngā tangata whenua?

How is NRC engaging with tangata whenua?

A Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group (TWWAG) has been set up to provide advice to NRC on the content of the Freshwater Plan from a tangata whenua perspective and how we should engage with tangata whenua to help create it.

TWWAG is made up of technical experts with a wide range of freshwater kaitiaki expertise and experience. It's important to note though that this advice is not in place of any other engagement with tangata whenua throughout Te Taitokerau and council is keen to hear the views of Māori landowners, trusts, whānau, hapū and iwi.

Council is taking on board the advice we've had from TWWAG, and are following through with a series of opportunities for tangata whenua to get involved in the freshwater plan change, including online hui, meeting kanohi ki te kanohi, web-based information and social media campaigns.

**WE ARE ALSO IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH IWI AND HAPŪ
THROUGH VARIOUS FORUMS AND DIRECT KORERO.**

Āhea te timatanga o ngā hurihanga?

Freshwater Plan Timeline

2022

JULY → ONWARDS

Engage with interest groups and tangata whenua and prepare draft Freshwater Plan.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Public feedback on what's important about our freshwater.

2023

MID 2023

Have your say on the draft Freshwater Plan.

2024

EARLY 2024

Prepare Freshwater Plan using feedback and advice.

MID 2024

Public can make submissions on the proposed Freshwater Plan.

2025

Freshwater Plan reviewed by freshwater hearing panel.

2026

Freshwater Plan officially adopted.



BASELINE STATE OF FRESHWATER

A key part of improving the state of our wai Māori and waterbodies is knowing where we are starting from – this is called the baseline state. It's basically a snapshot in time we can then use to track our progress with improving wai Māori.



www.nrc.govt.nz/freshwaterplan

CHECK OUT THIS LINK TO SEE MORE DETAIL



While the data we do have doesn't give us a perfect picture, it's the best western science we currently have and it's enough to make a start.

WE NEED TO IMPROVE HOW AND WHAT WE DO WHEN MANAGING FRESHWATER IF WE ARE TO PROPERLY RESPECT TE MANA ME TE MAURI O TE WAI, INCLUDING SUPPORTING TANGATA WHENUA AS KAITIAKI IN COLLABORATION WITH NRC AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS.

HERE'S SOME OF WHAT WE KNOW

We have sites throughout the region where we monitor water quality in awa and roto using western science. The results from those sites can be graded using measures set by government from A to E with A being excellent and E being very poor. Because we don't have monitoring sites in every river or lake, we have also used a model to estimate the baseline state in many awa to give us a 'bigger picture' across Northland.

Tangata whenua have also told us that there has been huge loss to the mauri of wai Māori, ecosystems and taonga species that rely on wai to be healthy and this impacts on them as mana whenua and kaitiaki.

Here's a few key points from the data we have.

AWA

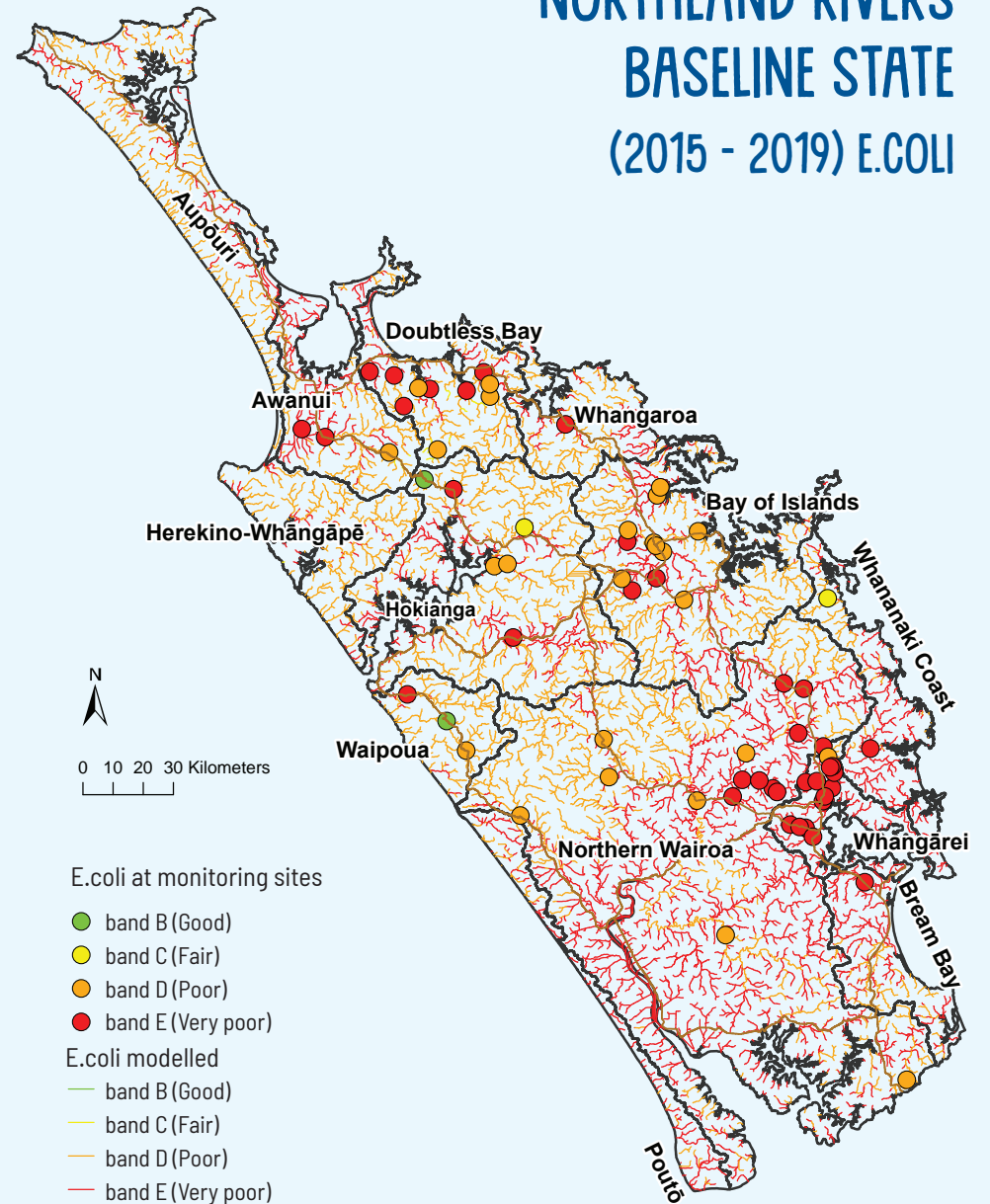
- Most awa (about 95%) are graded poor or very poor for *E. coli* (a measure of faecal contamination from humans or animals).
- Sediment carried in awa is impacting fresh waterbodies, harbours and estuaries.
- Phosphorus levels are high which can lead to nuisance algae growths.
- About 70% of awa and streams are in poor condition using a measure for freshwater insects.

But awa also score well against some measures:

- Most awa score either excellent or good against measures of nitrogen and ammonia.
- They also score well on measures of fish diversity and abundance.



NORTHLAND RIVERS BASELINE STATE (2015 - 2019) E.COLI



Check out more freshwater baseline state maps at www.nrc.govt.nz/baselinestates



ROTO

- Many lakes have elevated nutrient levels which increase the risk of algal blooms and affect the health of native plants and animals.
- Many lakes are also negatively affected by aquatic pest plants.
- All monitored lakes are in an excellent (A) or good (B) state for ammonia toxicity and many score well on measures for underwater native plants.

GROUNDWATER

- We monitor the quality of groundwater at a range of inland and coastal sites to identify risks to human health (nitrate and E. coli) and check for saltwater intrusion. Groundwater quality is generally good in Te Taitokerau, with relatively few issues to date.



www.nrc.govt.nz/freshwaterplan

More detail and maps of the baseline state of wai can be found on our website. Look under "The Freshwater Plan". Please also get in touch with our Planning and Policy team if you have any questions.

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W www.nrc.govt.nz

