

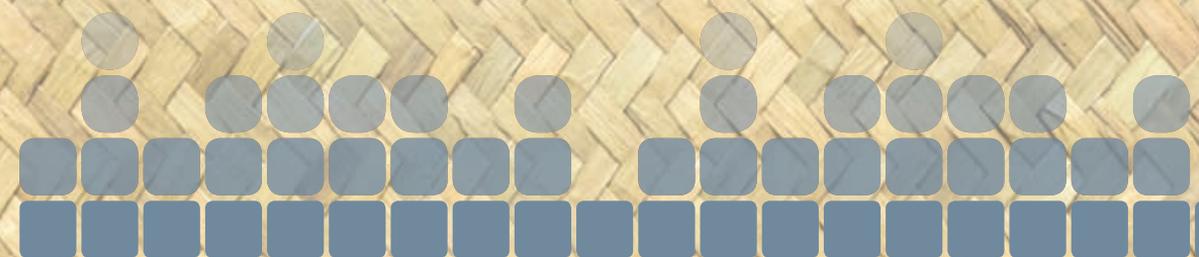
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# REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

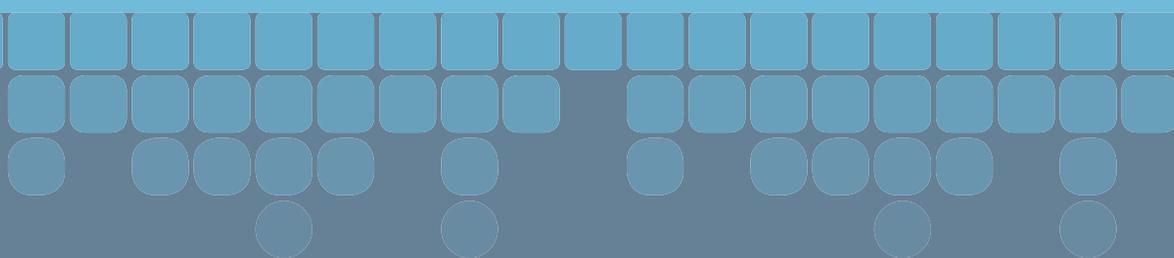
## ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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HBRC Report No. SD 14-08 - Plan Number 4713



FOR THE JULY 2013 TO JUNE 2014 PERIOD





As we continue to bed down the relationship between the Regional Council and our treaty settlement partners we get a better sense of value from the joint approach to planning in Hawke's Bay. Our issues transcend settlement boundaries yet our solutions are in front of us when we get together as a group.

We have many visions in common and the tools to get things done are cleaner and more strategic when we are working side by side. This equates to better planning processes and ultimately better outcomes for Hawke's Bay.

**Fenton Wilson, Co-Chair, Regional Planning Committee**

This year has been a journey of building relationships and broadening the understanding of key issues for the Regional Planning Committee. Newly elected Councillors joined the Committee mid-way through the year and the political landscape continues to evolve for tāngata whenua stakeholders.

The integration of tāngata whenua perspectives into the region's planning and policy has provided tāngata whenua with a vehicle to fulfil their role as Kaitiaki of the region's resources. The committee is committed to develop plans and policies to provide for current needs as well as promote sustainable environmental outcomes for future generations.

**Toro Waaka, Co-Chair, Regional Planning Committee**

## Regional Planning Committee Annual Activity Report 2014

Hawke's Bay Regional Council is committed to working in partnership with tāngata whenua and has welcomed the traditional knowledge and approach to resource management that Māori bring to the table.

The Regional Council's vision is for a region with a vibrant community, a prosperous economy, a clean and healthy environment, now and for future generations. Management of natural and physical resources is one of the Regional Council's key responsibilities. Tāngata whenua are kaitiaki or guardians of the region's natural resources and have a key role in the way these resources are managed both now and in the future.

Cultural redress through Treaty of Waitangi settlements has initiated new partnerships between tāngata whenua and the Regional Council.

These partnerships focus on the management of natural and physical resources and the exploration of sustainable economic opportunities for the entire region.

The Regional Planning Committee was established on 27th April 2011 to actively achieve co-governance of the region's resources by the Regional Council and tāngata whenua. This form of Treaty settlement redress is consistent with the Government's overarching position on natural resource management in the settlement of historical Treaty of Waitangi claims.

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## Establishment of the Committee

The Regional Planning Committee was established to oversee the review and development of the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans prepared under the Resource Management Act (RMA).

The Committee is made up of elected Councillors and representatives from the nine tāngata whenua groups. It is proposed that the Committee be a permanent Committee (so it is not dissolved before each local body election) and legislation to that effect is currently before Parliament.

The Committee is one of the first joint planning committees in New Zealand. Since its formation, the Committee has worked together without a formal statutory mandate, but nevertheless, operates under the principles of co-governance to ensure that the region's tāngata whenua are active decision makers in managing their taonga under the RMA.

## Committee Members

Membership of the Regional Planning Committee consists of an equal number of tāngata whenua and Regional Councillors.

Member	Organisation
Alan Dick	Regional Councillor
Christine Scott	Regional Councillor
Dave Pipe (Nov 2013 - present)	Regional Councillor
Debbie Hewitt (Nov 2013 - present)	Regional Councillor
Fenton Wilson (Co-Chair)	Regional Councillor (Chairman)
Karauna Brown	Ngāti Hineuru Iwi Incorporated
Nicky Kirikiri	Te Toi Kura o Waikaremoana
Nigel Baker	Ngāti Tūwharetoa Hapū Forum
Peter Beaven (Nov 2013 - present)	Regional Councillor
Peter Paku	He Toa Takitini
Rangi Spooner	Mana Ahuriri Incorporated
Rex Graham (Nov 2013 - present)	Regional Councillor
Rick Barker (Nov 2013 - present)	Regional Councillor
Tania Hopmans	Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust
Tom Belford (Nov 2013 - present)	Regional Councillor
Toro Waaka (Co-Chair)	Ngāti Pāhauwera Development and Tiaki Trusts
Walter Wilson	Te Tira Whakaemi o Te Wairoa

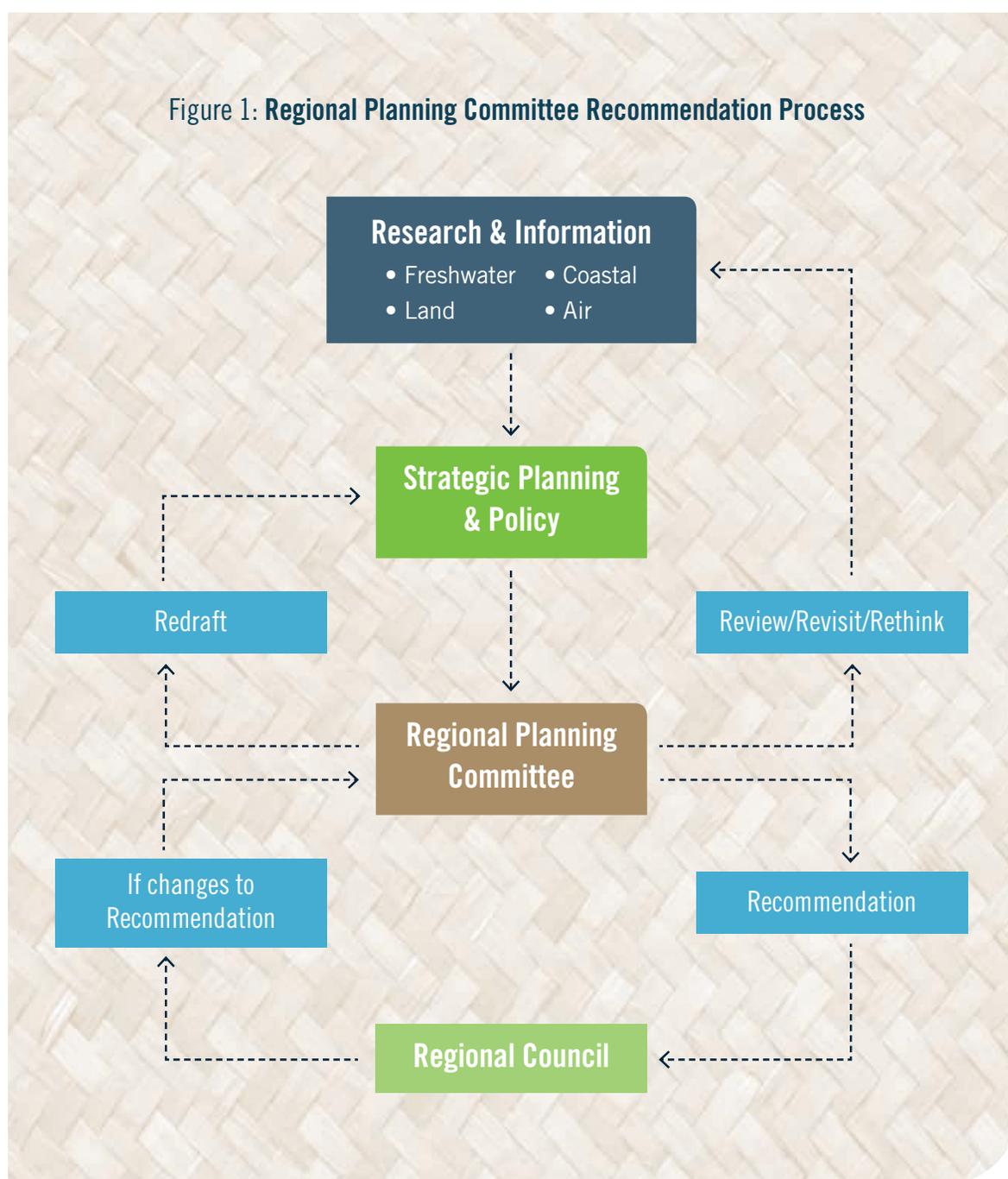


## Why we are different

The Regional Planning Committee differs from the Regional Council's other committees.

The Committee is chaired under a dual chairmanship arrangement with the Chairman of the Regional Council and a nominated tāngata whenua representative (currently Mr Toro Waaka). Decisions are made with at least 80% consensus, rather than the usual 50+% majority or Chair's casting vote.

Members of the Committee, particularly tāngata whenua, can therefore undertake long term planning spanning multiple years. Tāngata whenua membership has not changed this year, however as a result of the three-yearly local body elections in October 2013, there are now six newly elected Councillors on the Committee.



## The year in focus

The Committee met formally four times between July 2013 and June 2014 to consider issues and make recommendations to the Regional Council.

### **Developing Taharua/ Mohaka Catchment Policy and Engaging with Stakeholders**

- August 2013, Science progress update covering key water quality and ecology indicators.
- Catchment plan change update, presented February 2014:
  - Covered policy, land management, science investigations and stakeholder engagement
  - Agreed Treaty claimant groups represented on the Regional Planning Committee would also take part in wider catchment stakeholder discussions.

### **Dealing with Appeals on 'Change 5' to the Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan**

- August 2013, four appeals lodged with the Environment Court against the Regional Council's decisions on Change 5 ('land and freshwater management').
- Prompt resolution of Change 5 appeals is critical to the Regional Council's strategic direction so the Committee gave authority to the Group Manager Strategic Development to sign mediated appeal agreements on the Regional Council's behalf.

### **Annual report drafting for national policy statement (NPS) for freshwater management implementation programmes**

- August 2013, considered draft annual report on the Regional Council's implementation of the NPS for Freshwater Management.
- Based on the Committee's recommendations to Council, the NPSFM progressive implementation report was subsequently published in September 2013 as part of the Regional Council's 2012/13 Annual Report.

### **Resource Management Act Reform**

- August 2013, concerns raised regarding the relatively short timeframe for lodging submissions on the Reform proposals. A letter conveying this concern and comments on the proposed Reform package was subsequently sent to the Minister for the Environment<sup>1</sup>.

### **Greater Heretaunga/ Ahuriri Catchment Plan Change covering the Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū (TANK) catchments**

- February 2014, received update on the TANK collaborative stakeholder group.
- Considered the importance for the TANK Group to maintain a close relationship with the Ahuriri Estuary Management Committee.
- Agreed the Committee will have particular regard to any TANK consensus outcome, if one emerges, as long as it is consistent with higher level policy and planning documents.

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

- February 2014, considered a draft submission from HBRC to the Local Government Commission on the Draft Proposal for Hawke's Bay Local Government Reorganisation.
- Maungaharuru-Tangitū Hapū tabled a response to a letter addressed to the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, the Hon Christopher Finlayson. The letter expressed concern about the durability of the Hawke's Bay Regional Planning Committee in light of the draft Hawke's Bay reorganisation proposal released by the Local Government Commission in December 2013. In particular, the Committee noted:
  - (a) Its own Terms of Reference already outline the Committee's makeup and permanency;
  - (b) Its primary functions could not be taken away other than by a statute but under a new proposal could be added to;
  - (c) Lack of clarity about where the Regional Planning Committee would fit in a joint unitary proposal and the management of planning provisions for natural and physical resources;
  - (d) Importance of meeting requirements for the district and future regional policy development particularly in regard to tāngata whenua.

A number of the projects and items that the Committee has considered in the past year are ongoing projects. These are outlined below:

#### **Tukituki Catchment Proposal - Board of Inquiry's Draft Decision**

- May 2014, considered a report on the Board of Inquiry's draft decision on the Tukituki Catchment Proposal.
- Discussed key implications for the community and for the Regional Council's implementation of 'Plan Change 6' for the Tukituki River catchment based on the Board's Draft Decision.
- Noted that further evaluation of the Board's final decision was required to develop a work programme to implement the Board's final decision.

#### **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group**

- May 2014, heard a report from Dr Andrew Tait of NIWA on projected climate changes, implications for key sectors, adaptation and risk management and the key risks for New Zealand and Australia.
- Key points noted included:
  - (a) Nationally there was a possible increase in temperature of 4-7 degrees Celsius over the coming decades,
  - (b) A decrease in mean annual rainfall - droughts may become more prevalent in the future;
  - (c) Rainfall events may become more intense, with associated increased flooding risks;
  - (d) Ecosystems could be affected by the introduction of introduced pests and diseases and health impacts from increased water/ food borne diseases with a shift in summer/ winter health issues; and
  - (e) How the region will adapt to climate change needs to be considered in light that many adaption limits have a long lead-in time.

#### **Commissioner Training for RPC Tāngata Whenua**

- Noted the importance of all members of the Regional Planning Committee attending the RMA hearing commissioner accreditation 'Foundation Course' as the RMA requires accreditation of hearings panel members for resource consent hearings and plan/ policy hearings. This is considered useful for all members especially the Committee's tāngata whenua members as they would bring their traditional knowledge and approach to resource management to hearing panels.
- Regional Council and Hastings District Council hosted two successful foundation course 2-day workshops in December 2013. Four members of the Committee (and five Regional Council staff) are now accredited RMA Hearings Commissioners.

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<sup>1</sup> The Government has opted to put RM reforms on hold until after elections in September 2014.

## Hawke's Bay Major River Catchments



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