Appendix A

Key Implementation milestones and activities for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

Status key (for 2012-2013 period) Completed within Programme's indicative timeframe In progress during Programme's indicative timeframe Not started during Programme's indicative timeframe

Implementation activity/phase ongoing
Implementation not programmed in current reporting period

NPSFM Objectives

A1 – safeguarding life-supporting capacity etc. (water quality) A2 – overall water quality in region

B1 – safeguarding life-supporting capacity etc. (water quantity)

B2 – over-allocation (water quantity)

B3 – efficient allocation and use (water quantity)

B4 – significant values of wetlands (water quantity)

C1 – integrated management of land and fresh water

D1 – tangata whenua roles and interests

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Activity	Status	Comment on 2012 – 2013 progress	Obj A1	Obj A2	Obj B1	Obj B2	Obj B3	Obj B4	Obj C1 Obj D1
Change 4 (Built Environment) to Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan - Submissions, hearing and decisions phase		Change 4 was publicly notified on 7 December 2011 and 45 submissions were received. Hearings were held on 7 December 2012 and Council released its decisions 26 March 2013.					·		•
- Appeals on decisions phase		Transpower NZ Ltd lodged an appeal with the Environment Court against some of the Council's decisions on Change 4. Resolution of that appeal will be ongoing into the 2013/14 period.							
Change 5 (Land use and Freshwater) to Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan - Submissions, hearing and decisions phase		Change 5 was publicly notified 2 October 2012. 29 submissions were received on Change 5 and hearings were held 10-12 April by a panel of RMA-accredited hearings commissioners. On 5 June 2013, Council issued its decisions on submissions.		•	•	•	•	•	• •
- Appeals on decisions phase		Four appeals were lodged with the Environment Court against some of the Council's decisions on Change 5. Resolution of appeals will be ongoing into the 2013-14 period.							
Plan Change 6 (Tukituki Catchment)		Stakeholder engagement on the Tukituki plan change and the Ruataniwha Water Storage project occurred via the Tukituki Choices discussion document. This set out four land and water management scenarios, with and without		•	•	•	•	•	• •

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Activity	Status	Comment on 2012 – 2013 progress	Obj A1	Obj A2	Obj B1	Obj B2	Obj B3	Obj Ct	Obj D1
 Stakeholder engagement and policy drafting 		storage and the implications of those options. 3 public meetings and 2 breakfast meetings were held. 164 written responses on the Tukituki Choices discussion document were received. Council endorsed key approaches for the development of the plan change.							
- Submissions, hearing and decisions phase		Change 6 was publicly notified on 4 May 2013 and 79 submissions were received. The Council requested the Environment Minister to call in proposed Plan Change 6 (via the Environmental Protection Authority) so it is part of the Tukituki Catchment Proposal (in conjunction with applications for the Ruataniwha Water Storage project). The Environment Minister has since determined that the Tukituki Catchment Proposal is to be called in. Change 6 and the RWSS applications were notified on 6 July 2013. Submissions on the proposal will be heard and decided by a Board of Inquiry during the 2013-14 period.							
Plan Change: Mohaka River catchment - Stakeholder engagement and policy drafting		A project update was presented to Regional Planning Committee meeting on 5 September 2012. The Committee supported in-principle the concept of a 'catchment management plan' being a key component of the Taharua plan change. In late 2012 the Ministry for the Environment declined HBRC's application for funding from the Fresh Start for Fresh Water Clean-up Fund and nitrification inhibitors (Eco-N) were voluntarily and indefinitely withdrawn from market, due to dicyandiamide (DCD) traces in milk powder. These two events have had significant implications in arriving at a set of policy solutions for the Catchment. A further update report was presented to the Committee's 5 June 2013 meeting post withdrawal of Eco-N product from market. This reported on further focussed discussions between major landowners about N mitigation options and responsibilities; water quality monitoring trends, science work programmes and a preliminary plan for broader catchment stakeholder engagement. For the wider Mohaka catchment supporting science is progressing and stakeholder engagement commenced during the latter half of the 2012/13 period. This will be elaborated on in the 2013/14 period via a 'Mohaka choices' discussion document or similar. At this time Council has directed that staffing and financial resources are diverted into other priority work projects that are considered critical in the short-term.		•	•				•
Plan Change: Greater Heretaunga/Ahuriri - Stakeholder engagement and policy drafting		Council has resolved to take an integrated approach to managing the surface and groundwater resources of the Heretaunga zone which includes Tutaekuri and Ngaruroro rivers, Karamu and Clive rivers and the Heretaunga Plains groundwater system. The 'TANK' stakeholder group has met seven times to date and a field trip has been undertaken. Update report presented to Regional Planning Committee meeting on 5th June 2013. Group's terms of reference have been confirmed. Current science understanding of issues in the catchment area was presented to the second group meeting. Extension to the time frame for plan change notification is now signalled in the 2013/14 Annual Plan. Council has directed that staffing and financial resources be diverted into other priority work projects that are considered critical in the short-term.		•	•	•			•

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Activity	Status	Comment on 2012 – 2013 progress	Obj A1	Obj A2	Obj B1	Obj B2	Obj B3		Obj C1	Obj D1
Plan Change: urban stormwater		This Plan Change aligns with Greater Heretaunga/Ahuriri plan change and the policy development will stem from the collaborative process being undertaken by the 'TANK' Group.	•	•					•	•
RPS and/or plan change: 2010 Coastal Policy Statement implementation		No specific investigations dedicated to solely the coastal environment have been necessary during the period. Gap analysis of RCEP against 2010 NZCPS is yet to be undertaken. Staff resources have been redirected to other projects. Nonetheless, a number of indirectly related investigations have been commissioned in relation to catchment-based regional plan changes (eg: Tukituki and Greater Heretaunga/Ahuriri areas) where the coast is ultimately those catchment areas' receiving environments.	•	•					•	•
Biodiversity Strategy		Project scoping commenced and completed. Terms of Reference for Working Group have been developed. Working Group's first meeting held in October 2012 focussing on gaining an understanding of what the individuals in the group were doing in the biodiversity area and how best to work as a group in the future. Steering group have met and begun developing the strategy objectives. Steering group members have been reviewed and Mana Whenua connections made to contribute to the development. Refinement of Biodiversity Accord complete with accord concepts to be further refined through the steering group. Inventory work is nearing completion to inform further field investigations in the coming 2013/14 summer period. Due to staff focus on priority projects the timeline has been revised and the Strategy is now scheduled to be completed in 2014. A programme for work relevant to HBRC for inclusion in the next Long Term Plan will be prepared in 2014-2015.	•		•			•		•
RPS Change for Biodiversity (significant wetlands)		Policy development is subject to completion of the Regional Biodiversity Strategy.	•	•	•			•	•	•
Identification of outstanding freshwater bodies		Preliminary desktop review and scoping of information regarding possible evaluation criteria commenced. Further criteria development and waterbody assessment is pending development of national guidance on this issue by Ministry for the Environment.								
RPS Change for outstanding freshwater bodies		Policy development is subject to timing of MFE's preparation of national guidance on this issue.	•	•	•				•	•
Plan change: rest of region		No specific policy development activity during the 2012-13 period.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Specific plan effectiveness monitoring programmes (Tukituki; Taharua/Mohaka; Heretaunga/Ahuriri)		Specific plan effectiveness monitoring and reporting not yet developed.								

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Activity	Status	Comment on 2012 – 2013 progress	Obj A1	Obj A2	Obj B1	Obj B2	Obj B3	Obj B4	Obj C1	Ta fan
RPS/ Plan Effectiveness Reporting/Review		No specific plan effectiveness monitoring and reporting scheduled during the 2012-13 period.								
SOE Reporting and Review (5 yearly, annual)		Council undertakes monthly and annual reporting on specific investigations carried out in that reporting period. Every five years Council undertakes State of the Environment Reporting to assess longer term trends. Council is currently compiling the five-yearly state of the environment report due for publication in the 2013/14 period.								
Regional Afforestation Scheme		Council proposed to work in partnership with landowners with highly erodible land to promote afforestation of the steepest and least productive portion of their land in return for a share of carbon credit revenue. The afforestation of steep, highly erodible hill country would likely improve water quality in rivers due to reduced sediment from erosion. This project commonly known as 'Trees on Farms' has been put on hold indefinitely as the current down turn in carbon prices has significantly reduced the economic viability of the project as a working model. Council has instructed Staff to explore other options and seek other economic drivers for investment.								
Water Storage Investigations – Ruataniwha & Ngaruroro/Heretaunga Plains		A pre-feasibility study was completed for the Ngaruroro/Heretaunga Plains catchment in 2011. An on farm economic assessment to determine the viability of water storage for the Ngaruroro catchment needs to be conducted. This will help to establish if the project should proceed to a feasibility investigation. This economic assessment was due for completion in 2012 however it has been deferred due to resource constraints. It is anticipated that recommendations will be made to Council in 2014. This is being considered as part o the Greater Heretaunga / Ahuriri policy development work. The feasibility investigations for the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme (RWSS) were completed in September 2012. Consent applications were lodged with the Environmental Protection Authority on May 2013 and have subsequently been called in by the Environment and Conservation Ministers as part of the 'Tukituki Catchment Proposal' (alongside Plan Change 6). The RWSS applications were notified by the EPA on 6 July 2013. Submissions on the proposal will be heard and decided by a Board of Inquiry during the 2013-14 period.								
Science investigations to support plan changes including Nutrient modelling; Groundwater modelling; Instream flow assessments; Water quality monitoring; Flow gauging; Surface water/groundwater interactions for Heretaunga Plains		Targeted water quality investigations are on-going and feed into the Tukituki, TANK and Mohaka Plan Changes. This is over and above Council's statutory obligations for monitoring surface water quality throughout the region. The objectives of the work is to better define current state; define and understand ecological and physical-chemical conditions and dynamics; and allow for effective limit setting in relation to water quality limits.								

Appendix A

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Activity	Status	Comment on 2012 – 2013 progress	Obj A1	Obj A2	Obj B1	Obj B2	Obj B3	Obj B4	Obj C1 Obj D1
Implementation of Water Measuring Regulations		The first phase of the transitional Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010 came into force on 10 November 2012. This affected approximately 950 consents of which 450 new water meter installations were required, for consented rates of at 20 litres/second or more. Currently Council is on track to reach 100% compliance with the Regulations by September 2013. The second phase of the transitional Regulations comes into force from 10 November 2014 for water takes of 10 litres/second or more, but less than 20 litres/second.							
Facilitation of water user groups		Council is continuing to work with water users to establish efficient water use through alternative water management options. This is on a 'where and when' basis due to resourcing limitations (funding & staffing levels). Council has facilitated the establishment of key water user groups such as the Ngaruroro Irrigation Society and the Twyford Irrigators Group. Both of these water user groups are part of the TANK collaborative stakeholder group.							
Facilitation of catchment groups for non-point source discharges		Council is working on an adaptive management framework to manage non point source discharges from land into water. A pilot is being developed for the Tukituki Catchment that will comprise an overall facilitation group informed by the primary industry pan sector which then supports six sub-catchment operational groups which comprises landowners, Hapu and HBRC. The objectives of the pilot are to build the capacity within the sub-catchment groups to enable them to self manage to reduce/mitigate contaminant discharges with a focus on nutrients.							
Management and mitigation plans		Council is working towards an adaptive management framework with key stakeholders to achieve proposed targets in Tukituki Plan Change 6. Phosphorus management plans within priority sub-catchments are proposed to address phosphorus loads using specific mitigation methods suited to the situation. Methods could include afforestation of hill country to address sediment migration into waterways. The pilot is currently in a development phase.							