What you need to know about the plan for the Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū catchments.
The TANK Plan, once adopted, will deal with the effects of land and water use on the quality and quantity of the water in the Heretaunga Plains, its interconnected waterways and aquifer.

Being able to swim in and collect food from rivers and lakes, develop new wetlands, add plants and trees to improve biodiversity, irrigate crops, operate industries, have water for drinking and town supply... the TANK Plan wraps these essential elements into a package of policies and rules to protect and improve the long-term health of these waterways.

**THIS IS WHERE 85% OF HAWKE’S BAY PEOPLE**
LIVE, WORK AND PLAY.
The project was started by Hawke’s Bay Regional Council in 2012 as a community-based collaborative process with input from the TANK Group - a wide range of 30+ stakeholders and mana whenua. This resulted in a draft TANK Plan presented to the Regional Planning Committee in August 2018.

At the end of 2018, the Council’s Regional Planning Committee recommended pre-consultation on the draft TANK Plan with the Minister for the Environment, affected local councils and iwi.

The Regional Planning Committee will make decisions about amendments to the draft TANK Plan as a result of this advice and feedback.

The Regional Council aims to notify the TANK Plan in mid-2019. This will be the opportunity for the community to give their feedback.

The TANK Plan reviews and updates the Council’s Regional Resource Management Plan (RRMP) and gives effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM).

For more information: hbrc.govt.nz, search: #TANK
FOUR MAIN CHALLENGES
- Improve the ecosystem and *mauri*
- Keep more soil on the land
- Water security for Hawke’s Bay economy
- Who gets the water?

Water Conservation Order decision

Nutrients in streams cause algae to grow

Stock damage to waterways

Too much sediment from erosion and land use

High water temperatures
Little oxygen for fish

No shade on stream banks

Too many weeds in the water

Water takes affect stream flows

Too much sediment from erosion and land use

Alarming state of estuary

Stormwater problems

Nutrients in streams cause algae to grow

Stock damage to waterways

Too much sediment from erosion and land use

No shade on stream banks

Too many weeds in the water

Water takes affect stream flows
After working together over six years, the TANK Group agreed on the values to collectively manage water. We’ve used these values to help set water quality and quantity objectives and limits for things like sediment, dissolved nutrients and algae. The target we’ve set ourselves to work to achieve these objectives is 2040.
PROTECTING AND IMPROVING FRESHWATER

The Plan addresses the key issues of maintaining, protecting and improving water quality.

In urban areas, Napier City, Hastings District and the Regional Council will work together to make sure all stormwater, wastewater and urban waterways are managed better.

The Councils will deliver a number of initiatives to care for our ecosystem and ensure that risky activities are properly managed.

Protection of drinking water supplies for the community is vital and is covered under new rules in the Plan.

The Karamū catchment largely sits in the urban environment. These Council commitments will go a long way to improving the water quality, alongside other targeted actions with rural landowners on the Heretaunga Plains, such as riparian planting to increase shade. This should mean less weed growth, lower water temperatures and improved oxygen levels to benefit ecosystem health.

In rural areas, the quality of waterways is effected by different issues. In the Ngaruroro, Ahuriri and Tūtaekurī catchments, a reduction in sediment is being targeted through erosion control, stock exclusion and riparian planting. In some catchments there is also a need to actively reduce nutrient concentrations.

Land use activities that result in nutrients and sediment entering water are also covered under new policies and rules. Compliance action will be taken where rules are not being followed.
We worked closely with the community to agree on the specific values that should be protected by the TANK Plan.
Tāngata whenua representatives of iwi and hapū in the TANK area have provided complementary values and attributes to characterise water quality. These core values are underpinned by a philosophy of appropriate etiquette, customs, harmony and timing.

† These two models are still being developed, but give a sense of the approach that the TANK Group and Māori are taking (November 2016).
Farm Plans are an important tool that help farmers to show how contaminant risks have been identified and are being managed.

The Plan allows for this to be done individually or collectively. Landowner collectives will enable innovation and flexibility to meet water quality outcomes.

The Regional Council and stakeholder groups will work together to ensure that specific time-bound milestones are met. These will cover activities such as stock exclusion, riparian land planting, creation or protection of wetlands and the preparation of nutrient budgets for some landowners in some catchments.

Activities will have to meet new rules including for stock access to waterways, some land disturbance activities and new setbacks from waterways.
The Regional Council is working closely with Napier City and Hastings District Councils to manage stormwater and protect drinking water.

The TANK Plan introduces new rules to better manage the stormwater networks. Discharges will have to meet higher performance standards for water quality. Napier and Hastings Councils are committed to prepare integrated catchment management plans that identify opportunities to improve stormwater management by 2025.

The Plan supports a more integrated and low impact approach to the design and management of stormwater networks. Some of the stormwater network will need to be upgraded to care for our ecosystem. Stormwater runoff will also need to be managed. Where industrial and commercial activities pose a potential risk to stormwater quality, operators will need to prepare site management plans that identify and properly manage any risks.

This Plan protects water for drinking, human health and wellbeing, and gives effect to the National Environmental Standards for Sources of Drinking Water, covered under new rules. These establish Source Protection Zones with new rules for some risky activities. There is still work being done to clarify the areas that the new rules apply to.

Land and water use activities and their effects on the quality of the Heretaunga Plains aquifer are identified and subject to more focused management.
WATER QUANTITY - MANAGING ABSTRACTION

Water abstraction will be managed by allocation limits and minimum flows.

The proposed flows and limits are a way to manage our water resource effectively and sustainably. The minimum flow for the Ngaruroro River has not changed, but the allocation limit has been reduced. The minimum flow for the Tūtaekurī River has been increased and the allocation limit has been reduced slightly. The new limits show that most waterbodies are fully allocated and, in some places, over-allocated.

All groundwater takes in the Heretaunga Plains are interconnected.

New information shows all groundwater takes have a cumulative effect on stream flows across the Heretaunga Plains including on the Ngaruroro River. The amount allocated from groundwater exceeds actual use, so the new interim allocation limit for the Heretaunga Plains reflects the existing level of use. There are a number of measures to reduce the effects of stream-depleting activities on the Heretaunga Plains rivers and streams.

WATER ALLOCATION

There are competing demands for water. This Plan identifies water for human health and community and town supply as a priority. The water necessary for primary production on versatile soils is specifically acknowledged with provisions that prevent changes to end-use. Water bottling is considered to be the same as any other commercial use of water but may be subject to restrictions during droughts, before water uses with a seasonal water demand.

Where water is over-allocated, including in the Heretaunga Plains, re-allocation is provided for, but there are higher performance standards for permit applicants. There are new requirements for efficiency in irrigation systems and other abstraction uses. Some of the stream depletion effects from groundwater abstraction is proposed to be managed by flow enhancement schemes.
The Plan has a number of new allocation limits and minimum flows to protect water-based ecosystems and to provide water for abstraction at reasonable security of supply.

Groundwater takes impact the flow of streams and rivers in the plains and the Ngaruroro River. Water allocation must be reduced to better reflect actual use and to ensure allocation limits are not exceeded. All re-allocation assessments will consider actual and reasonable use including information based on historic land and water use. The IRRICALC water demand model will be used to calculate the amount of water allocated for the irrigation of crops. New flow enhancement requirements are similar to that being used in the Twyford area. Permit holders will be required to contribute to such schemes or be subject to a take ban when flows fall below a specified trigger.

Over-allocation from surface waterbodies also means permits will need to be assessed for actual and reasonable water use, and possible reductions in allocations.

New policies and rules establish high-flow allocation limits and controls for damming.

This gives more certainty for investment and ensures the protection of rivers, including high-flow frequency which helps to flush algae and maintain the river shape and form.

The Plan prohibits the damming of the Ngaruroro and Tūtaekurī main stems and these tributaries: the Taruarau and Omahaki and the Mangaone and Mangatutu streams.
HIGH FLOW ALLOCATION FOR MĀORI DEVELOPMENT

Part of the high flow allocation is reserved for the development of Māori economic, cultural or social well-being. Activities that would deliver the outcomes sought are still being further developed and subject to input by iwi authorities.

WETLANDS

The Plan specifically recognises the significant value of wetlands, including their role in managing water quality and quantity and their significant contribution to protecting biodiversity in New Zealand. Objectives and policies aim to increase the area of wetland in the TANK catchments, led by commitment from the Regional Council and other key stakeholders.
In July 2017 an application was made for a WCO for the Ngaruroro and Clive Rivers.

The Water Conservation Order Tribunal considered submissions about the WCO application for the upper reaches of the Ngaruroro River in 2017. The Hearings of submissions on the lower Ngaruroro and Clive were delayed by the Tribunal until the TANK Plan had progressed further, and were re-scheduled for early 2019.

The WCO Tribunal has current information about the TANK Plan.

You can find more information about the Ngaruroro and Clive Rivers’ WCO on the Environmental Protection Authority’s website: epa.govt.nz

The collaborative process used to develop the TANK Plan improved everyone’s understanding of the wider community and stakeholder responsibilities to manage water and land well, and in ways that protect the long-term health of our water resource.

As a result of this collaborative approach to the Plan preparation process, a collaborative approach to solutions was also adopted.

The Regional Council needs the support of its communities to be successful. Stakeholders have therefore taken responsibility to ensure a number of measures are implemented. These commitments are explained in more detail in the Implementation Plan which accompanies the TANK Plan – available online at hbrc.govt.nz, search: #TANK.