

The TANK Plan

May - July 2020

Freshwater Future



Understand and protect
our precious taonga.

Have your say on
the long-term health
of our waterways.



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HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI



Tūtaekurī Ahuriri Ngaruroro Karamū.

Heretaunga, Napier, Hastings:

Where 85% of Hawke’s Bay people live, work and play.

The proposed TANK Plan will deal with the effects of our land and water use on the quality and quantity of Heretaunga Plains water – the life blood of the cities of Napier and Hastings and our surrounding environment.

Our proposal wraps all of the things we value into a package of policies and rules so we can protect and improve the long term health of our waterways.

This is fundamental to the social & cultural wellbeing of our people and the economic health of our region.

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We should not take for granted our easy access to drinking water and reliable town water supplies, being able to swim in and collect food from rivers and lakes, our wetlands, trees for biodiversity, irrigated crops and booming industries.

TANK's Big Issues

The proposed TANK Plan aims to provide solutions to some pressing issues in the TANK catchments.

What it means in the urban environment:

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

The Councils will deliver new 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 is largely an urban environment. Council commitments will go a long way to improving its water quality, along with targeted actions by 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 for a healthier water ecosystem.

Have your say

The Regional Council wants to hear from all areas of the community about the proposed TANK Plan.

Make a submission. For more information, go to: [hbrc.govt.nz](https://www.hbrc.govt.nz), search: #tank

What it means for land owners and managers:

The quality of waterways is affected by different issues in rural areas.

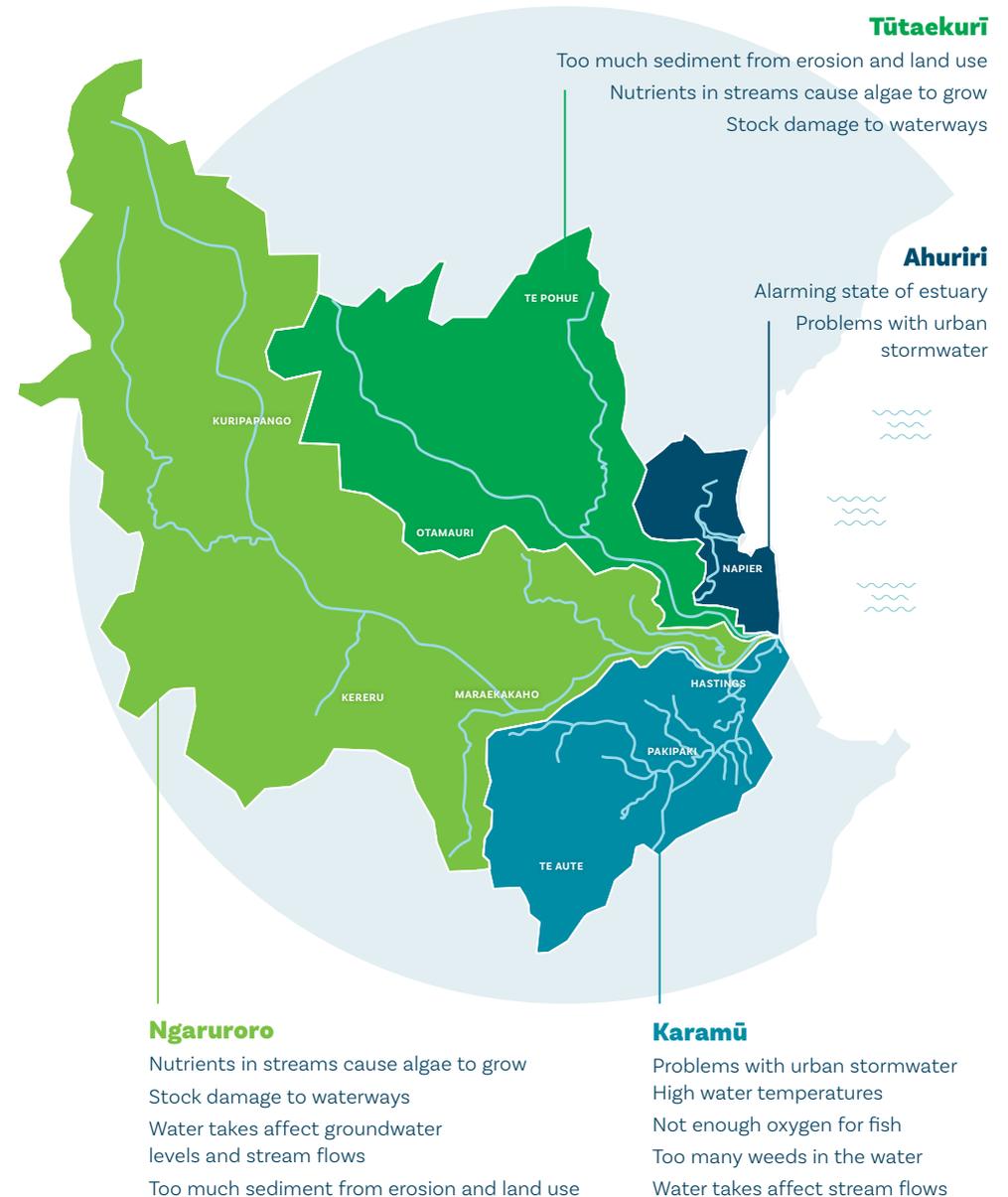
In the Ngaruroro, Ahuriri and Tūtaekurī catchments, a reduction in sediment is being targeted through erosion control, stock exclusion and riparian planting. In some catchments there is also a need to actively reduce nutrient concentrations. In the Karamū catchment, riparian planting to provide shade is a priority action. New rules also establish minimum performance standards for some high risk activities.

Our Challenge:

There are five main challenges:

- Improve ecosystem health and mauri
- Keep more soil on the land
- Reduce nutrient losses to water
- Water security for the Hawke's Bay economy
- Who gets the water?

2040 is the timeline we've set to achieve our targets for the four TANK catchments.



What matters: Our values

The TANK Group worked together over six years and learned a great deal about how the community values our waterways and what's needed to protect them.

TANK Values

The TANK Group based their recommendations to the Regional Council on **Values for Water Quality** and **Te Ao Māori**.

This has led to proposed water quality and quantity targets for things like sediment, high levels of nutrients and algae.



Glossary

Kaitiaki	guardian or custodian	Tikanga	Māori customs
Kaupapa	philosophy	Uu	values within water
Kawa	appropriate etiquette	Waahi taonga	special or sacred places
Maramataka	timing	Waimāori	cultural view of rivers
Mauri	vital essence of life	Wairua	spirit
Pono	harmony	Whakapapa/ Ki Uta, Ki Tai	genealogy or lineage/ mountains to the sea
Pou-tiri-Ao	the balanced state that maintains life-essence or mauri		

The TANK Plan

The TANK Plan proposes to protect and improve freshwater:

1. Water Quality & Healthy Ecosystems

- Farm Plans
- Manage sediment & nutrient losses to water
- Manage stock access & riparian land
- Protect the quality of drinking water
- Manage stormwater
- Improve wetlands

2. Water Quantity

- Set allocation limits
- Manage minimum flows
- Enable additional water supplies
- Set high flow allocation

Fact sheets & maps

There is more information in our supporting fact sheets on:

- Allocation Limits and Minimum Flows
- Stream Depletion Effects on the Heretaunga Plains
- Drinking Water Protection and Source Protection Zones
- Landowners, Land Use and Farm Plans

For more info go to hbrc.govt.nz, search: #tank

Also refer to our maps showing:

- Management areas for water quality and quantity
- Priority areas needing action to improve water quality
- Source Protection Zones for drinking water

1. Water Quality and Healthy Ecosystems:

Farm Plans

Farm Plans are an important tool for farmers to track how contaminant risks have been identified and are being managed.

The TANK 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 relevant 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 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.

Manage sediment and nutrients lost to water

Under the TANK Plan, sediment must be managed to limit how much gets into waterways so we can better look after the health of aquatic species.

In catchments where nutrient levels are high, landowners will need to include nutrient budgets in a farm or catchment plan, using Good Management Practices. Other measures may need to be taken in priority areas.

Manage stock access and riparian land

From 2023, cattle, deer and pigs will be excluded from rivers and streams in lowland areas, this will give landowners time to get the necessary work done.

In hill country, stock can have access to water but a Farm Plan or Catchment Collective Plan Will need to assess the risks of contaminant loss and take appropriate actions to protect waterways. Riparian planting to improve ecosystem health will be encouraged and should be included in Farm Plans. Riparian planting that provides shade over waterways will be a focus on the Heretaunga Plains.

Protect the quality of drinking water

This Plan protects the quality of source water for drinking water supply and gives effect to the National Environmental Standards for Drinking Water.

The Plan establishes Source Protection Zones with new rules for some risky activities.

Wetlands

The TANK Plan recognises the significant value of wetlands.

This includes their role in managing water quality and quantity, and their major contribution to protecting biodiversity in Aotearoa. Objectives and policies aim to increase the area of wetland in the TANK catchments, led by commitment from the Regional Council and other key partners.

Manage stormwater

The TANK Plan introduces new rules to better manage the stormwater networks.

Napier and Hastings Councils and the Regional Council will work together to prepare integrated catchment management plans that identify opportunities to improve stormwater management by 2025.

Discharges will have to meet higher performance standards for water quality.

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 waterways. 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.

2. Water Quantity:

Set water allocation limits

The TANK Plan gives priority to water for human health, community and town supply. It sets allocation limits and minimum flows to protect waterway ecosystems.

Groundwater

Every groundwater take has a cumulative effect on stream flows across the Heretaunga Plains, including flows in the Ngaruroro River. No new water will be allocated from the Heretaunga Plains and existing allocations will be reduced. New flow enhancement requirements, similar to those used by the Twyford area, require permit holders to such schemes or be subject to a take ban when flows fall below a specific level.

Minimum flows

The minimum flow for the Ngaruroro River is proposed to be the same, but the allocation limit will reduce. The minimum flow for the Tūtaekurī River is proposed to increase, and the allocation limit will reduce slightly. Under the new limits, most waterbodies are fully allocated and some are over-allocated.

Water allocation

Where water is over-allocated, including the Heretaunga Plains, re-allocation is conditional on higher performance standards for permit applicants. There are new requirements for water use efficiency. The IRRICALC water demand model will help to calculate the amount of water needed to irrigate crops. Permits will be assessed for actual and reasonable water use. Reductions in allocations are likely for many permit holders.

Additional water supplies

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

This is to give more certainty for investment and ensure the protection of rivers. High flows help to flush algae and maintain the river shape and form.

The TANK Plan prohibits the damming of the main stem of the Ngaruroro and Tūtaekurī rivers and their tributaries: the Taruarau, Omahaki, 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 wellbeing.

Activities that contribute to these outcomes are specifically provided for.



Implementing the TANK Plan

Developing 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.

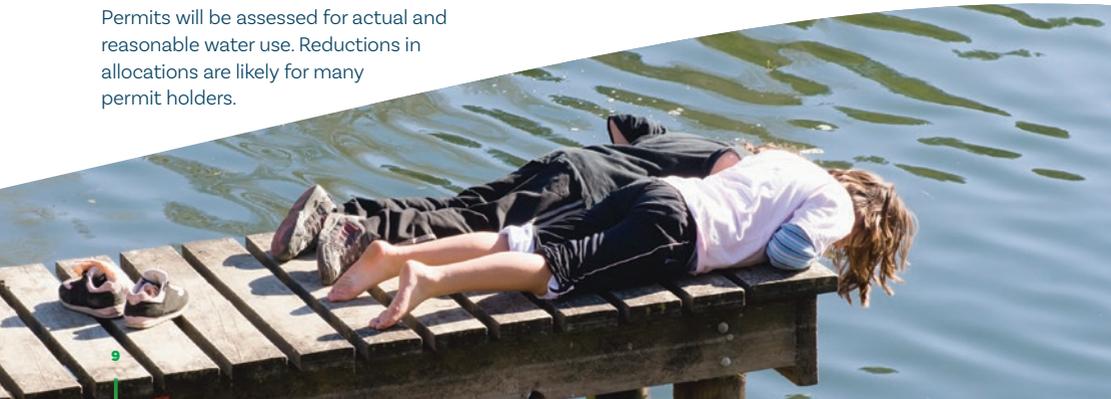
As a result of this community-based approach to the Plan preparation process, a collaborative approach to solutions was also adopted.

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, at hbrc.govt.nz, search: **#tank**

Have your say

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Te whakapakari
tahi i tō tātau
taiao.

Enhancing our
environment
together.