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Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
Authors Siobhan McDonnell, Resource Advisor
Graham Sevicke-Jones, Section Leader

Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment

1. Purpose

To obtain approval from Committee for release of the Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment for public consultation.

2. Background

Greater Wellington has prepared a Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment (enclosed), northwest of Carterton. The Mangatarere catchment is an important water resource for the Region and includes the Mangatarere Stream and its four tributaries – the Enaki, Hinau and Kaipaitangata Streams and Beef Creek.

It provides water for farming activities, contributes to the Carterton District water supply, is significant as a trout spawning habitat, and supports a number of indigenous fish species. It also provides recreational enjoyment, primarily in the form of fishing. In addition, it plays an important part in the dilution of the Carterton District Council sewage discharge.

Studies have revealed that flows in the Mangatarere may be compromising the life supporting capacity of the catchment under both natural conditions and when water takes are operational. The plan has been prepared to meet the needs of multiple users whilst providing for the life supporting capacity of the catchment.

3. Discussion

3.1 Consultation

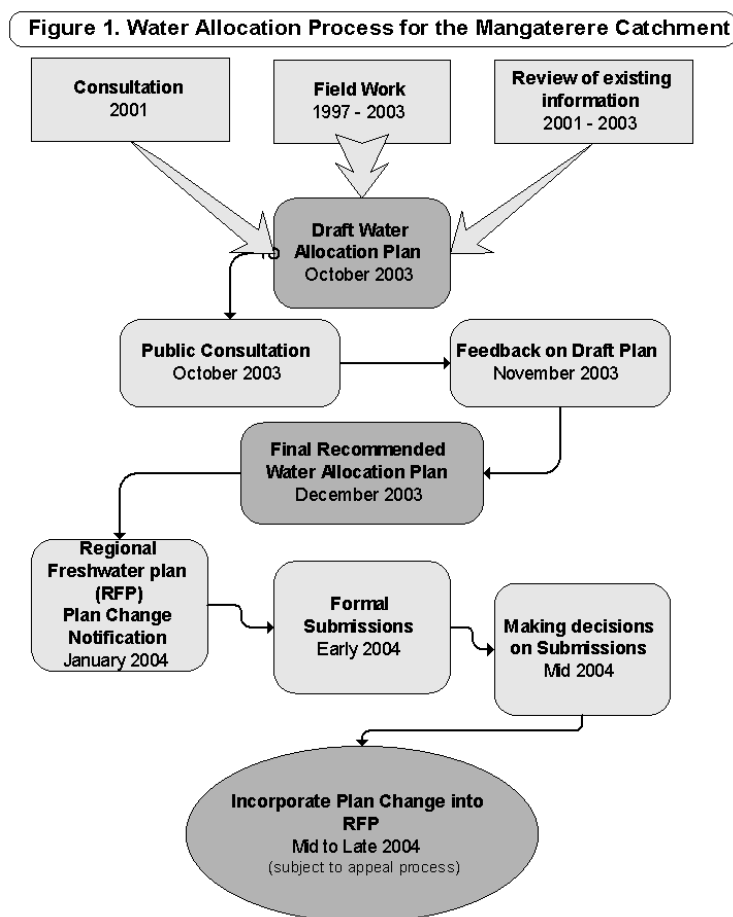
The main purposes of the draft plan are to:

- Inform interested parties and the community about the water allocation process for the Mangatarere catchment;

- Provide the community with the opportunity to tell us what they consider to be valuable about the Mangatarere catchment, and whether the proposed flow regime options can sustain those values; and
- Determine which of the proposed flow regime options are considered most appropriate.

Figure 1 summarises the overall water allocation process for the Mangatarere catchment, including proposed consultation. Once approved in principle by the Committee, the draft plan will be released for public consultation. When all comments are received, feedback will be incorporated into a Final Recommended Water Allocation Plan.

Following its completion, it is intended to undergo the statutory process for a Plan Change to the *Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region*, to incorporate the proposed changes for the Mangatarere within it. At this point, interested parties and the community will have an opportunity to make a formal submission on the proposed Plan Change, and can appeal to the Environment Court.



3.2 The Process for Preparing the Draft Plan

The development of the draft plan has followed a process set out by the Ministry for the Environment, which ensures that the flows set can sustain

the instream values identified as significant for the Mangatarere catchment. This has essentially been completed in 3 steps:

- Step 1** Identification of all 'in' and 'out-of-stream' values of the catchment, by undertaking consultation with the community and reviewing the existing laws and plans relating to the catchment.
- Step 2** Assessment of what instream values are to be sustained, based on the relative significance of the values identified. This process determines the Instream Management Objective, that is, what the stream should be managed for.
- Step 3** Drafting of proposed flow regime options that are consistent with the Instream Management Objective for both the Upper and Lower Reaches of the catchment.

3.3 Proposed Options

- Two options for both the Upper and Lower Reach have been proposed. These options provide two alternative minimum flows that require taking water to cease completely and two alternative levels of additional trigger flow, requiring takes to be reduced by 50%.
- They also include two core allocation options, either set at the quantity of existing consented takes or including an additional abstraction quantity.
- Consultation will provide an opportunity for interested parties and members of the community to indicate which options they consider most appropriate.
- Once the preferred options are determined, the catchment can be monitored to ensure the Instream Management Objective is being met. The draft plan also outlines other measures in addition to water allocation policies which can be used to help achieve the Instream Management Objective for the catchment, including riparian enhancement and the promotion of good practice principles.

4. Communications

Following approval in principle by Committee, the draft plan will be released to interested parties and the community for consultation in October 2003.

5. Recommendation

That the Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment be approved in principle and released for public consultation.

Report prepared by:

Siobhan McDonnell
Resource Advisor

Report prepared by:

Graham Sevicke-Jones
Section Leader

Report approved by:

Steve Blakemore
Manager, Planning &
Resources