## Standard planning process under the RMA

Councils prepare regional planning documents, notify, and call for submissions (and further submissions)

Council appoints accredited hearing panel to hear submissions and evidence

The hearing panel provides recommendations to the council

Council makes decision based on the recommendations received from the panel

Merit appeals to the Environment Court

Appeals on points of law to the High Court

Appeals on points of law to the Court of Appeal

Appeals on points of law to the Supreme Court

Any application for judicial review to the High Court may be made after the appeal rights provided for under the RMA have been exhausted (no time limit)

## A new freshwater planning process

Councils prepare regional planning documents, notify, and call for submissions (and further submissions)

Councils must refer the regional planning documents to the group of freshwater commissioners, after the further submission period closes (appointed by the Minister for the Environment)

The chair of the group of freshwater commissioners convenes freshwater hearing panel to hear submissions and evidence

This panel must include two government appointed freshwater commissioners, two elected councillors (or two accredited commissioners nominated by the council) and one member with an understanding of tikanga Māori and mātauranga Māori (to be selected from nominations by local tangata whenua).

Freshwater hearing panel makes recommendations to the council

Council accepts or rejects the recommendations from the panel

Merit appeals to the Environment Court

Appeals the Tenvironment Court

The Tenvironment Court of the Tenvironment Court o

Appeals on points of law to the High Court\*

If the council

accepts the

recommendation

Appeals on points of law to the High Court\*

Appeals on points of law to the Court of Appeal

No further appeals after determination by the High Court

No further appeals after determination by the Court of Appeal

\*Any application for judicial review to the High Court needs to be made concurrently with the points of law appeal to the High Court (time limit applies)