



***DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING STANDARDS***

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E te Rangatira o te Manatuu Taiao, teenaa koe,

The Waikato River Authority (the Authority) supports the purpose of the National Planning Standards to provide greater consistency of Resource Management Act 1991 plans and policy statements, in particular as it relates to achieving the Vision and Strategy (Te Ture Whaimana) for the Waikato and Waipaa Rivers and its catchments.

#### **WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY AND VISION AND STRATEGY (TE TURE WHAIMANA) FOR THE WAIKATO RIVER**

The Waikato River Authority is an independent statutory body formed in 2010 under the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 and the Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010, with additional responsibilities arising from the Ngā Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012.

The Authority has ten Board Members who are appointed by the River iwi (5) and Ministers of the Crown (5), in particular the Minister for the Environment. The Authority is the sole Trustee of the Waikato River Clean-up Trust whose role is to fund projects which meet the purpose of the Authority.

The purpose of the Waikato River Authority is to:

1. set the primary direction through the Vision and Strategy to achieve the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations
2. promote an integrated, holistic, and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the Vision and Strategy and the management of the Waikato River
3. fund rehabilitation initiatives for the Waikato River in its role as trustee for the Waikato River Clean-up Trust.

<p>The National Planning Standards assists the Authority to achieve purpose two, promoting a co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the Vision &amp; Strategy.</p>
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The three Acts of Parliament that relate to the management of the Waikato River and its catchment (Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010, Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010, Ngā Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012) all provide legislative recognition of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

The Vision & Strategy (Te Ture Whaimana) for the Waikato River is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato River and has the status of a National Policy Statement, prevailing over any inconsistent provision in any other National Policy Statement and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, where there is a conflict. This is described in Figure 1.

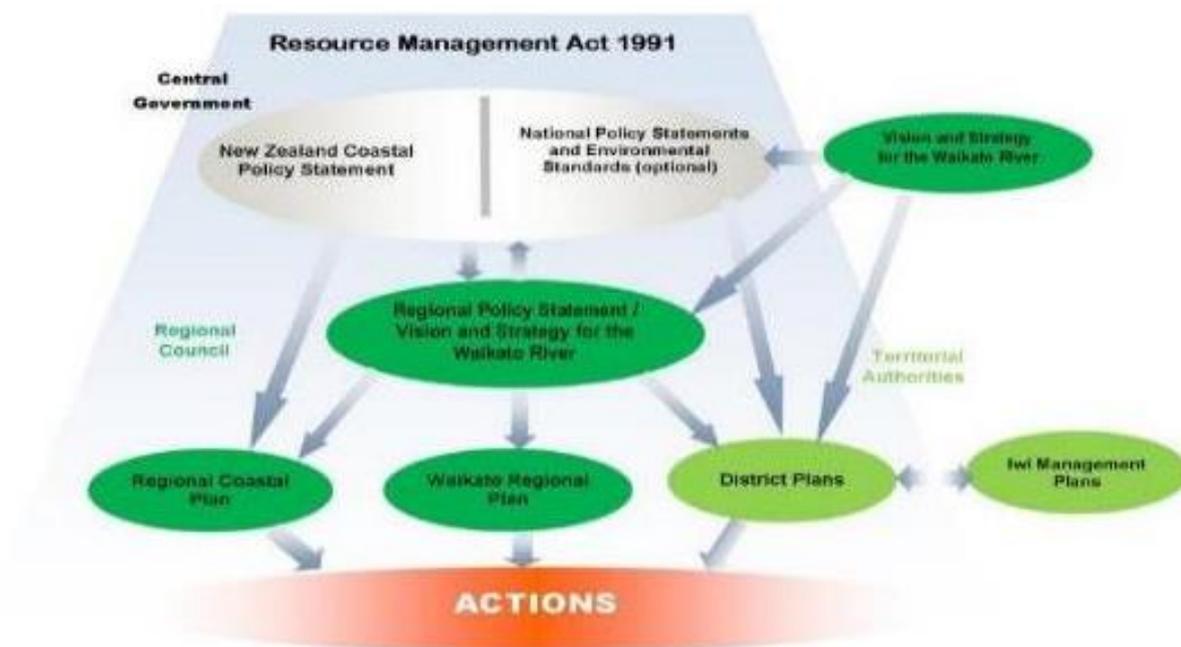


Figure 1 – Vision & Strategy legislative structure

The Vision & Strategy contains a set of objectives and strategies for the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for present and future generations. These are as follows:

- a. The restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- b. The restoration and protection of the relationship of Waikato-Tainui with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural, and spiritual relationships.
- c. The restoration and protection of the relationship of Waikato River iwi according to their tikanga and kawa, with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships.
- d. The restoration and protection of the relationship of the Waikato region's communities with the Waikato River including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships.
- e. The integrated, holistic and coordinated approach to management of the natural, physical, cultural and historic resources of the Waikato River.
- f. The adoption of a precautionary approach towards decisions that may result in significant adverse effects on the Waikato River, and in particular those effects that threaten serious or irreversible damage to the Waikato River.
- g. The recognition and avoidance of adverse cumulative effects, and potential cumulative effects, of activities undertaken both on the Waikato River and within its catchments on the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- h. The recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities.

- i. The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna.
- j. The recognition that the strategic importance of the Waikato River to New Zealand's social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing is subject to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- k. The restoration of water quality within the Waikato River so that it is safe for people to swim in and take food from over its entire length.
- l. The promotion of improved access to the Waikato River to better enable sporting, recreational, and cultural opportunities.
- m. The application to the above of both Mātauranga Māori and latest available scientific methods.

The objectives within the Vision & Strategy encompass all people of the River and their relationships with it – through their communities, industries, recreation, social and cultural pursuits. It will take commitment and time to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. Only by us all working together collaboratively and cooperatively in a coordinated approach will the Vision be realised.

## **WRA VIEWS ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL STANDARDS**

### **General**

1. The Waikato River Authority supports the purpose of the planning standards to provide greater consistency of Resource Management Act 1991 plans and policy statements developed in New Zealand.

### **Specific Points**

2. The Planning Standards must provide for existing or pending treaty legislation and regional or local statutory documents (e.g. Vision and Strategy). This is particularly important in the Waikato Region where there are multiple natural resource settlements that apply to one regional council, one city council and 10 district councils.
3. The Taangata Whenua section (part two) should also provide for references or links to regionally specific legislation and statutory documents (e.g. treaty settlements, Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River).
4. Representation of the each of the treaty settlements is best provided from the iwi themselves. This would ensure consistency in description, application and expectation within the relevant council plans.
5. Could Ministry Officials clarify why the Coastal Marine Area does not have its own chapter, or will this be included in the coastal environment chapter?

### **Special Topics Chapter**

6. The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement 2010 (Waikato River Settlement) states that in relation to Sections 11 to 15, of the Waikato River Settlement, have effect to the extent to which the content of the vision and strategy relates to matters covered by the Resource Management Act 1991. Also, that Sections 11 to 15 prevail over sections 59 to 77 of the Resource Management Act 1991. Sections as significant as this should be clearly noted in all planning documents to which they apply. This is required to clarify where there is

inconsistency or conflict between national planning standards, national direction and regional direction (e.g. the Vision and Strategy).

7. The Waikato River Settlement provides for any amendments to the Vision & Strategy to be included directly into the Regional Policy Statement, and consequently amended to ensure that the RPS is not inconsistent with the Vision & Strategy. The Waikato Regional Council is not required to undertake a Schedule 1 process to give effect to the amended, or reviewed, Vision & Strategy. The Authority recommends that the Planning Standards confirm this process as it applies to the Waikato Regional Council.
8. The Authority supports the inclusion of catchments chapters as this would allow for better representation of catchment values to Hapuu, Marae and communities. Achieving the objectives of the Vision & Strategy at a small scale would be better support catchment-based integration at a regional level.
9. The Authority recommends including a new chapter under part 1 (introduction) for Regional Policy Statements, Regional Plans and District Plans, to include regional direction that is specific or unique to a region (e.g. the Vision & Strategy). National direction that applies to specific regions is currently not provided for.
10. The Authority recommends that statutory objectives, policies and methods from other documents (e.g. the Vision and Strategy) are referenced in the national planning standards to then be included in all planning documents to which it applies.
11. The Authority supports the development of appropriate symbols for iwi maaori related features in regional maps, to be confirmed by iwi within regions.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Waikato River Authority thanks the Ministry for this opportunity in considering our submission. The Authority reiterates our support for the purpose of the National Planning Standards. The Authority looks forward to continued engagement, alongside Iwi and the community to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipaa Rivers for future generations.

Yours sincerely



Robert Penter  
Chief Executive