

# VARIATION 1 TO PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1

## Q. WHAT IS HEALTHY RIVERS/WAI ORA: PLAN CHANGE 1?

**A.** Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora is the bold first step in an 80-year journey to achieve rivers that are swimmable and safe for food gathering along their entire length and achieve the requirements of Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato, the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

It is a change to the Waikato Regional Plan, developed with the community, to allow for the management of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and bacteria in the Waikato and Waipā Rivers. A proposed plan change, developed by the Collaborative Stakeholder Group was notified for public comment on 22 October 2016 and 1023 submissions were received.

## Q. WHAT IS A VARIATION TO A PLAN CHANGE?

**A.** From time to time, the council proposes amendments (referred to as plan changes or variations) to the Regional Plan or Regional Policy Statement. These proposals are part of the council's programme to continually improve its plans and policy statement. Before proposed amendments are incorporated into the existing planning documents, the proposals have to go through a consultative process set in the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). A 'variation' is when a council changes a plan that is still in the 'proposed stage' and has yet to be finalised.

## Q. WHY IS THE COUNCIL PROPOSING A VARIATION TO PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1?

**A.** Following notification of Proposed Plan Change 1, Pare Hauraki raised concerns with Waikato Regional Council that they had not been consulted with in the manner required by the RMA. Council withdrew part of the proposed plan change on 3 December 2016 in order for consultation to take place. Over the past year, council worked with Pare Hauraki to discuss their

concerns and interests in relation to the proposed plan change. The consultation process is now complete, the consultation together with other considerations lead to Variation 1 to Proposed Plan Change 1.

## Q. WHAT CHANGES ARE INCLUDED IN THE VARIATION?

**A.** Variation 1 amends the area that is included in Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 by reinstating the previously withdrawn area. The reinstated area is exactly the same as the area that was withdrawn.

The changes to Proposed Plan Change 1 that are included in the variation can be found on the website. A 'track changes' version of Proposed Plan Change 1 has been produced to make it easier to see exactly what changes are proposed. Here's a summary of the changes:

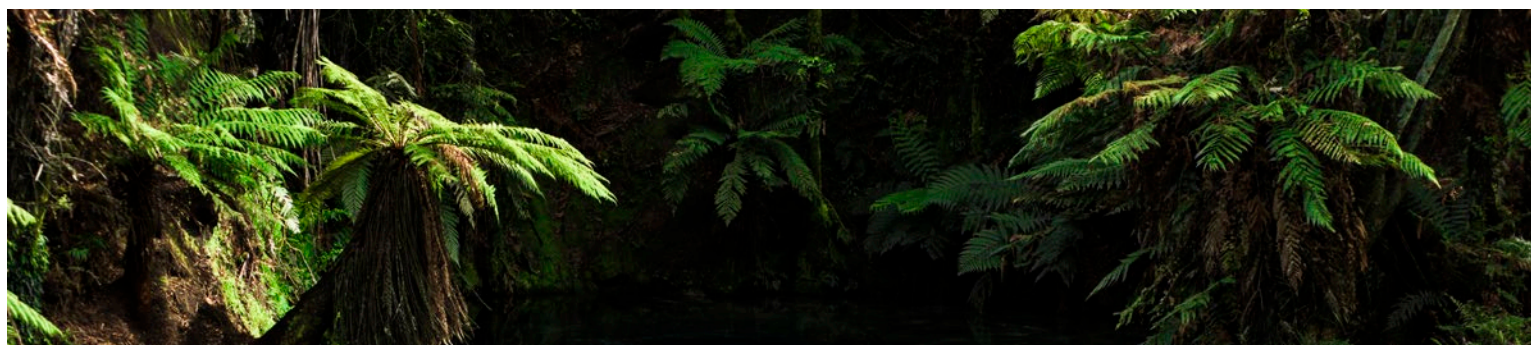
- Amendments to reinstate the previously withdrawn provisions and area
- Amendments to key dates for landowners, including dates for Registration and providing a Nitrogen Reference Point, as well as dates for Farm Environment Plans and stock exclusion
- Amendments arising from consultation with Pare Hauraki

Full details about the changes included in Variation 1 can be found in the variation document itself.

## Q. WHAT IS THE AREA THAT HAS BEEN REINSTATED?

**A.** The area that is being reinstated is the same area that was withdrawn on 3 December 2016 and was originally notified in Proposed Plan Change 1 on 22 October 2016.

See a full map of the area at [waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers).



## Q. WILL THE CHANGES IN THE VARIATION AFFECT ME?

**A.** If your property is in the reinstated area (the area which was previously withdrawn from Proposed Plan Change 1), you will have to comply with the provisions of Proposed Plan Change 1 including any changes made to those provisions by the variation, including the changes to the dates.

**A.** If your property is in the existing Proposed Plan Change 1 area you will need to comply with any changes proposed in the variation, including changes to some of the dates.

Here are some of the new dates that landowners need to know:

- Registration for properties over 2 hectares is now between 1 May 2020 and 30 November 2020
- Nitrogen Reference Points must be provided to council between 1 May 2020 and 30 November 2020
  - There is no change to the reference years for calculating Nitrogen Reference Points. The reference years are still 2014/15 or 2015/16 financial year, or 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2016 for commercial vegetable production
- Properties greater than 4.1 hectares must provide certain additional information to council from 30 November 2020 (Rule 3.11.5.2)
- Dates for Farm Environment Plans (FEP) and stock exclusion have changed (Rules 3.11.5.3 and 3.11.5.4):
  - For Priority 1 sub-catchments and properties/enterprises with a Nitrogen Reference Point greater than the 75th percentile nitrogen leaching value
    - » 1 March 2022 complete FEP
    - » 1 March 2025 complete stock exclusion
  - For Priority 2 sub-catchments
    - » 1 March 2025 complete FEP
    - » 1 July 2026 complete stock exclusion
  - No changes to dates for Priority 3 sub-catchments
    - » Dates remain 1 July 2026 to complete FEP and stock exclusion
- Commercial vegetable growers now have until 1 March 2022 to lodge a resource consent application and provide a Nitrogen Reference Point to council (Rule 3.11.5.5)

Not sure which sub-catchment you're in?

Visit [waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers) and click on

“Find my farm”.

## Q. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VARIATION 1 AND GET A COPY OF VARIATION 1?

**A.** You can view or download a copy of Variation 1 to Proposed Plan Change 1 on the council website. If you are considered to be an ‘affected party’ you will be sent a letter and a copy of the public notice informing you about the variation and inviting you to make a submission.

## Q. HOW WAS THE VARIATION DEVELOPED?

**A.** Schedule 1 of the RMA includes requirements to consult with certain parties, including iwi authorities, during the preparation of the Variation. Consultation has taken place with parties including the relevant iwi authorities and the issues raised during consultation have been taken into account by Waikato Regional Council in the development of Variation 1 to Proposed Plan Change 1.

The outputs of this consultation and other consideration during Variation 1 development were written up in a joint paper prepared by council and river iwi, which was sent to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee and then to council for consideration. The council made the decision to proceed with Variation 1 and publically notify Variation 1.



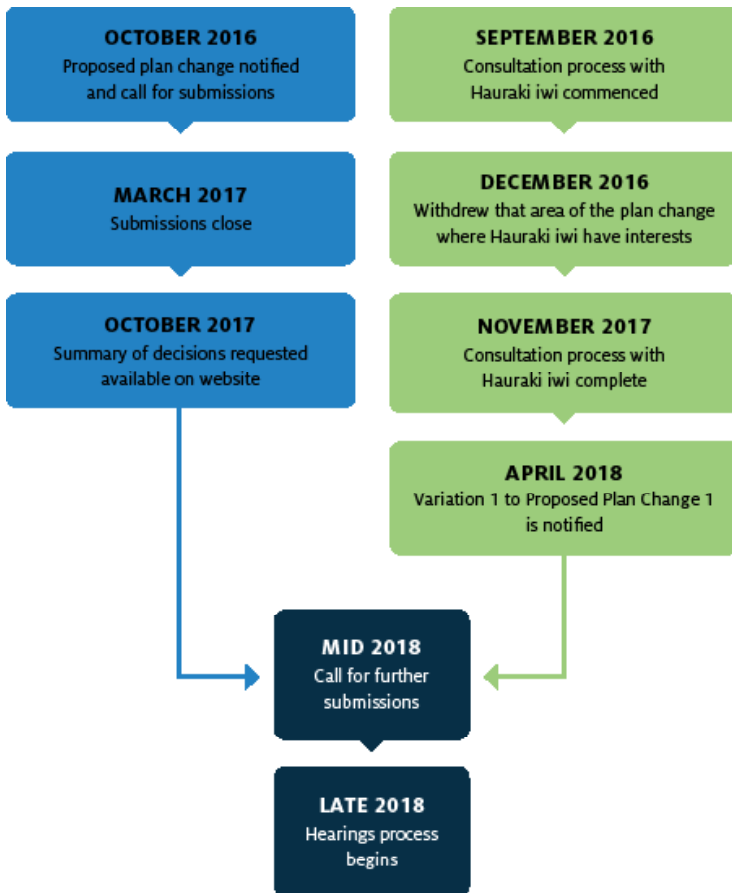
## Q. WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT WITH VARIATION 1 AND PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1?

**A.** Since submissions closed on Proposed Plan Change 1, Council staff have summarised the 1023 submissions received and a draft summary of the decisions requested has been produced and can be viewed on the website.

Council is calling for submissions on Variation 1 and you have the opportunity to have your say. Once the submission period closes, council staff will summarise the submissions to Variation 1 and a summary of decisions requested document will be produced.

Council will then notify the two summaries of decisions requested and call for further submissions. This is when you can put in a further submission, in which you state if you support or oppose a decision requested by another submitter. It is at this point in the process that Proposed Plan Change 1 and Variation 1 will come together.

Information on the hearings which will follow can be found in Q&A sheet 'Hearings process and Hearings panel'. Here's an overview of the process:



## Q. WHO CAN SUBMIT ON VARIATION 1?

**A.** Anyone, including members of the public, businesses, community groups and councils can make a submission as long as it is provided on the correct form and by the closing date for submissions.

If you already provided a submission on Proposed Plan Change 1, that submission remains valid and does not need to be re-lodged. If there is a change proposed in Variation 1 that you agree or disagree with then you are welcome to make a submission on the changes proposed in the variation.

Want to make a submission? Visit [waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers) to find Variation 1, supporting documents and the submission form.

