

The Collaborative Stakeholder Group's policy selection criteria

OCTOBER 2015

About the policy selection criteria

The policy selection criteria (below and overleaf) are filters the Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) will use to help select the policy options to incorporate into the proposed plan change they will recommend.

The CSG developed the policy selection criteria over a number of months, with input from the public, River iwi and the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee.

The selection criteria are in addition to requirements under the Resource Management Act (section 32) for new proposals to be examined for their appropriateness in achieving the purpose of the RMA, and the policies and methods of those proposals to be examined for their efficiency, effectiveness and risk.

Testing potential policy options against the pre-agreed selection criteria will:

- assist the CSG in their collective decision making
- identify any areas not adequately addressed, as it's likely that any one policy option will not fulfil all of the criteria. Alternative solutions or additional policy options may be required in such cases.

The policy selection criteria

Gives effect to Te Ture Whaimana/the Vision and Strategy

Does the policy give effect to the Vision and Strategy for the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa rivers?

RMA (including the NPS Freshwater Management)

Does the policy:

- comply with the RMA (including the purpose and principles of the Act)?
- take account of existing policy frameworks?
- achieve the range of values identified?

Provides for aspirations of River iwi

Does the policy:

- provide for them to retain and use their taonga in accordance with their tikanga and kawa?
- give effect to their environmental, economic, cultural and social relationships with land and water?

Gives positive social and community benefits

Does the policy:

- minimise social disruption and provide social benefit?
- enhance people's use of the river?
- take account of unique features and benefits?
- result in outcomes people can identify with, own and feel proud of?

Acceptable to the wider community

Does the policy:

- achieve sound principles for allocation?
- recognise efforts already made?
- exhibit proportionality (those contributing to the problem contribute to the solution)?

Optimises environmental, social and economic outcomes

Does the policy:

- aim for cost-effective solutions?
- provide confidence and clarity for current and future investment?
- provide realistic timeframes for change?

Achieves the restoration and protection of native habitats and biodiversity

Does the policy:

- support resilient freshwater ecosystems?
- support interconnectedness and connectivity between land and water?
- support healthy populations of indigenous plants and animals?

Realistic to implement, monitor and enforce

Is the policy:

- able to be measured, monitored and reported?
- implementable and technically feasible?
- administratively efficient?

Allows for flexibility and intergenerational land use

Does the policy:

- foster innovation?
- encourage positive actions being taken?
- allow for change and review as new information and issues arise?
- provide flexibility of future land use (including Treaty settlements land and multiple Māori owned land)?
- take account of complexity and difference between farming systems and farm enterprises?

Supported by clear evidence

Does the policy:

- take an evidence-based and knowledge-based approach (including Mātauranga Māori)?
- transparently show the costs for meeting the outcomes?
- prioritise efforts to achieve catchment solutions?
- set transparent limits and definitions?

More information



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Healthy Rivers
PLAN FOR CHANGE

Maniapoto Māori Trust Board
Raukawa Charitable Trust
Te Arawa River Iwi Trust

Wai Ora

HE RAUTAKI WHAKAPAIPAI

Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board
Waikato Raupatu River Trust
Waikato Regional Council