

# Environmental outcomes

## Ngā hua taiao

### Overview | Tirohanga whānui

Waikato Regional Council is carrying out a Freshwater Policy Review in response to central government's Essential Freshwater package, which is about stopping further degradation of New Zealand's fresh water and improving its quality and ecosystem health.

For this policy review, we want your input to help understand your aspirations and what you value most about the rivers, streams,

lakes and other freshwater bodies in your area, so we can turn your aspirations and values into environmental outcomes. These environmental outcomes will then be included as objectives in the *Waikato Regional Plan*, a policy tool used by council and other authorities to manage the natural and physical resources of our rohe.

### What is an environmental outcome?

#### Mō ngā hua taiao

An environmental outcome describes your desired result for freshwater bodies in the future.

To do this, we will be seeking your input to identify what water and aquatic ecosystem values are important, and what you want protected, maintained or improved. These values will then be set out as environmental outcomes, describing what you want to achieve for each value.

### How is an environmental outcome developed? | Mō te waihanga

For all aspects of the Freshwater Policy Review, including the development of environmental outcomes, we will follow central government's National Objectives Framework (see figure 1), a process connecting the values and aspirations you have for each value.

### How is an environmental outcome used?

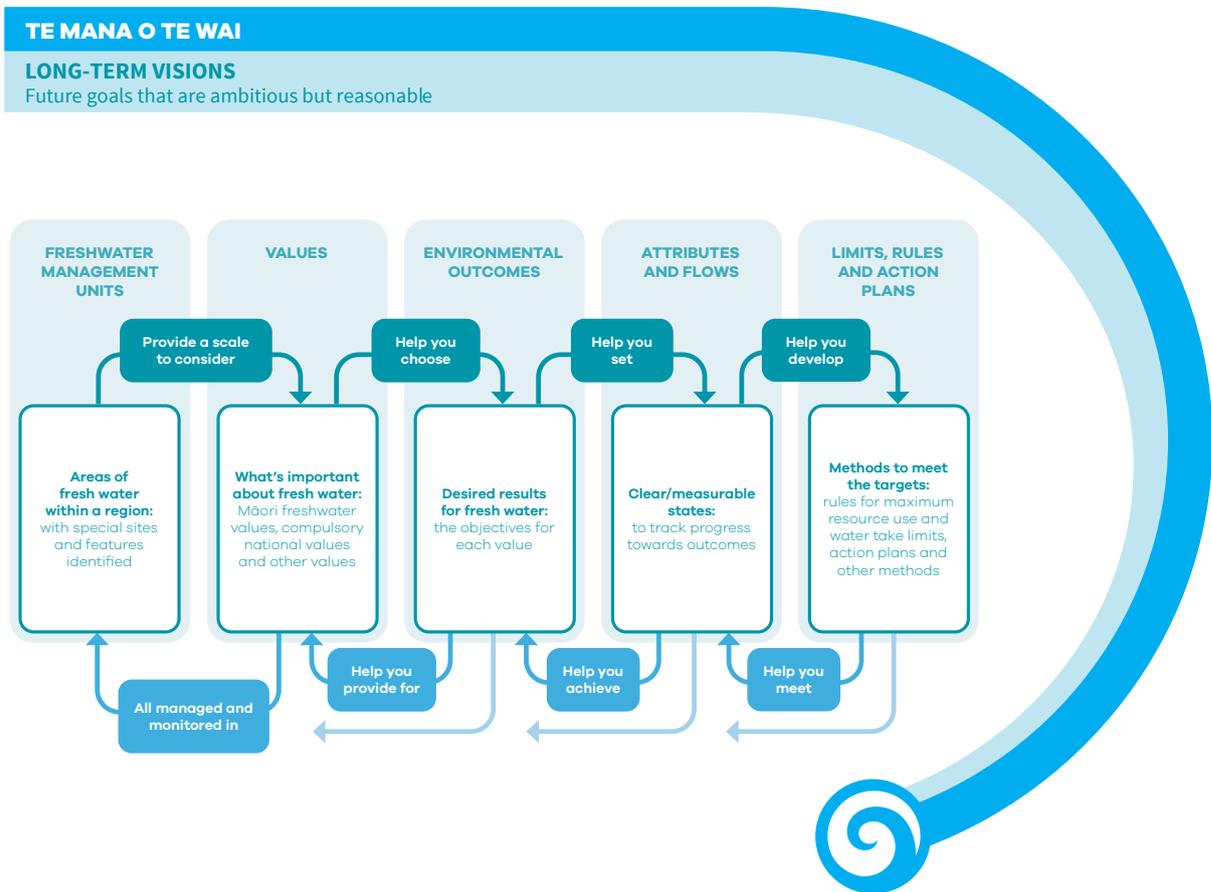
#### Mō te whakamahi

Environmental outcomes will be formalised as objectives in the regional plan. Progress will be measured by setting target attribute states as well as environmental flows and levels, and other criteria consistent with our freshwater values.

The target attribute states, and the rules and methods we use to achieve these targets, will be determined as part of the Freshwater Policy Review.



Figure 1



**Where can I find more information? | Mō te puna kōrero**

Check out [waikatoregion.govt.nz/freshwater-policy-review](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/freshwater-policy-review) to find:

- information sheets breaking down the Freshwater Policy Review
- how to share your views
- a summary of key milestones
- update on our progress.

You can also email us at [policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz) or call 0800 800 401 to speak to a member of our Freshwater Policy Review team.

