

DEVELOPING THE PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE

Q. WHY ARE CHANGES TO THE REGIONAL PLAN NEEDED?

A. Water quality has consistently been identified as the top issue for the Waikato region for the past two decades. Despite spending millions each year to clean up our rivers by both urban and rural communities, nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria and sediment levels are rising in our waterways. It's a result of the way we are using our land. We recognise the good work already done by many to improve water quality. Variation 1 to Healthy Rivers/ Wai Ora: Proposed Plan Change 1 also gives effect to government legislation on the management of fresh water and Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipā rivers) which was adopted by government as part of Treaty Settlement legislation.

Q. WHO DEVELOPED THE PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE?

A. It was using an innovative collaborative process working alongside our five river iwi partners, key stakeholders and communities. A Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) was established in 2014 with industry, community and sectors putting forward their own delegates to sit on the group. The CSG process meant those who were most affected by the changes were at the table developing the policy and providing input and feedback from their communities and sectors.



Q. HOW HAS THE CSG BEEN ADVISED DURING THIS PROCESS OF DECISION MAKING?

A. A Technical Alliance, an impartial, advisory group of specialists provided technical information to the CSG and the project steering group. They collated, analysed, summarised and presented environmental, social, cultural and economic information about the rivers and the consequences of the different land management scenarios explored.

Q. HOW DID THE CSG CONSULT WITH THEIR WIDER SECTORS?

A. It was important for the CSG to understand how the changes would impact their communities and the wider region. From April 2014 to March 2016, the CSG held multiple workshops with both rural and urban communities to discuss the proposed plan change. During this time, the CSG also presented recommendations to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee and Waikato Regional Council.

Q. WHY IS THERE A VARIATION TO THE PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE?

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 Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). withdrew part of the proposed plan change on 3 December 2016. 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 led to Variation 1 to Proposed Plan Change 1.