

# Public Notice of Amendments to Waikato Regional Plan – 30 June 2021

Waikato Regional Council gives notice that, in accordance with 555(2A) and Clause 20A (Schedule 1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Waikato Regional Plan has been amended to incorporate clauses from the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM 2020) and accompanying consequential minor edits.

On 3 September 2020, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM 2020) came into force. The NPSFM 2020 directs how freshwater resources, and activities that affect those resources, are to be managed. It directs regional councils to amend regional plans to incorporate specific provisions from the NPSFM 2020. These clauses are set out below:

## NPSFM 2020 Clauses

### 3.22 Natural inland wetlands

The loss of extent of natural inland wetlands is avoided, their values are protected, and their restoration is promoted, except where:

- a) the loss of extent or values arises from any of the following:
  - (i) the customary harvest of food or resources undertaken in accordance with tikanga Māori
  - (ii) restoration activities
  - (iii) scientific research
  - (iv) the sustainable harvest of sphagnum moss
  - (v) the construction or maintenance of wetland utility structures (as defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020)
  - (vi) the maintenance or operation of specified infrastructure, or other infrastructure (as defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020)
  - (vii) natural hazard works (as defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020); or
- b) the regional council is satisfied that:
  - (i) the activity is necessary for the construction or upgrade of specified infrastructure; and
  - (ii) the specified infrastructure will provide significant national or regional benefits; and
  - (iii) there is a functional need for the specified infrastructure in that location; and
  - (iv) the effects of the activity are managed through applying the effects management hierarchy.

### 3.24 Rivers

The loss of river extent and values is avoided, unless the council is satisfied:

- (a) that there is a functional need for the activity in that location; and
- (b) the effects of the activity are managed by applying the effects management hierarchy.

### 3.26 Fish passage

The passage of fish is maintained, or is improved, by instream structures, except where it is desirable to prevent the passage of some fish species in order to protect desired fish species, their life stages, or their habitats.

Clause 3.26 is required to be incorporated into relevant plans as a freshwater objective, while clauses 3.22 and 3.24 are required to be incorporated as policies. These changes must occur without using the process set out in Schedule 1 to the RMA. Therefore, in accordance with section 55(2A) of the RMA and the NPSFM 2020, Waikato Regional Council gives notice that it has amended the Waikato Regional Plan to incorporate Clauses 3.22, 3.24 and 3.26 of the NPSFM 2020. Further minor consequential edits have been made to the Waikato Regional Plan under clause 20A of Schedule 1 to the RMA.

To access the Waikato Regional Plan online go to the Waikato Regional Council e-plan website at <https://eplan.waikatoregion.govt.nz/eplan>. Click the link 'Read entire plan' and navigate to Waikato Regional Plan to view a copy of the plan incorporating the above changes. You can also download the Waikato Regional Plan in pdf format at <https://waikatoregion.govt.nz/council/policy-and-plans/rules-and-regulation/regional-plan/> incorporating the above changes.

To access the Government's information on how the requirements of the Essential Freshwater programme work in practice visit the Ministry for the Environment Website at <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/freshwater/e/freshwater-reform/factsheets-on-policies-and-regulations-in-the-essential-freshwater-package/clarification-of-the-essential-freshwater-programme-implementation-requirements/>.

Paper copies of the Waikato Regional Plan are available at Waikato Regional Council's Customer Services for the cost set in the Fees and Charges in the annual plan.

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[www.waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz)