



Report 11.4
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Committee Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management
Committee
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Summary of community engagement and consultation

1. Purpose

This paper describes the interim findings of Stages 1 and 2 of the Engagement and Communication Plan process and outlines the nature of the full analysis and report to be presented to the 22 March meeting of Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management Committee.

2. Background

Between 7 July and 1 October 2010, 20 community workshops were held across the Wellington region as envisaged by sections 4.2 and 4.3 of the engagement and communication plan. Of these, 16 were publically advertised and promoted by staff and via personal contacts. A letter was sent to key client organisations advising them of the workshop, along with advertisements and public notices.

A workshop was held specifically for professional organisations working with natural resource management such as consultants and contractors on 6 September with invitations and promotion of the workshop directly with those organisations. Two workshops were held with years 5 and 6 classes at Owhiro School on 8 September.

A total of 420 people attended the public workshops.

Over the same time period as the workshops were being held, an on-line survey was available for any members of the public to participate in electronically. A total of 851 people took part in the survey, although only 260 of them completed it fully.

The unedited results of the workshops and the survey became available on the Greater Wellington website on 20 December. This can be found at the following link: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/workshop-report/>.

3. **Workshop format**

Workshop participants used a scoring system to evaluate the state of natural resources in their area. This included evaluations of air quality, coastal areas, landscape form, biodiversity, soil quality and the quality of water bodies.

4. **Results**

The combined results averaged across all the workshops and weighted by the number of people present at each workshop are outlined in **Figure 1** below.

In this figure:

- The horizontal axis on the graph represents the number of people choosing to evaluate this resource. This ranged from 128 people evaluating the soils in their area to 313 people evaluating the waterways in their area.
- The vertical axis on the graph represents the net score for that resource across all the workshops. Participants scored the resource using a scale of 1-7.
- If more people considered the resource to be in a bad state (rather than a good state) this is shown on the graph as a negative score.
- The results ranged from a net score of 4 for air to -3 for water bodies. Only water had a negative score of any significance.
- Both soils and biodiversity had a net score of close to zero. The actual number of people considering the resource to be in a bad state is shown in brackets for each resource.
- For every resource, there were people in some areas who considered the state of that resource to create problems for them. The same applies to resources with a low average score. For instance the water bodies in some catchments and in the headwaters of other catchments were often given good scores.

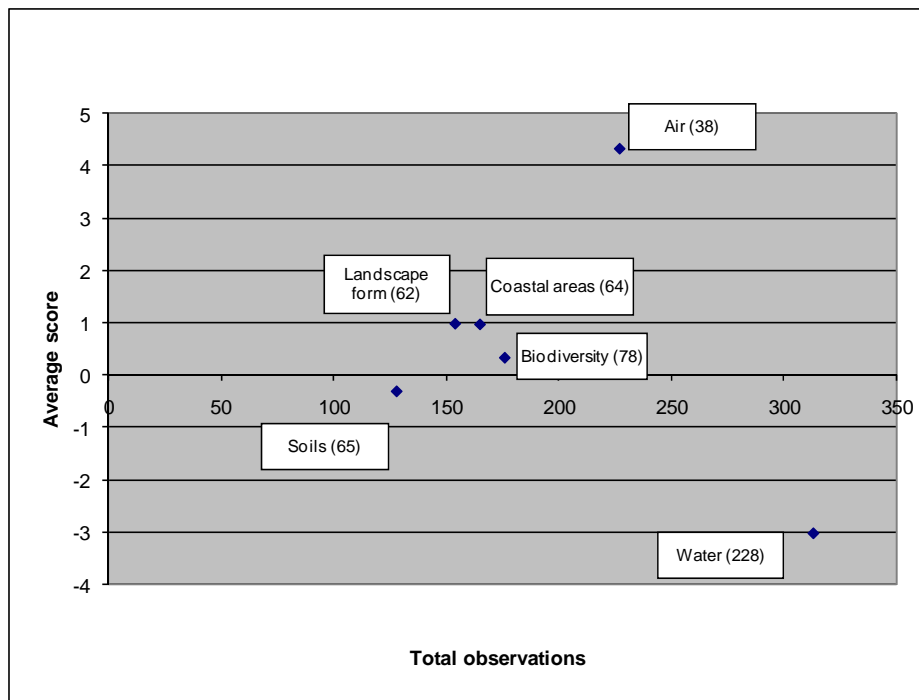


Figure 1: Average group results for the state of natural resources across the Wellington Region

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- If more people considered the resource to be in a bad state (rather than a good state) this is shown on the graph as a negative score.
- The results ranged from a net score of 4 for air to -3 for water bodies. Only water had a negative score of any significance.
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5. Comment

When the results from all of the workshops across the Wellington region are combined, air is definitely the natural resource considered by the workshop

participants to be in the best condition. Workshop participants have indicated that the current condition of the region's air needs to be protected and monitored for the future.

Across the region water was most commonly considered to be the natural resource in the worst and an unsatisfactory condition. In general, workshop participants considered that the state of the region's fresh water bodies needs to be improved for the future, particularly lowland streams and lakes.

The condition of the other natural resources was considered by the workshop participants to be ambiguous. Some people and some workshop groups were quite concerned by the state of the region's biodiversity, landscape form, coastal areas and soils. Others were less so. It would appear that management of these resources needs to be targeted by Greater Wellington at the specific areas of concern to communities. More detail on this will be provided in the next report to Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee, in March.

The report being prepared for Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee in March 2011 will provide further information about how the region's communities would like future resource management to be undertaken in the Wellington Region. Three staff are analysing the results of the workshops and the on-line survey using specialist software to establish consistency in interpretation. Based upon this, the report will describe:

- The topics of importance to the community about specific natural resources such as coastal management and the protection of fish spawning areas. This section will include a description of the direction that our communities would like us to take in addressing these topics and how much variation in this exists across the region.
- Priorities and directions about topics specifically associated with the new Regional Policy Statement.
- Priorities and directions that may be of interest to other agencies such as Government Departments and industry organisations.

The report will include results from initial consultation with Territorial Authorities and mana whenua Iwi. This report will be of direct relevance to preparations for the regional plan and it will also be of interest to other parts of the Regional Council. Separate presentations are being prepared for these groups to highlight the need for an across agency approach to future natural resource management in the region.

6. Communication

In December, the first of our newsletters "What's your view?" was forwarded to all participants who attended the community workshops as well as those who responded to the online survey on natural resource management via our website.

The newsletter contains a link to the full workshop report (www.gw.govt.nz/workshop-report), and details of how the community can continue to be involved in our plan review process.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

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