

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee is the first of five new committees being established throughout the Wellington region to ensure the views and opinions of local people are heard and factored into the management of our natural resources.

The committee, together with residents of the Ruamāhanga catchment, looks at land and water management across the catchment as a whole. Together they will develop a vision for Wairarapa and plan to achieve it. Some of their recommendations will be incorporated into the Regional Plan and determine how land and water is managed in the future. Other ideas will be picked up by organisations, groups and the community.

People who live between Pukaha Mt Bruce and Palliser Bay with the skills and commitment to work with the community for the area, can be part of this exciting new way of caring for our valuable resources.

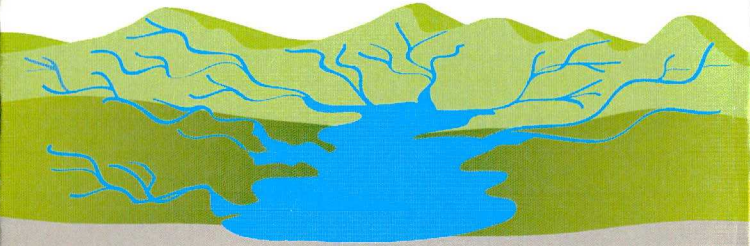
Our rivers and lakes have special recreational and spiritual value for us.



What is a Whaitua?

The Māori word whaitua means a designated space so, these advisory groups, are called whaitua committees. They will be established for the Wairarapa Coast, Ruamāhanga Valley, Wellington/Hutt Valley, Porirua Harbour and Kāpiti Coast over the next few years. The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee in Wairarapa is the first to be established.

Phone: 830 4237
Website www.gw.govt.nz/Whaitua



Find out more about how we can manage our land and water resources and how you can be involved.

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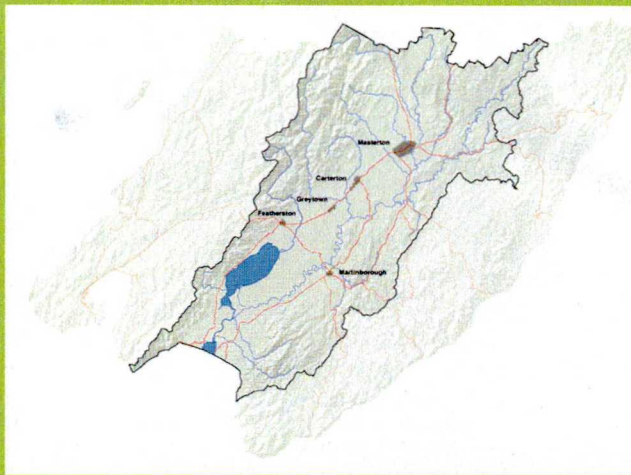


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Wairarapa has a new way of managing land and water resources

A new community advisory committee is being established to ensure local people have their say in how their land and water is managed and protected.



How do whaitua committees work?

The committee works with the community. They gather information and increase their understanding of the importance placed on water resources by agriculture, biodiversity, tangata whenua, recreation, urban and economic activities and interests.

By working with others they establish how the community wants its water resources to be in the future and, to set out how they want to achieve this. This is called a whaitua implementation plan.

The committee also develops policy and rules for managing land and water, for the Greater Wellington Regional Council and the group responsible for reviewing the Regional Plan, Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Committee to adopt. Some recommendations will be incorporated into the Regional Plan through a plan change process, others will be picked up by the community or groups and agencies.

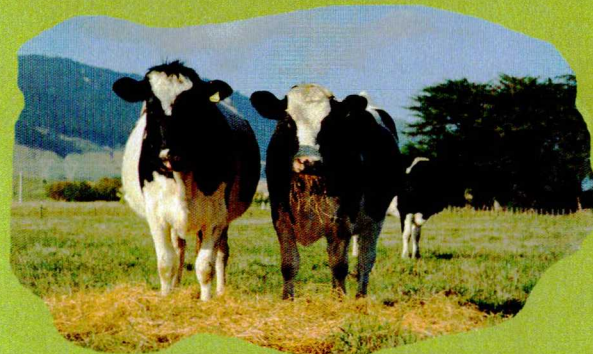
How do Whaitua make a difference?

Ultimately the Regional Plan will incorporate a section for the Ruamāhanga whaitua containing policies and rules that have been created by local people to suit local needs. These sections will be read alongside the regional policies and regulations and will control how resources are managed in the area.

The whaitua implementation plan which provides a prioritised program of action, will help the community to focus their efforts to improve the quality of water resources into the future.

Membership of committees

Membership of the committee will include two members of Te Upoko Taiao Natural Resource Committee, Iwi as well as members of South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils. People from the community who have interest in working collaboratively on land and water management issues will be appointed following an official selection process.



Who are we looking for?

In determining the composition of the community members of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee, the council will try and balance:

- agricultural interests
- indigenous biodiversity/environmental groups
- tangata whenua values (hapū)
- recreational users
- wider economic development interests
- urban interests
- general community interests, and
- incorporate existing structures/programmes.

The members of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee must be able to work confidently and collaboratively to collect and relay knowledge and information back and forth between the council, community and committee.

Key dates

May	Terms of reference developed for Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee
September 1	Community event
September 1	Call for applications for membership.
September 30	Applications for membership close
Early November	Interviews for membership
December	Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee membership recommendations to Council.
January	Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee workshops and meetings begin

To find out more about Whaitua committees visit www.gw.govt.nz or phone: (04) 830 4237