

Natural resource priorities for catchments in the Wellington Region

In Table 1 the results from workshops in the different catchments are compared. Across the top of the table are the six different catchments in the region and the number of workshop groups held in each catchment. A total of 88 groups were held.

In the first column is listed all the natural resource themes identified by workshop participants. Not all of these (e.g. rubbish) are able to be addressed in the proposed regional plan, but most can be. In the centre of the table are the numbers of groups from each catchment that have developed concepts in each theme. For instance, there were 16 groups meeting in the Eastern Wairarapa and of these, 15 groups developed ideas about ways to improve waterway management. The second to last column totals the number of groups across the region that considered each theme. For instance, in total 88 groups across the region considered waterway quality. The totals in this column were used to rank the themes in the table in their order of priority. In the last column are examples of the sorts of ideas relevant to the theme and that were put forward by group participants.

In the table when more than three quarters of the groups in a catchment developed their ideas around a theme this has been highlighted in green. When less than half the groups in a catchment emphasised a theme this has been highlighted in yellow in the table. The differences between catchments are most conspicuous when for a particular theme some groups are green and others are yellow. For example “community care groups” were important in Ruamahanga but less so in Eastern Wairarapa.

Table 1. Natural resource priorities for catchments in the Wellington Region

Natural Resource Priorities	Catchments (number of workshop groups)						Total groups	Examples
	Eastern Wairarapa	Ruamahanga	Northern Wellington Harbour	Southern Wellington Harbour	Porirua Harbour	Western Coast		
Total number of workshop groups in each catchment	16	15	14	13	12	18	88	
Waterways	15	15	14	12	11	17	84	When kids can't safely swim in our rivers, we have a big problem
Biodiversity	13	14	14	13	11	17	82	Native biological diversity in abundance and natural habitats persevered
Soils	16	15	11	13	7	15	77	Healthy soils promote healthy food production and habitat for biodiversity
Biosecurity	15	14	11	11	9	14	74	Get rid of pests to look after native flora and fauna
Adult learning as policy	13	14	8	13	11	15	74	Education so people can take care of their own patch
Community care groups	10	11	9	13	11	17	71	Resource and support local community groups in their efforts to improve natural resources

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	Eastern Wairarapa	Ruamahanga	Northern Wellington Harbour	Southern Wellington Harbour	Porirua Harbour	Western Coast		
Coast and marine area	9	8	11	13	10	16	67	Clean coast with good fishing, swimming, and other water activities
Rubbish and litter	9	6	12	12	8	11	58	Minimise generation of rubbish for landfill
Riparian strips	5	11	12	6	7	16	57	Farmers can fence off waterways and plant there
Air quality	7	7	12	10	9	12	57	Encourage wider interest in using smokeless or low-smoke household heating to improve air quality
Flood control	14	12	5	9	6	10	56	Encourage a balance between river form and need for flood control
Incentives as policy	14	12	5	9	6	10	56	Reward landowners who protect or restore natural resources
Landscape protection	11	4	8	10	9	12	54	Natural and very diverse interesting landscapes and history
Rules as policy	14	10	1	10	7	11	53	Make sure that rules on landowners are not too regulatory to stifle production

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Human health	6	9	9	10	10	7	51	Good management of natural resources promotes healthy living, and encourages an active and healthy lifestyle,
Economic viability	14	12	7	7	2	6	48	Council to realise it is a service to help, not to get in the way of business but to provide good guidance
Transport	3	6	12	11	7	7	46	Improve commuter and public transport
Stormwater systems	2	2	10	11	8	10	43	Rules in plan needed around water quality of stormwater discharge
Information as policy	9	10	1	9	4	9	42	GWRC has very good info available for landowners to use on natural resources
Sewer systems	11	11	2	8	5	1	38	Wastewater issue is a problem, all councils should be on the same level
Community gardens	2	1	7	9	3	8	30	Food producing areas in public areas, monitored by locals
Landuse planning	11	4	1	2	4	6	28	Farm plans for dairy farms

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Harbour management	-	1	6	9	10	-	26	Significant degradation of Porirua harbours
Efficient consenting processes	8	12	-	-	-	1	21	Simplify resource consent process, make it easier to understand