

Record of Council decisions made on 26 September 2024 on Proposed Change 1 and Variation 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (Change 1)

Decision number	Panel recommendation	Council decision
1	<p>To shift the following provisions from the Freshwater Planning Process to the Part 1 Schedule 1 process so that they are no longer part of the Freshwater Planning Instrument (Note: The "FW" symbol will be removed from these provisions as a consequence):</p> <p>Chapter 3 Chapter Introduction</p> <p>Overarching Issue 1</p> <p>Overarching Issue 2</p> <p>Overarching Issue 3</p> <p>Objective A</p> <p>Policy IM.1</p> <p>Policy IM.2</p> <p>Method IM.1</p> <p>Method IM.2</p> <p>Objective A – AER</p> <p>Climate Change – Issue 2</p> <p>Climate Change – Issue 3</p> <p>Climate Change – Issue 5</p> <p>Objective CC.1</p> <p>Objective CC.5</p> <p>Policy 65</p> <p>Policy CC.15</p> <p>Method CC.8</p> <p>Policy CC.6</p> <p>Policy CC.7</p> <p>Policy CC.18</p> <p>Method CC.4</p> <p>Method CC.9</p> <p>Natural hazards – Issue 3</p>	<p>Accept for the reasons set out in the Panel's recommendation reports dated 21 June 2024.</p>

	<p>Objective 20 Policy 52 Regional form, design and function chapter introduction Regional form – Issue B Regional form – Issue 1 Regional form – Issue 2 Objective 22 Objective 22B (Now 22A) Table 9 Policy 31 Policy 32 Policy 33 Policy 55 Policy 67 Policy UD.2 Policy UD.3 Policy UD.5 Method 46 Method UD.1 Indigenous Ecosystems Chapter Introduction Indigenous Ecosystems Issue 1 Indigenous Ecosystems Issue 2 Indigenous Ecosystems Issue 3 Objective 16 Objective 16A Objective 16B Objective 16C Policy 23 Policy 24 Policy 47</p>	
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	<p>Policy 61 Policy IE.1 Policy IE.2 Policy IE.3 Policy IE.4 Method IE.1 Method IE.2 Method IE.3 Method IE.4 Method 21 Method 32 Method 53 Method 54 Table 9 Appendix 1A Freshwater Objective 12 Anticipated Environmental Result 6 Indigenous ecosystems AERs Method 1 Method 2 Method 4 Method 5 Table 17 <u>Definitions:</u> Climate change adaptation Climate change mitigation Greenhouse gas emissions Organic waste Highly erodible land Permanent forest Plantation forestry</p>	
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	<p>City Centre zone Future Development Strategy High density development Medium density development Metropolitan centre zone Relevant residential zone Rural areas Tier 1 territorial authority definition Tree canopy cover Urban areas Urban environment Well-functioning urban environments Complex development opportunities Ecosystem health Enhancement (in relation to indigenous biodiversity) Maintain/maintained/maintenance (in relation to indigenous biodiversity) Natural uncommon ecosystems Protect (in relation to indigenous biodiversity) Resilience (in relation to a natural ecosystem) Restoration (in relation to indigenous biodiversity) Te Rito o te Harakeke Threatened ecosystems National Grid Regionally Significant Infrastructure Systematic conservation planning Strategic Transport Network</p>	
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For those provisions in the Freshwater Planning Instrument (following Decision 1)

Decision number	Panel recommendation	Council decision	Alternative solution
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2	<p>To delete, amend or insert the following provisions as shown in the Panel's recommendations report and reflected in the Decisions Version of Proposed RPS Change 1 and Variation 1 (all within scope of submissions), except those specific changes addressed in subsequent rows of this table:</p> <p>List all FPP provisions here</p> <p>Objective CC.4 Policy CC.4 Policy CC.4A Policy CC.14 Policy CC.14A Policy CC.12 Policy FW.8 Method CC.6 Nature-based solutions Maximise Minimise Fresh water Chapter introduction Objective 12 Objective TAP Objective TWT Figure 3.4 Statement of Rangitāne o Wairarapa Te Mana o te Wai expression Statement of Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Te Mana o te Wai expression Statement of Taranaki Whānui Te Mana o te Wai expression Natural hazards chapter introduction Policy 12 Policy 13</p>	Accept for the reasons set out in the Panel's recommendation reports dated 21 June 2024.	NA
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	<p>Policy 14 Policy 15 Policy 17 Policy 18 Policy 18A Policy 18B Policy 40 Policy 40A Policy 40B Policy 41 Policy 42 Policy 43 Policy 44 Policy FW.1 Policy FW.2 Policy FW.3 Policy FW.4 Policy FW.5 Policy FW.6 Policy FW.7 Policy FW.X Policy FWXXA Policy FWXXB Method 30 Method 34 Method 35 Method 48 Method FW.1 Method FW.2 Method FW.X (i) (stormwater management)</p>		
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	<p>Method FW.X (ii) (engagement with regulator) Method FW.XX Freshwater Objective 12 Anticipated Environmental Results 1-5, 7-11 Freshwater Objective 13 Anticipated Environmental Results 1-8 Freshwater Objective 14 Anticipated Environmental Results 1-4 Hydrological control Te Mana o te Wai Hydraulic neutrality Aquatic compensation Aquatic offset Earthworks Community drinking water supply Group drinking water supply Effects management hierarchy Health needs of people Specified infrastructure Vegetation clearance Variation 1 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management or NPS-FM Restoration (in relation to a natural inland wetland) Undeveloped state Water-sensitive urban design</p>		
3	<p>To word the new definition of 'hydrological control' as follows (amendments within scope of submissions): <u>means the management of a range of <i>stormwater</i> flows and volumes, and the frequency and timing of those flows and volumes, from a site, sites, or area into <i>rivers, lakes, wetlands, springs, riparian</i> margins, and other receiving environments to</u></p>	<p>Reject, for the reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3. The alternative solution is an amended version of the new</p>	<p>Alternative solution is to word the new definition as follows (and as shown in the Decisions Version of Proposed RPS Change 1). The change is highlighted,</p>

	<p>help protect <i>freshwater ecosystem health</i> and well-being. <u>Hydrological control may also include methods or techniques to limit bank erosion, slumping or scour.</u></p>	<p>definition (which is within scope of submissions) which replaces “replicates” with “mimics” and deletes the last sentence regarding bank erosion and reinstates reference to natural processes.</p>	<p>all other parts of definition are captured in Decision 2: <u>means the management of a range of <i>stormwater</i> flows and volumes, and the frequency and timing of those flows and volumes in a way that mimics natural processes, from a site, or sites, or area into <i>rivers, lakes, wetlands, springs, riparian margins, and other receiving environments to help protect <i>freshwater ecosystem health</i> and well-being.</i></u></p>
4	<p>To insert a new definition for National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management or NPS-FM as the 2020 version.</p>	<p>Reject, because a new definition is not needed and the issue is better addressed through clause 16 changes. The alternative solution is to deal with inconsistent referencing by using clause 16.</p>	<p>Alternative solution is to address issue of inconsistent references to NPS-FM through clause 16 changes as necessary.</p>

For provisions proceeding through the Part 1 Schedule 1 process following Decision 1:

Decision number	Panel recommendation	Council decision
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5	<p>To delete, amend or insert the following provisions as shown in the Decisions Version of Proposed RPS Change 1, except those specific changes addressed in subsequent rows of this table:</p> <p>Chapter 3 Chapter Introduction</p> <p>Overarching RM Issue 1</p> <p>Overarching RM Issue 2</p> <p>Overarching RM Issue 3</p> <p>Overarching RM Issue 4</p> <p>Objective A</p> <p>Policy IM.1</p> <p>Policy IM.2</p> <p>Method IM.1</p> <p>Method IM.2</p> <p>Objective A – AER</p> <p>Climate change - Introduction</p> <p>Climate Change – Regionally significant issue 1</p> <p>Climate Change – Regionally significant issue 2</p> <p>Climate Change – Regionally significant issue 3</p> <p>Climate Change – Regionally significant issue 4</p> <p>Climate Change – Regionally significant issue 5</p> <p>Climate Change – Regionally significant issue 6</p> <p>Objective CC.1</p> <p>Objective CC.2</p> <p>Objective CC.3</p> <p>Objective CC.7</p> <p>Objective CC.8</p> <p>Policy CC.8</p> <p>Method CC.1</p> <p>Method CC.2</p> <p>Climate Change - AER</p>	<p>Accept the Panel's recommendations to accept or reject submissions for the reasons set out in the Panel's recommendation reports dated 21 June 2024.</p>
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	<p>Whole-of-life greenhouse gas emissions assessment</p> <p>Climate change adaptation</p> <p>Climate change mitigation</p> <p>Greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>Chapter 3.3 - Introduction text</p> <p>Policy 2</p> <p>Policy 3</p> <p>Policy 7</p> <p>Policy 11</p> <p>Policy 39</p> <p>Policy 65</p> <p>Method 17</p> <p>Method 33</p> <p>Method 56</p> <p>Large-scale generator</p> <p>Organic waste</p> <p>Policy CC.5</p> <p>Policy CC.13</p> <p>Policy CC.15</p> <p>Method CC.5</p> <p>Method CC.8</p> <p>Objective CC.5</p> <p>Policy CC.6</p> <p>Policy CC.7</p> <p>Policy CC.18</p> <p>Method CC.4</p> <p>Method CC.9</p> <p>Highly erodible land</p> <p>Permanent forest</p> <p>Plantation forestry</p>	
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	<p> Policy EIW.1 Method CC.10 Policy CC.1 Method CC.7 Policy CC.2 Policy CC.2A Method CC.3 Method CC.3A Policy CC.3 Policy 9 Policy CC.9 Policy CC.10 Policy CC.11 Policy 10 Method 25 Natural hazards Issue 1 Natural hazards Issue 2 Natural hazards Issue 3 Objective 19 Objective 20 Objective 21 Objective CC.6 Policy 29 Policy 51 Policy 52 Policy CC.16 Policy CC.17 Method 14 Method 22 Method 23 </p>	
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	<p>AER 19 AER 20 AER 21 Regional form, design and function Chapter introduction Regional form - Issue 1 Regional form - Issue 2 Regional form - Issue 3 Regional form - Issue 4 Regional form - Issue 5 Regional form - Issue 6 Objective 22 Objective 22A Table 9 Policy 30 Policy 31 Policy 32 Policy 33 Policy 55 Policy 56 Policy 57 Policy 58 Policy 67 Policy UD.1 Policy UD.2 Policy UD.3 Policy UD.4 Policy UD.5 Method 40 Method 41 Method 42</p>	
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	<p>Method 43 Method 44 Method 45 Method 46 Method 47 Method UD.1 Method UD.2 Method UD.3 Method UD.4 Table 17 Appendix 1B Appendix 1C Appendix 1D Appendix 1E City Centre zone Key centres Future Development Strategy High density development Medium density development Metropolitan centre zone Relevant residential zone Rural areas Tier 1 territorial authority definition Tree canopy cover Urban areas Urban environment Well-functioning urban environments Primary production Complex development opportunities Marae</p>	
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	<p>Papakāinga</p> <p>Regionally significant centres</p> <p>Regional form</p> <p>Regional form, design and function AER</p> <p>Method 31</p> <p>Freshwater Objective 12 Anticipated Environmental Result 6</p> <p>Indigenous Eco System Chapter Introduction</p> <p>Indigenous Eco System Issue 1</p> <p>Indigenous Eco System Issue 2</p> <p>Indigenous Eco System Issue 3</p> <p>Indigenous Eco System Issue 4</p> <p>Objective 16</p> <p>Objective 16A</p> <p>Objective 16B</p> <p>Objective 16C</p> <p>Indigenous ecosystems AERs</p> <p>Policy 23</p> <p>Policy 24</p> <p>Policy 24A</p> <p>Policy 24B</p> <p>Policy 24C</p> <p>Policy 24CC</p> <p>Policy 24D</p> <p>Policy 47</p> <p>Policy 61</p> <p>Policy IE.1</p> <p>Policy IE.2</p> <p>Policy IE.2A</p> <p>Policy IE.3</p> <p>Policy IE.4</p>	
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	<p>Method IE.1 Method IE.2 Method IE.3 Method IE.4 Method 21 Method 32 Method 53 Method 54 Table 9 Appendix IA Ecosystem health Enhancement (in relation to indigenous biodiversity) Maintain/maintained/maintenance (in relation to indigenous biodiversity) Natural uncommon ecosystems Protect (in relation to indigenous biodiversity) Resilience (in relation to a natural ecosystem) Restoration (in relation to indigenous biodiversity) Te Rito o te Harakeke Threatened ecosystems AER Method 1 Method 2 Method 3 Method 4 Method 5 Policy 3 National Grid Regionally significant infrastructure Strategic Transport Network Biodiversity offsetting</p>	
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	<p>Biodiversity compensation Buffer/buffering Climate-resilience/Climate-resilient/Resilience and Resilient (in relation to climate change or natural hazards) Decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity Domestic fires Ecological connectivity Ecological integrity Ecosystem function Ecosystem processes Electricity transmission network Environmentally responsive Established activities ET activities Hazard risk management strategy Hazard sensitive activity Indigenous biodiversity Land-based primary production Major hazard facility Naturally rare REG activities Renewable electricity generation assets Small scale and community scale distributed electricity generation Systematic conservation planning Threatened or At Risk species Tier 1 urban environment Town centre zone Travel choice assessment Urban zones Walkable catchment</p>	
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6	<p>To insert the following text into Objective 22 (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5):</p> <p>...</p> <p><u>(d) intensification is enabled within existing urban zones in appropriate places where it is environmentally responsive; and</u></p> <p>...</p> <p><u>(f) built environments, including integrated transport infrastructure, meet the health and wellbeing needs of all people, with multi-modal access including active transport, to and between housing, jobs, community services, centres, green space, and open space; and</u></p> <p>...</p>	<p>Accept the Panel's recommendations on submissions for the reasons set out in the Panel's recommendation reports dated 21 June 2024, with minor wording changes to achieve better clarity, while still reflecting the Panel's intent, for the reasons provided in S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3.</p>
7	<p>To insert the following text into new Policy CC.1 (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5):</p> <p><u>(a) Supporting development in locations to minimise travel distances between residential, employment and the location of other essential services; and</u></p> <p><u>(b) Enabling multi-modal transport networks and infrastructure to serve development; and</u></p> <p><u>(c) Supporting development within walkable catchments of public transport routes where practicable, and utilising existing space to remove barriers for access to walking, cycling and public transport; and</u></p> <p><u>(d) Where providing new infrastructure or capacity upgrades on the transport network, prioritise walking, cycling and public transport, such as improved or new bus and cycle lanes and measures, to prioritise the need of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport above the car.</u></p>	<p>Accept the Panel's recommendations on submissions for the reasons set out in the Panel's recommendation reports dated 21 June 2024, with wording changes to better achieve the Panel's findings on what this Policy should achieve, for the reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3.</p>
8	<p>To insert the following text into Policies CC.1, CC.9, CC.10, CC.11 and 9 (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5):</p>	<p>Accept the Panel's recommendations on</p>

	<p>...</p> <p>Explanation</p> <p>... This policy does not apply to aircraft.</p>	<p>submissions for the reasons set out in the Panel's recommendation reports dated 21 June 2024, with wording changes to better achieve the Panel's findings on what this Policy should achieve, for the reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3.</p>
9	<p>To insert the following text into Policy 7(c) (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Rows 7 and 9A):</p> <p><u>(c) recognise and support the benefits of <i>regionally significant infrastructure</i> ...</u></p>	<p>Reject, for reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3</p>
10	<p>To insert the following text into Policy 7(c) (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Row 9A):</p> <p>(c)... to <u>that contribute to reductions in <i>greenhouse gas emissions</i>, give effect to <i>Te Mana o te Wai</i>, mitigate <i>natural hazards</i>, and enable people and communities to be <i>resilient</i> to climate change.</u></p>	<p>Accept with wording change, for reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3</p>
11	<p>To include the following statement in new Policy 24B (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5):</p> <p><u>(e) The maintenance, operation and minor upgrade of <i>infrastructure</i> (other than that covered in Policy 24CC), which is within or affects <i>indigenous ecosystems</i> and <i>habitats</i> with significant <i>indigenous biodiversity</i> values and other significant <i>habitats</i> of <i>indigenous</i> fauna, where the effects (including cumulative effects) on the <i>ecosystem</i> or <i>habitat</i> are no greater in intensity, scale or character than they were when the Plan's provisions under this Policy came into effect, and which do not result in the loss of extent or degradation of the ecological integrity of the <i>ecosystem</i> or <i>habitat</i>.</u></p>	<p>Accept with wording changes, for reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3</p>
12	<p>Amendments to the explanation for Policy 24CC to delete the exclusion for existing Electricity Transmission (ET) activities and to add the word "existing" to REG activities, consistent with the chapeau.</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Accept, for reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3</p>

	Policy 24CC is to be read with Policy 24C and is intended to enable the consideration of the operation, maintenance, upgrade and extension of existing <i>regionally significant infrastructure</i> (excluding <i>ET activities</i>) and <i>existing REG activities</i>	
13	To include the following statement in new Policy 24CC (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5 and Decision 11): ... <u>If the activity provides for the reasonable operational, maintenance or minor upgrade requirements of the electricity transmission network, (1) to (3) do not apply and the activity must be enabled.</u>	Reject, for reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3
14	To make amendments to apply Policy 24D to <u>ET activities</u>	Accept, for reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3
15	To include the following statement in new Policy 24D (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5 and Decision 13): ... <u>(g) For ET activities which are new or major upgrades, where the route, site or method is the outcome of a best practice evaluation of alternatives, any residual adverse effects remaining after applying clause 2(a) to (e) must be discounted.</u>	Reject, for reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3
16	To insert the following text into Policy 29 (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5): ... <u>(e) In the coastal environment, objectives, policies and rules shall ensure that any increased risk shall be avoided in areas likely to be potentially affected by coastal hazards, except where there is a functional or operational need for infrastructure to locate there.</u> ...	Reject the Panel's recommendations on submissions set out in the Panel's Hearing Stream 3 recommendation report dated 21 June 2024, in order to remove duplication and unnecessary explanation for reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3.

	<p>Explanation</p> <p>...</p> <p><u>In the coastal environment, the requirements of the NZCPS must be applied.</u></p>	
17	<p>To insert the following text into Policy 29 (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5 and Decision 15):</p> <p>...</p> <p><u>The Policy does not apply to telecommunications infrastructure that is a “regulated activity” under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities) Regulations 2016.</u></p>	<p>Accept the Panel's recommendations on submissions for the reasons set out in the Panel's Hearing Stream 3 recommendation report dated 21 June 2024, with wording changes for clarity, for the reasons provided in S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3.</p>
18	<p>To insert the following text into Policy 51 (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5):</p> <p>...</p> <p><u>Specific consideration will be needed for any development in the coastal environment to ensure that the requirements of Policy 29(e) are achieved.</u></p>	<p>Reject the Panel's recommendations on submissions set out in the Panel's Hearing Stream 3 recommendation report dated 21 June 2024 for the reasons provided in S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3.</p>
19	<p>To insert the following text into Policy 51 (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5):</p> <p>...</p> <p>Explanation</p>	<p>Accept the Panel's recommendations on submissions for the reasons set out in the Panel's Hearing Stream 3 recommendation report dated 21 June 2024, with</p>

	<p>Policy 51 aims to <i>minimise</i> the risk and <i>consequences</i> of <i>natural hazard</i> events through sound preparation, investigation and planning prior to development <u>and in partnership with mana whenua / tangata whenua</u>. This policy reflects a need to employ a precautionary, <i>risk</i>-based approach, taking into consideration the likelihood of the hazards and the vulnerability of the development <u>and Te Ao Māori and mātauranga Māori perspectives</u>.</p>	<p>minor wording changes for clarity, for the reasons provided in S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3.</p>
20	<p>To insert the following text into Policy 52 (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5):</p> <p>...</p> <p>(b) whether non-structural <u><i>nature-based solutions</i>, Mātauranga Māori, or soft engineering options, or, in the coastal environment, natural defences</u> provide a more appropriate <u>solution</u>;</p> <p>...</p> <p>(i) <u>any residual risk</u> remaining after mitigation works are in place, <u>so that they <i>minimise</i> reduce and or do not increase the risks from of natural hazards, and, in the coastal environment, any risks from the use of hard engineering methods are avoided or minimised.</u></p> <p>...</p> <p><u>In the coastal environment, objectives, policies and rules shall ensure that any increased risk shall be avoided in areas likely to be potentially affected by coastal hazards, except where there is a functional or operational need for infrastructure to locate there.</u></p> <p>...</p>	<p>Reject the Panel's recommendations on submissions set out in the Panel's Hearing Stream 3 recommendation report dated 21 June 2024, in order to remove duplication and unnecessary explanation for reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3.</p>

	<p>Explanation</p> <p><u>In the coastal environment, the requirements of the NZCPS must be applied.</u></p>	
21	<p>To include the following text into new Policy UD.5 (highlighted change only, all other changes to policy captured in Decision 5):</p> <p>...</p> <p><u>(e) avoiding or mitigating potential adverse effects, including cumulative effects, of urban development on the natural environment, in accordance with Policy 42; and</u></p>	<p>Accept the Panel's recommendations on submissions for the reasons set out in the Panel's recommendation reports dated 21 June 2024, with wording changes to better achieve the Panel's findings on what this Policy should achieve, for the reasons provided in the S32AA evaluation in Attachment 3.</p>