

Horizons Freshwater Objectives Consultation

Horizons (Manawatū-Whanganui) region | August 2023

What is the Freshwater Objectives consultation

Horizons Regional Council is seeking community views on the following documents and concepts:

- Draft objective which describes how the management of freshwater in the Horizons (Manawatū-Whanganui) region will implement Te Mana o te Wai.
- Draft long-term visions for freshwater for each of our Freshwater Management Units (FMU)
- Draft freshwater values
- Draft environmental outcomes for each freshwater value

The Freshwater Objectives is one of many pre-consultation documents that will inform the NPSFM 2020 version of the One Plan.

Summary of HortNZ's submission

Te Mana o Te Wai: There needs to be more focused discussion with industry and the horticultural community about how this is implemented. We believe fruit and vegetables produced for the domestic market appropriately fit within a tier two activity under the Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy as fruit and vegetable availability and consumption for the New Zealand population is a fundamental requirement to support overall good health.

Draft visions for FMU: HortNZ would like to be involved in further discussions between Horizons regional council and the horticultural community to help develop appropriate visions for FMU where there is horticulture present. In previous consultations, HortNZ has submitted that irrigation, cultivation and production of food and beverages needs to be recognised in FMU where there is horticulture present - especially given one of two nationally recognised specified vegetable production areas is located within the Horizons region.

Draft freshwater values: HortNZ believes irrigation, cultivation and production of food and beverages needs to be a value recognised in FMU with a presence of horticulture. We believe this is particularly important given there is some iwi support for the inclusion of this value and the significance of the Specified Vegetable Growing Area in Horowhenua. HortNZ is also supportive of the recognition of Domestic fruit and vegetable supply as a value for the region.

Draft environmental outcomes for each value: HortNZ is concerned that there is consultation on a large list of draft objectives, which have already been drafted, when higher-level documents and provisions, such as Te Mana o te Wai, have not been workshopped or finalised with the community.

With that said, HortNZ is supportive of Objective 9 (Human health) and Objective 10 (social, cultural and economic well-being). HortNZ seeks recognition of the domestic production and supply of fruit and vegetables and their role supporting human health in Objective 9.

One further Objective (14) which is about the Specified Vegetable Growing Area had no information. HortNZ has submitted on the importance this objective has to our growers and would like to be involved in developing this objective.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Freshwater management objectives | Oranga Wai \(horizons.govt.nz\)](https://horizons.govt.nz/freshwater-management-objectives/oranga-wai)
- Keep an eye on HortNZ's website [Home | Horticulture New Zealand – Ahumāra Kai Aotearoa \(hortnz.co.nz\)](https://hortnz.co.nz)
- Leanne Roberts - Leanne.Roberts@hortnz.co.nz