

**Appendix 24: National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and Auckland Unitary Plan Comparative Analysis**

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management	Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part)
<b>Objectives</b>	
<p><b>Objective AA1</b> To consider and recognise Te Mana o te Wai in the management of fresh water.</p>	<p><b>Objective B7.4.1(6)</b> Mana Whenua values, mātauranga and tikanga associated with coastal water, freshwater and geothermal water are recognised and provided for, including their traditional and cultural uses and values.</p> <p><b>Objective E1.2(2)</b> The mauri of freshwater is maintained or progressively improved over time to enable traditional and cultural use of this resource by Mana Whenua.</p> <p><b>Objective E2.2(5)</b> Mana Whenua values including the mauri of water, are acknowledged in the allocation and use of water.</p>
<p><b>Objective A1</b> To safeguard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the life-supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species including their associated ecosystems, of fresh water; and</li> <li>b) the health of people and communities, as affected by contact with fresh water;</li> </ul> <p>in sustainably managing the use and development of land, and of discharges of contaminants.</p>	<p><b>Objective B7.4.1(1)</b> Coastal water, freshwater and geothermal water are used within identified limits while safeguarding the life-supporting capacity and the natural, social and cultural values of the waters.</p> <p><b>Objective B7.2.1(1)</b> Areas of significant indigenous biodiversity value in terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal marine areas are protected from the adverse effects of subdivision use and development.</p>
<p><b>Objective A2</b> The overall quality of fresh water within a freshwater management unit is maintained or improved while:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) protecting the significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies;</li> <li>b) protecting the significant values of wetlands; and</li> <li>c) improving the quality of fresh water in water bodies that have been degraded by human activities to the point of being over-allocated.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective B7.3.1(1)</b> Degraded freshwater systems are enhanced.</p> <p><b>Objective B7.4.1(2)</b> The quality of freshwater and coastal water is maintained where it is excellent or good and progressively improved over time where it is degraded.</p> <p><b>Objective E1.2(1)</b> Freshwater and sediment quality is maintained where it is excellent or good and progressively improved over time in degraded areas.</p>
<p><b>Objective A3</b> The quality of fresh water within a freshwater management unit is improved so it is suitable for primary contact more often, unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) regional targets established under Policy A6(b) have been achieved; or</li> <li>b) naturally occurring processes mean further improvement is not possible.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective B7.4.1(2)</b> The quality of freshwater and coastal water is maintained where it is excellent or good and progressively improved over time where it is degraded.</p> <p><b>Objective E1.2(1)</b> Freshwater and sediment quality is maintained where it is excellent or good and progressively improved over time in degraded areas.</p>

<p><b>Objective A4</b> To enable communities to provide for their economic well-being, including productive economic opportunities, in sustainably managing freshwater quality, within limits.</p>	<p><b>Objective E2.2(2)</b> Water resources are managed within limits to meet current and future water needs for social, cultural and economic purposes.</p>
	<p><b>Objective E2.2(3)</b> Freshwater resources available for use are managed and allocated in order of priority to provide for domestic and municipal water supplies, animals, and economic development.</p>
<p><b>Objective B1</b> To safeguard the life-supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species including their associated ecosystems of fresh water, in sustainably managing the taking, using, damming, or diverting of fresh water</p>	<p><b>Objective B7.2.1(1)</b> Areas of significant indigenous biodiversity value in terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal marine areas are protected from the adverse effects of subdivision use and development.</p>
	<p><b>Objective B7.4.1(1)</b> Coastal water, freshwater and geothermal water are used within identified limits while safeguarding the life-supporting capacity and the natural, social and cultural values of the waters.</p>
<p><b>Objective B4</b> To protect significant values of wetlands and of outstanding freshwater bodies</p>	<p><b>Objective E3.2(1)</b> Auckland's lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands with high natural values are protected from degradation and permanent loss.</p>
<p><b>Objective C1</b> To improve integrated management of fresh water and the use and development of land in whole catchments, including the interactions between fresh water, land, associated ecosystems and the coastal environment.</p>	<p><b>Policy B7.3.2(1)</b> Integrate the management of subdivision, use and development and freshwater systems by undertaking all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ensuring water supply, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure is adequately provided for in areas of new growth or intensification;</li> <li>b) ensuring catchment management plans form part of the structure planning process;</li> <li>c) controlling the use of land and discharges to minimise the adverse effects of runoff on freshwater systems and progressively reduce existing adverse effects where those systems or water are degraded; and</li> <li>d) avoiding development where it will significantly increase adverse effects on freshwater systems, unless these adverse effects can be adequately mitigated.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective CC1</b> To improve information on freshwater takes and sources of freshwater contaminants, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ensure the necessary information is available for freshwater objective and limit setting and freshwater management under this national policy statement; and</li> <li>b) ensure information on resource availability is available for current and potential resource users.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective B7.4.1(4)</b> The adverse effects of point and non-point discharges, in particular stormwater runoff and wastewater discharges, on coastal waters, freshwater and geothermal water are minimised and existing adverse effects are progressively reduced.</p>
	<p><b>Objective E1.2(3)</b> Stormwater and wastewater networks are managed to protect public health and safety and to prevent or minimise adverse effects of contaminants on freshwater and coastal water quality.</p>
<p><b>Objective D1</b> To provide for the involvement of iwi and hapū, and to ensure that tangata whenua values and interests are identified and reflected</p>	<p><b>Objective B7.4.1(6)</b> Mana Whenua values, mātauranga and tikanga associated with coastal water, freshwater</p>

<p>in the management of fresh water including associated ecosystems, and decision-making regarding freshwater planning, including on how all other objectives of this national policy statement are given effect to.</p>	<p>and geothermal water are recognised and provided for, including their traditional and cultural uses and values.</p>
<p><b>Policies</b></p>	
<p><b>Policy AA1</b> By every regional council making or changing regional policy statements and plans to consider and recognise Te Mana o te Wai, noting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) te Mana o te Wai recognises the connection between water and the broader environment – Te Hauora o te Taiao (the health of the environment), Te Hauora o te Wai (the health of the waterbody) and Te Hauora o te Tangata (the health of the people); and</li> <li>b) values identified through engagement and discussion with the community, including tangata whenua, must inform the setting of freshwater objectives and limits.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Policy B7.4.2(3)</b> Integrate Mana Whenua values, mātauranga and tikanga when giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 in establishing all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) water quality limits for freshwater, including groundwater;</li> <li>b) the allocation and use of freshwater resources, including groundwater; and</li> <li>c) measures to improve the integrated management of the effects of the use and development of land and freshwater on coastal water and the coastal environment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy B7.4.2(5)</b> Engage with Mana Whenua to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) identify areas of degraded coastal water where they have a particular interest; and</li> <li>b) remedy or, where remediation is not practicable, mitigate adverse effects on these degraded areas and values.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy E3.3(5)</b> Avoid significant adverse effects, and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities in, on, under or over the beds of lakes, rivers, streams or wetlands on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the mauri of the freshwater environment; and</li> <li>b) Mana Whenua values in relation to the freshwater environment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy A2</b> Where freshwater management units do not meet the freshwater objectives made pursuant to Policy A1, every regional council is to specify targets and implement methods (either or both regulatory and non-regulatory), in a way that considers the sources of relevant contaminants recorded under Policy CC1, to assist the improvement of water quality in the freshwater management units, to meet those targets, and within a defined timeframe.</p>	<p><b>Policy B7.4.2(2)</b> Give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 by establishing all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) freshwater objectives;</li> <li>b) freshwater management units and, for each unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. values;</li> <li>ii. water quality limits;</li> <li>iii. environmental flows and/or levels; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) targets and implementation methods where freshwater units do not meet freshwater objectives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy B7.4.2(7)</b> Manage the discharges of contaminants into water from subdivision, use and development to avoid where practicable, and otherwise minimise, all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) significant bacterial contamination of freshwater and coastal water;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) adverse effects on the quality of freshwater and coastal water;</li> <li>c) adverse effects from contaminants, including nutrients generated on or applied to land, and the potential for these to enter freshwater and coastal water from both point and non-point sources;</li> <li>d) adverse effects on Mana Whenua values associated with coastal water, freshwater and geothermal water, including wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and mahinga kai; and</li> <li>e) adverse effects on the water quality of catchments and aquifers that provide water for domestic and municipal supply.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy A3</b> By regional councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) imposing conditions on discharge permits to ensure the limits and targets specified pursuant to Policy A1 and Policy A2 can be met; and</li> <li>b) where permissible, making rules requiring the adoption of the best practicable option to prevent or minimise any actual or likely adverse effect on the environment of any discharge of a contaminant into fresh water, or onto or into land in circumstances that may result in that contaminant (or, as a result of any natural process from the discharge of that contaminant, any other contaminant) entering fresh water.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Policy B7.4.2(7)</b> Manage the discharges of contaminants into water from subdivision, use and development to avoid where practicable, and otherwise minimise, all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) significant bacterial contamination of freshwater and coastal water;</li> <li>b) adverse effects on the quality of freshwater and coastal water;</li> <li>c) adverse effects from contaminants, including nutrients generated on or applied to land, and the potential for these to enter freshwater and coastal water from both point and non-point sources;</li> <li>d) adverse effects on Mana Whenua values associated with coastal water, freshwater and geothermal water, including wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and mahinga kai; and</li> <li>e) adverse effects on the water quality of catchments and aquifers that provide water for domestic and municipal supply.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy E1.3(4)</b> When considering any application for a discharge, the Council must have regard to the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the life-supporting capacity of freshwater including on any ecosystem associated with freshwater; and</li> <li>b) the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than a minor adverse effect on freshwater, and on any ecosystem associated with freshwater, resulting from the discharge would be avoided.</li> </ul>

**Policy A5** By every regional council making or changing regional plans to the extent needed to ensure the plans:

- a) identify specified rivers and lakes, and primary contact sites; and
- b) state what improvements will be made, and over what timeframes, to specified rivers and lakes, and primary contact sites, so they are suitable for primary contact more often; or
- c) state how specified rivers and lakes, and primary contact sites, will be maintained if regional targets established under Policy A6(b) have been achieved.

Improvements to specified rivers and lakes in (b) must make a contribution to achieving regional targets established under Policy A6(b).

**Policy B7.3.2(5)** Manage subdivision, use, development, including discharges and activities in the beds of lakes, rivers streams, and in wetlands, to do all of the following:

- a) protect identified Natural Lake Management Areas, Natural Stream Management Areas, and Wetland Management Areas;
- b) minimise erosion and modification of beds and banks of lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands;
- c) limit the establishment of structures within the beds of lakes, rivers and streams and in wetlands to those that have a functional need or operational requirement to be located there; and
- d) maintain or where appropriate enhance:
  - i. freshwater systems not protected under Policy B7.3.2(5)(a);
  - ii. navigation along rivers and public access to and along lakes, rivers and streams;
  - iii. existing riparian vegetation located on the margins of lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands; and
  - iv. areas of significant indigenous biodiversity.

**Policy C1** By every regional council:

- a) recognising the interactions, ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea) between fresh water, land, associated ecosystems and the coastal environment; and
- b) managing fresh water and land use and development in catchments in an integrated and sustainable way to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects, including cumulative effects.

**Policy B7.4.2(1)** Integrate the management of subdivision, use, development and coastal water and freshwater, by:

- a) ensuring water supply, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure is adequately provided for in areas of growth; and
- b) requiring catchment management planning as part of structure planning;
- c) controlling the use of land and discharges to minimise the adverse effects of runoff on water and progressively reduce existing adverse effects where those water are degraded; and
- d) avoiding development where it will significantly increase adverse effects on water, unless these adverse effects can be adequately mitigated.

**Policy C2** By every regional council making or changing regional policy statements to the extent needed to provide for the integrated management of the effects of the use and development of:

- a) land on fresh water, including encouraging the co-ordination and sequencing of regional and/or urban growth, land use and development and the provision of infrastructure; and
- b) land and fresh water on coastal water.

**Policy B7.4.2(1)** Integrate the management of subdivision, use, development and coastal water and freshwater, by:

- a. ensuring water supply, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure is adequately provided for in areas of growth; and
- b. requiring catchment management planning as part of structure planning;
- c. controlling the use of land and discharges to minimise the adverse effects of runoff on water and progressively reduce existing adverse effects where those water are degraded; and
- d. avoiding development where it will significantly increase adverse effects on water, unless these adverse effects can be adequately mitigated.

	<p><b>Policy E1.3(8)</b> Avoid as far as practicable, or otherwise minimise or mitigate, adverse effects of stormwater runoff from greenfield development on freshwater systems, freshwater and coastal water by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) taking an integrated stormwater management approach (refer to Policy E1.3.10);</li> <li>b) minimising the generation and discharge of contaminants, particularly from high contaminant generating car parks and high use roads and into sensitive receiving environments;</li> <li>c) minimising or mitigating changes in hydrology, including loss of infiltration, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. minimise erosion and associated effects on stream health and values;</li> <li>ii. maintain stream baseflows; and</li> <li>iii. support groundwater recharge;</li> </ul> </li> <li>d) where practicable, minimising or mitigating the effects on freshwater systems arising from changes in water temperature caused by stormwater discharges; and</li> <li>e) providing for the management of gross stormwater pollutants, such as litter, in areas where the generation of these may be an issue.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy D1</b> Local authorities shall take reasonable steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) involve iwi and hapū in the management of fresh water and freshwater ecosystems in the region;</li> <li>b) work with iwi and hapū to identify tangata whenua values and interests in fresh water and freshwater ecosystems in the region; and</li> <li>c) reflect tangata whenua values and interests in the management of, and decision-making regarding, fresh water and freshwater ecosystems in the region.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Policy B7.4.2(3)</b> Integrate Mana Whenua values, mātauranga and tikanga when giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 in establishing all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) water quality limits for freshwater, including groundwater;</li> <li>b) the allocation and use of freshwater resources, including groundwater; and</li> <li>c) measures to improve the integrated management of the effects of the use and development of land and freshwater on coastal water and the coastal environment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy B7.4.2(5)</b> Engage with Mana Whenua to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) identify areas of degraded coastal water where they have a particular interest; and</li> <li>b) remedy or, where remediation is not practicable, mitigate adverse effects on these degraded areas and values.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy E2.3(16)</b> Develop catchment specific limits for freshwater quantity with Mana Whenua, through community engagement, scientific research and mātauranga Māori.</p>