

Freshwater and Coastal Environment - Mountains to the Sea Stage 1 Engagement Analysis Report

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1 Overview

Consultation with community and stakeholders ran from the 1st November to the end of December 2022 and included the first high-level engagement for freshwater and the coastal marine areas. The purpose of the engagement was to gain feedback from the community on freshwater and coastal visions, values, and pressures and to confirm whether the proposed Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) boundaries made sense.

The legislative drivers for this engagement are:

1. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) which requires community engagement on the National Objective Framework and long-term visions¹, and

¹ Refer NPS-FM clause 3.7 – the NOF includes identifying FMU and values, setting environment outcomes, identifying attributes and setting states, flows/levels and other criteria to support achievement of the outcomes. This engagement round deals with FMU and values as well as long-term visions under clause 3.3.

2. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) which requires strategic planning for the coastal environment².

Both national policy instruments promote an integrated approach to management between land use, freshwater and coastal environments.

The discussion document, a booklet called 'Mountains to Sea', was distributed throughout the region at local township events, council service centres and libraries, and was also available online at Shape Tasman. Several webinars were held, and workshops were given to community groups that requested them.

Overall, we received around 230 pieces of feedback from over 75 different individuals together with, organisations or companies. Feedback varied across the whole range of discussion topics. In some cases, responses were wider in scope than intended by the questions asked. However, there were low levels of feedback on the core vision and values questions.

This report outlines the number of respondents per topic area, the key themes of submissions and a brief analysis of the effectiveness of this stage one engagement of freshwater and coastal topics. The report is in two parts. Part One relates to freshwater and Part Two relates to the coast.

2 PART ONE - FRESHWATER

3 Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) boundaries

The question posed was "Do the FMU boundaries make sense?"

3.1 Number of respondents

We received online feedback from nine respondents and another respondent emailed feedback to us, for a total of ten. All responded 'yes' the boundaries made sense.

Four respondents were organisations – Forest and Bird, Friends of Nelson Haven & Tasman Bay Inc, Horticulture New Zealand and Federated Farmers Golden Bay, and the remaining six were from individuals.

Respondents were from a range of areas around the district Marahau, Pōhara – Wainui Bay, Murchison, Moutere, Motueka/Riuwaka and Coastal Tasman.

3.2 Key themes

Overall, submitters thought that the proposed FMU boundaries made sense. Comments included:

The Management Units are a practical approach to managing the coastal waters remembering they are artificial divisions and in no way define actual habitats and environmental unity.

Designate and protect areas and features of high landscape importance and produce ordinance and rules to do so, following an ecological approach, catchment by catchment, summits to the sea where appropriate, as integral units.

We need to start with the receiving environment (the Inlet and the Bay), and address drivers of problems in an integrated catchment approach that tackles the hard issues like nutrients and

² Refer NZCPS Policy 7 (and other policies) which includes identifying areas where certain activities and subdivision, use and development are inappropriate and identifying resources or values under threat or at significant risk of adverse cumulative effects.

sediment. Although it is necessary to define the FMUs at a practical scale, there needs to be a nested approach, so that management of sub-catchments within the FMU can be tailored to the particular local pressures, values and communities. So, for example, we need to be able to look at the coastal spring-fed creeks and streams in their own right, etc.

From a farming perspective concern about the 'whole of catchment' type approach was raised as it was seen as having the potential to cause regulatory issues for farmers and councils. If, for example, consents or permitted activity status is reliant on whole catchment water quality results then individual landowners and farmers may or may not be able to farm if aspirational baseline states aren't met. A farmer is at the mercy of all his neighbours and other landowners in the catchment and it might only take one 'bad egg' to have devastating consequences for a whole catchment of others.

There were several FMU boundary change suggestions including:

1. to consider the northwest coastline as a separate management unit from the Aorere catchment.
2. the boundary with the Motueka/Riuwaka FMU should align with the map boundaries from the Water Conservation Order (WCO). To amend the boundary between the Takaka and Abel Tasman-Kaiteriteri FMU to separate the catchments through to Te Matau / Separation Point.

3.3 Analysis of engagement

While useful feedback on FMU boundaries was received, with only ten respondents, and all individuals in older age groups, it is a very small sample size and cannot be seen to represent the wider community.

3.4 Staff recommendations

Staff recommendations on the FMU boundary changes suggested are:

1. that management concerns for the northwest coastal catchments may be addressed through the use of sub-FMU management areas and a draft map of these will be produced for future community discussion.
2. that the FMU and Waikoropupū springs recharge area (as mapped in the Water Conservation Order (WCO) process) boundaries serve different purposes and should be reviewed once the Environment Court recommendations on the WCO are received. There may be need for overlap for water and land management drivers in the upper Holyoake catchment (Abel Tasman – Kaiteriteri FMU – rather than Motueka), which also overlies the Arthur Marble geology so may affect waterbodies in both FMU.
3. that the Takaka-Abel Tasman-Kaiteriteri boundary shift to Te Matau / Separation Point has merit and is consistent with the FMU definition methodology to group catchments with similar coastal receiving environments - as it brings the Whariwharangi Bay catchments into the Takaka FMU grouping this with other catchments that drain to the area generally accepted to be Golden Bay / Mohua.

4 Freshwater Visions

Long-term vision questions were split into 3 timeframes, 10 years, 30 years and 100 year visions to help prompt responders to think across multiple timeframes and into the long term.

4.1 Number of respondents

Twenty-two submissions were received that included feedback on freshwater. Six of these were from organisations, and the remaining sixteen were from individuals.

Individual responses came from:

- Murchison
- Tākaka
- Mārahau
- Moutere
- Collingwood-Pūponga

4.2 Key themes

Key themes from the long-term visions ranged dramatically with many opposing views. Broadly there were around 7 different themes covered which have been summarised for each timeframe in the sections below.

The feedback also included a mix of outcomes sought, that could be used to get there. Consequently, the tables in each section also summarise the key outcomes from the feedback.

Key themes:

- Improved water quality
- Culture shift in how we think about and manage water
- Healthy ecology and natural values
- Healthy and protected biodiversity and biodiversity corridors
- Efficient and sustainable water allocation, water security and use
- River and flood management
- Improved public access

4.2.1 Improved water quality

The following vision responses are individual comments taken from the feedback. They are written here as they were in the feedback. Some read as if they are requests. The vision comments are grouped into the relevant time spans in no particular order.

10 years: Sedimentation is dramatically decreased. Clear felling of plantation forestry in catchments is being stopped. Remove all forestry and farming activity from catchments and reforest with natives. Use all other measures necessary to control sediment runoff from any source so all rivers are swimmable and clear.

Improved water quality. More controls and strongly targeted and sensible policy on the big drivers for degradation of groundwater and surface waters quality. Striking the right balance between community and ecology to protect and halt degradation. Immediate moratorium on land activities that cause sediment to enter our rivers and streams. Water drinkable from its source. Human noise, waste, and crowd pollution to be minimised. Clean, chemical free (agriculture, pharmaceutical, industry) fresh water. Innovative types of aquaculture/farming being facilitated such as the inclusion of exotics and nectar producing trees e.g. gums as it gets hotter/drier and wetland areas extended to provide dams and lower fire risks.

30 years: High water quality. Nitrate and phosphorous levels in waterways and lakes in agricultural and urban areas are not discernibly higher than natural baselines. Safe for swimming and mahinga kai. Banning of clear felling of plantation forestry in catchments and rivers so they are free from sediment and logging slash. Minimal farming of ruminants as Methane and Nitrous Oxide are factored into our reaching Carbon Zero. Again, clean, chemical free (agro, pharma, industry).

Water quality outcomes

10 year outcomes	30 year outcomes	100 year outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All rivers are swimmable and clear • Water quality is protected and degradation halted • Water is drinkable from its source • Human noise, waste and crowd pollution is minimised • Water is clean and free of agricultural, pharmaceutical and industrial chemicals • Water quality is improved for recreational uses ('swimmability'), commercial, marine uses and wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrate and phosphorous levels in waterways and lakes in agricultural and urban areas are not discernibly higher than natural baselines. • Water is safe for swimming and mahinga kai • Rivers are free from sediment and logging slash • Water is clean and free of agricultural, pharmaceutical and industrial chemicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

4.2.2 Culture shift in how we think about and manage water

Again, the statements below are taken directly from the feedback as they were written. They represent the views of a number of submitters.

10 years: Te Mana o te Wai (TMOTW) implemented fully across council. Cultural change in how we manage and interact with our freshwater catchments. A desire to see TMOTW embraced in our resource management, Freshwater Farm Plans enacted and operating as intended, thriving catchment groups with strong relationships with Council. Tangata whenua empowered in their management of freshwater catchments as partners.

Change in management structure and processes: FMU/catchment management embedded within council processes (i.e., see Environment Canterbury's Water Zone teams) and prioritised with the staff and funding resources required to manage the regions catchments of outstanding natural value. Recognition of the importance and value of our catchments to the wellbeing of our region, to our communities, to our iwi partners which is not supported by appropriate resourcing yet.

A management style that gives recognition to the relationship between the land and the sea to protect the integrity of the coastal environment, by paying greater attention to sewage and stormwater discharge, landfills and non-point source pollution and run-off, to improve water quality for recreational uses ('swimmability'), commercial, marine uses and wildlife.

100 years: Ceremonies of reverence, celebration, and gratitude for the awa. The 30-year time span does not go far enough, the vision should be held for seven generations into the future.

Te Mana o te Wai to be embodied in all our catchments, supporting excellent water quality, high biodiversity values and the wellbeing of our communities. Our catchment management will be adaptive and resilient to the challenges that climate change will bring us in 100 years.

Cultural shift outcomes

10 year outcomes	30 year outcomes	100 year outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Mana o te Wai implemented fully across council. • Catchment management embedded within council processes. • We recognise the relationship between the land and the sea. • We recognise the importance of our catchments to the wellbeing of our region. • Freshwater Farm Plans enacted and operating as intended. • Tangata whenua empowered in their management of freshwater. • The concept of 'Giving Rivers Space' is embraced. • Management of our river beds is holistic and climate resilient • Biodiversity is considered first in river enhancement and engineering designs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Mana o te Wai to be embodied in all our catchments, supporting excellent water quality, high biodiversity values and the wellbeing of our communities. • Ceremonies of reverence, celebration, and gratitude for the awa occur.

4.2.3 Healthy ecology and natural values

The comments below are taken directly from the submitters who commented on this topic area.

10 years: Natural habitat around our waterways should be encouraged and increased. Concept of 'Giving Rivers Space' embraced, with a shift towards a more holistic and climate resilient management of our river beds; a more sustainable approach to climate change adaptation than our current hard engineering practices. Including potentially managed retreat of infrastructure and property boundaries away from riverbeds, creating a natural buffer for rivers to move within their natural range by a marked reduction on our reliance on hard engineering. Commercial farming of ruminants reduced, and alternative, innovative types of aquaculture/farming being facilitated. More exotic and nectar producing trees e.g., gums as it gets hotter/ drier and wetland areas extended to provide dams and lower fire risks.

30 years: Ecologically healthy coastal and freshwater environments sustain a healthy community that values and cares for these environments. Native corridors planted to give rivers room to move. Fish passage available and restoration for biodiversity present.

100 years:

Ecologically healthy coastal environment and freshwater environment sustains a healthy community that values and cares for these environments. Plentiful clean fresh water to sustain our population by supporting water for drinking and food production. Rivers restored to natural health.

Outstanding natural value of our upstream catchments (i.e., Department of Conservation land) reflected throughout our catchments, especially in our lowland, coastal streams. Waterbodies are as

natural as possible free from intensive development so when in the river environment you do not see lots of housing.

Healthy ecology and natural value outcomes

10 year outcomes	30 year outcomes	100 year outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands are extended to provide dams and lower fire risks. • Natural habitat around our waterways is increased. • Managed retreat of infrastructure and property boundaries away from riverbeds creates a natural buffer for rivers to move within their natural range. • Reduce commercial farming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecologically healthy coastal and freshwater environments sustain a healthy community that values and cares for these environments. • Native corridors along rivers are planted. • Fish passage is available. • Restoration for biodiversity occurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecologically healthy coastal environment and freshwater environment sustains a healthy community that values and cares for these environments. • Plentiful clean fresh water to sustain our population by supporting water for drinking and food production. • Rivers restored to natural health. • natural values of our upstream catchments are reflected throughout our catchments, especially in our lowland, coastal streams. • Waterbodies are as natural as possible free from intensive development so when in the river environment you do not see lots of housing.

4.2.4 Healthy and protected biodiversity and biodiversity corridors

Arguably healthy biodiversity is part of healthy ecosystems; however, respondents tended to reference these separately. They are therefore provided separately below to reflect this.

10 years: Robust protections for the biodiversity within our catchments. Support for community enhancement efforts and for biodiversity corridors prioritised within catchments by the TEP. I would like to see biodiversity considered first in river enhancement and engineering designs including fish passage ensured throughout the region. Thriving catchment groups with strong relationships with Council.

100 years: Biodiversity: A blended, future-oriented mix of native and exotic trees with more biotics. Full reinstatement back to pre-European baseline. Native bush regeneration.

Biodiversity outcomes

10 year outcomes	30 year outcomes	100 year outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity is robustly protected within our catchments. • Biodiversity is considered first in river enhancement and engineering designs. • Fish passage is ensured throughout the region. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A blended, future-oriented mix of native and exotic trees with more biotics • Full reinstatement back to pre-European baseline • Native bush is regenerating

4.2.5 Water allocation, water security and use

Multiple contrasting views were given in the feedback as presented below.

10 years: Water allocation: Irrigation of horticultural crops is prioritised and promoted as essential for food production. Farming is a viable land and water use. No irrigation allocation. Sustainable, regenerative farming practice (not intensification) only, especially with the Waimea dam creation. Allocation of water resources should be based on scientific and economic evaluation. Endeavour for water sources to be managed in a sustainable way for the whole community but not the rights of one group being advanced more than others.

Water availability / drought management is better planned instead of just shutting off irrigators when water is low, need to have a better practice in place for efficiency. Prioritising water availability for food production, particularly horticulture. Temporary shortages in water supplies can be accommodated by the rationing procedures already in place. Water conservation (storage from winter run-off) should be actively encouraged.

30 years: Fresh water for the irrigation and production of horticultural crops is valued by council and community. Water resource is managed sustainably to prioritise water for irrigation of horticultural crops for food and economic well-being.

Water allocation, security and use outcomes

10 year outcomes	30 year outcomes	100 year outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation of horticultural crops is prioritised and promoted as essential for food production. • Farming is a viable land and water use. • Innovative types of aquaculture and farming, including regenerative farming are facilitated • Better practice in place for water efficiency • Water availability during droughts is prioritised for food production, particularly horticulture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh water for the irrigation and production of horticultural crops is valued by council and community. • Water resource is managed sustainably to prioritise water for irrigation of horticultural crops for food and economic well-being 	

4.2.6 River and flood management

The comments below are taken directly from the feedback and represent a number of submitters.

10 year: Flood management and clearing of waterways should be prioritized. Plan to actively monitor and widen and deepen existing waterways so water can flow out to sea.

30 year: We have full knowledge on effects of gravel extraction on coastal erosion. Flood management and clearing of waterways should be prioritized. Plan to actively monitor and widen and deepen existing waterways so water can flow out to sea.

100 year: Climate change and river modification: Catchment management is resilient and adaptive to the challenges of climate change. Awareness of increased rain and flooding, need for deepening and widening rivers. Likely see continuation of sediment deposits and build up at river mouths and work needs done to protect community.

Flood management and clearing of waterways should be prioritized. Plan to actively monitor and widen and deepen existing waterways so water can flow out to sea.

River and flood management outcomes

10 year outcomes	30 year outcomes	100 year outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood management and clearing of waterways is prioritized. • We actively monitor and widen and deepen existing waterways so water can flow out to sea. • Managed retreat of infrastructure and property boundaries away from riverbeds creates a natural buffer for rivers to move within their natural range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have full knowledge on effects of gravel extraction on coastal erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment management is resilient and adaptive to the challenges of climate change. • The community is protected

4.2.7 Improved public access

The comments below are taken directly from the feedback and represent a number of submitters.

10 year: Clean and pleasant to use, human noise, waste and crowd pollution minimised, and toilet facilities increased. Creation of solitude areas and more small, clean, well maintained camping grounds available. Extend rather than maintain access. Retain access for jet boating.

30 year: The general public have free access and recreation areas along the sides of all rivers protected from being private property. The people of the community, young and old feel connected to the awa and enjoying the river more through recreation. Therefore, suitable public access maintained and improved.

Public access outcomes

10 year outcomes	30 year outcomes	100 year outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and pleasant to use. • Human noise, waste and crowd pollution minimised. • Toilet facilities increased. • Creation of solitude areas and more small, clean, well maintained camping grounds • Access is extended. • Access for jet boating is retained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public have free access and recreation areas along the sides of all rivers protected from being private property. • The people of the community, young and old feel connected to the awa and enjoying the river more through recreation. • Suitable public access is maintained and improved. 	

4.3 Analysis of engagement

There were a wide range of comments throughout the vision timelines. However, some consistent messages included Te Mana o te Wai, high water quality (clear water and healthy ecosystems) and the need to protect natural habitats. Closely linked to these concepts were improved ecological health, biodiversity, buffer zones and relationships, science and knowledge.

There were also unique statements that were outside the key themes, such as the importance of jet boating, flooding management and freshwater for ceremonies. It highlights the varied and special relationships people hold with freshwater. Although the response rates were low for the visions many other pieces of feedback were visionary and displayed a sense a forward thinking that were aspirational for the district. Examples include:

“Freshwater is natural, unpolluted by chemicals, clean and vibrantly alive.”

“We need the community to be at the heart of the visioning and planning for our FMU, rather than the Council. The council has an important supporting role, but I hope that the community's values and aspirations will drive planning and management and find a locally acceptable balance between development and conservation/environmental protection.”

4.4 Staff recommendations

It is clear that a comprehensive vision statement for each FMU is important to all stakeholders and will require ongoing discussions with the community and tangata whenua. These should be aspirational and could include the big topics such as climate change, natural values, ecological health, and relationships to water. In order to get there, however, shorter time framed visions or objectives will be required for water quality and quantity, pollution and allocation, points of access, biodiversity, land-use, water availability management, climate resilience, ecological health and council structure and processes.

5 Keep doing

To help us achieve our visions respondents also provided feedback on things that the council and community should continue to do and those that should be done differently:

- Encourage catchment groups
- Keep moving towards integrated catchment management in the region
- Riparian zone management and plantings
- Keep waterways clear of flood debris and maintain riverbed access
- Water for irrigation of horticultural crops is a priority
- Accept importance of enabling horticulture in Tasman
- Importance of maintaining waterways and controlled discharge of flooding to sea
- Encouragement for landowners with riparian margins but not more regulation
- Community engagement in management of catchments is a positive move
- Importance of access to fresh water for food production, including washing and post-harvest hygiene treatments of horticultural crops produced for consumption
- Policies for riparian fencing / planting of waterways needs to be checked on and enforced
- Plan for more extreme localised events in the future that will impact our communities
- Create habitat and access to habitats for aquatic species

6 Things to do differently

In order to achieve our visions people told us what we need to do differently, as follows.

- Adequately resource the implementation of Te Mana o te Wai.
- Increase funding for monitoring and enforcement
- Increase control of invasive species
- Support landowners to protect, fence, plant and enhance wetlands and waterways
- Control the big drivers of pressures on the environment (e.g. sediment from poorly managed forestry, development and other land-use; and nutrients/agrichemicals from intensive horticulture), without onerous and arbitrary controls on land owners
- Get landowners on-board with proactive engagement and support
- Renew and reinstate (possibly upscale) freshwater monitoring
- More frequency of water quality monitoring - especially in places like Waimea, where land-use and water-use are intensive
- Embrace Te Mana o Te Wai in all of our freshwater management practices, especially infrastructure and engineering practices
- Ignore 'swimability' as an indicator of freshwater health. Report on habitat health. Rivers badly degraded by silt are swimmable
- allow more gravel extraction to reduce riverbed height to allow for better floodwater control and limit damage from overflowing stopbanks
- Recognise horticulture as an essential user of fresh water
- Stop issuing irrigation consents, and put resource into guardianship / protection.
- Take action with regards to best farming practice, including winter feed etc.
- Support local people in the role of kaitiaki for the river.
- Fund / support more programs in school and the community that awahi's this kaupapa of connection, gratitude and care for our awa
- Much harsher restrictions on all activities that degrade water quality - farming, forestry, land clearance

7 Freshwater Values

There were two on-line feedback collection areas for the values, a map where a value could be pinned to a specific location or a survey question where values could be described. Further values were included as part of longer written submissions and have been added to the collection below.

7.1 Number of respondents

Many people included multiple values in their feedback, and this occurred throughout the submissions. The total number of respondents was 19 people, with over 50 different values in specific locations identified. HortNZ, Fulton Hogan and other industry groups also wrote longer submissions including values.

7.2 Overview

- Two respondents supported all compulsory values.
- Two other respondents supported natural form and character; wai tapu; fishing; animal drinking water; irrigation, cultivation and production of food and beverages; and commercial and industrial use.
- Support for Kaitiakitanga/stewardship; Flooding and erosion management; Education and research sites was also indicated.

Te Mana o te Wai: many participants acknowledged the importance of TMOTW and the hierarchy of obligations. People wanted TMOTW embraced and adequately resourced. They saw the priorities as important along with having an integrated approach to freshwater.

7.3 Values by FMU

Many of the values below fit well within the compulsory national values, other national values and additional values outlined in the mountains to sea booklet. Extra values that were not identified in the mountains to sea booklet are highlighted separately at the end of the lists.

7.3.1 Tākaka FMU

Compulsory National Values:

- **Ecosystem Health**
 - Te Kakau Stream degrading
- **Swimming (Human contact)**
 - Value at Paines Ford
- **Threatened species**
 - Wading birds and Blue Penguins along the coast

Other National Values:

- **Natural form and character**
 - Golden Bay should be protected from noisy mussel boats (Pohara)
- **Drinking water supply:**
 - Tākaka township
- **Wai Tapu**
 - Wai Tapu/ceremonies at Te Waikoropupū Springs
- **Transport and Tauranga waka**
 - Boating at Te Kakua Stream Reserve
- **Hydro-electric power generation**
 - Enabling operation, maintenance and upgrade to Renewable Electricity Generation sites in areas of rural/Outstanding Natural Features; Cobb Dam

Additional Values:

- **Flooding and erosion management:**
 - Gravel Management required on Mid-Island
 - Gravel management [for flood control]

7.3.2 Able Tasman – Kaiteriteri FMU

Compulsory National Values:

- **Ecosystem Health**
 - Native re-vegetation required along the coastal edge of Dummy Bay to cleanse stream that flows into the sea as well as enhance habitat for native fauna
 - Otuwhero lagoon valued for the bird, plant and fish life however there is an issue of sedimentation for wetlands.

- **Swimming value (Human contact)**
 - Main beachfront, Little Kaiteriteri, Dummy Bay, Martin Farm Road and spit of Otuwhero Inlet
 - Swimming and watersports are important recreational activities

Other National Values:

- **Natural form and character**
 - opportunity for enhance natural character through more indigenous tree planting along the streetscape (Riuwaka-Kaiteriteri Rd and Little Kaiteriteri walking track along Stephens Bay) that will also provide shade in the summer months for beach users
 - Native re-vegetation is required along the coastal edge of Dummy Bay to screen the upper residential catchment from the beach.
- **Transport and Tauranga waka**
 - Boat launch at Boat Road (congestion in summer)

Additional Values:

- **Infrastructure**
 - If further housing is allowed then this needs to be supported with better drinking water solutions, safer treatment of wastewater and protection from stormwater.

7.3.3 Motueka–Riuwaka FMU

Compulsory National Values:

- **Ecosystem Health**
 - Motueka Spit walk - Adjacent farm to coastal track requires a bit of attention to ensure effluent runoff is not directly entering coastal waters. Buffer planting could be implemented
 - Motueka river quality – degradation from farming
 - a car buried on the banks of the Motueka River is leaking automotive fluids and Council is not testing for this
 - Irrigation systems need monitoring (especially when it's raining)
- **Human Contact**
 - Fishing
 - Kayaking
- **Outstanding Freshwater Bodies**
 - Motueka River Water Conservation Order values

Other National Values:

- **Natural form and character**
 - The Motueka River is an outstanding landscape feature
- **Hydro-electric power generation**
 - Renewable energy is important

Additional Values:

- **Public access**
 - Access for recreational needs
 - Walking
 - cycling
- **Infrastructure**
 - There are issues with stormwater flooding restrictions and the long-term effect for the growth of Motueka, particularly eastward of High St
 - Require dwellings to have on-site rainwater tanks
- **Flooding and erosion management**
 - Stop-banks require protection as do the secondary flow channels between the river and town
 - Reduce hard surfaces (narrow streets and single footpaths) for stormwater management
- **Resilience to climate change**
 - Work needs to be done to ensure Riuwaka can cope with extreme weather. Making sure streams and rivers are running without blockages and storm water systems can cope

7.3.4 Moutere FMU

Compulsory National Values

- **Ecosystem health**
 - Moutere catchment fresh waterways should be shaded by riparian areas with native vegetation to protect aquatic life
 - Natural, unpolluted by chemicals, clean and vibrantly alive.

7.3.5 Waimea

What is special about Waimea?

Waimea is special because *“It is an interconnected system of aquifers, rivers/streams, spring-fed creeks and wetlands that feeds into the Waimea Inlet and Tasman Bay. It sustains ecology and communities across the terrestrial and freshwater into the coastal and marine space”*.

“This FMU is only special because the interface between productive land use and urban communities is colliding in unhealthy ways.”

7.3.5.1 Mapua (Waimea FMU)

Compulsory National Values:

- **Ecosystem health**
 - Saltmarsh habitat at Māpua Embayment/Seaton Valley Stream. This is an important place for wading birds, shellfish and fish

- Saltmarsh habitat for wading birds at Higgs reserve/Dominion Embayment is a feeding place for wading birds including Matuku moana/white faced herons, poaka/pied stilts, Kōtuku-ngutupapa /royal spoonbills, Tōrea pango /variable oystercatchers
- **Threatened Species**
 - Four threatened species locations identified in Mapua Inlet, specifically Stringer Embayment (Wading birds, endangered banded rails and nesting shore birds). General concern with dogs

7.3.5.2 *Waimea Inlet and Rabbit and Rough Island (Waimea FMU)*

Compulsory National Values:

- **Ecosystem health** - value of wetlands and coastal margin
- **Swimming (Human contact)**
- **Mahinga kai and kai moana** - food gathering

Other National Values:

- **Fishing**

7.3.5.3 *Waimea Plains and upper catchments (Waimea FMU)*

Compulsory National Values:

- **Ecosystem health**
 - ecological value of Waimea River
- **Swimming (Human contact)**
 - in the river by the great taste trail track into Brightwater, Busch Reserve, and bridge by the Hackett track, Lee River is a nice place for families to picnic and swim
 - In 30 years I would like to see improving trends of surface and ground water quality and catchments that are all safe for swimming
- **Mahinga kai**
 - In 30 years I would like to see improving trends of surface and ground water quality and catchments that are all safe for harvesting kai

Other National Values:

- **Irrigation, cultivation, and production of food and beverages**
 - Support the production of horticultural crops by prioritising water availability for food production
 - Irrigation of horticultural crops is prioritised and promoted as essential for food production.
 - Plentiful clean fresh water to sustain our population by supporting water for drinking and food production

Additional Values:

- **Flood and erosion management**

- Still need to widen and deepen creeks and waterways to cope with the likelihood of increased intensity and number of rain days and significant rain events. With flooding the problem is always down stream
- Likely see continuation of sediment deposits and build up at river mouths. Continue work being done today to future proof our community in 100 years
- **Public access**
 - Keep banks of waterways free enough for digger access
 - The Lee River is a nice place for families to picnic and swim
 - Don't let horses swim in rivers if they are going to poop
- **Infrastructure**
 - Water conservation (storage from winter run-off)
 - Rationing
 - Allocation should be determined through economic evaluation and science
- **Resilience to climate change**
 - Impacts of climate change will likely have had an impact on our local community

7.3.6 Buller/Kawatiri FMU

Compulsory National Values:

- **Ecosystem health:**
 - Need to control pest plants on waterbody margins now that stock are excluded
 - Biosecurity needs to consider controls for broom and other pest species in water body margins
 - With very little water quality testing and enforcement of standards, fresh water pollution continues to degrade
 - Protect our rivers from pollution.
 - Currently it is just used as a resource for people to take from.
 - We currently have the worst pollution of baleage wrap, and tyres strewn through the river that we have ever seen
 - There is an indisputable and direct link between irrigation and poor water quality.
 - Irrigation is enabling intensification of land use, which is not the role of kaitiaki / guardianship and protection that the local governing body should be upholding.
 - Furthermore, and anything the TDC can do to support this role being filled will be of great cultural well being.
 - Native tree corridor (riparian planting) on the entire length of the Ko awa tere River (Buller), native regeneration
 - Regenerative farming - Sustainable, regenerative farming practice (not intensification)
- **Human contact/swimming**
 - Rivers are the life blood of our district, our connection and recreation
 - The local swimming hole is where our children go to play, (and the visitors to our district)

Other National Values:

- **Drinking water**
 - Harvesting and using rainwater for our drinking water - less infrastructure costs
- **Wai tapu**

- there is currently no body who will to place Rahui on our local rivers whenever there is a death. We personally volunteer our time and resource to body recovery, it is devastating that this respect is not given back.

Additional Values:

- **Infrastructure**
 - All future housing should be required to collect rain water, having an autonomous water supply as well as supporting alternative energy and where applicable waste water systems
 - TDC is happy to sell irrigation consents, which is linked directly to poor water quality
 - No irrigation allocation
 - Keep residential development away from the wetland (former Duck Pond)
- **Natural state**
 - It is wild natural and has a small population
 - I feel that it [the WCO] has not ensured water quality and protection of natural and scenic values
 - The Lake (Rotoiti?) should remain in its current form without any development
- **Drinking from nature**
 - Water quality good enough to drink from
- **Flooding and erosion management**
 - Ned's creek needs to be cleaned out from the road by Penman's Motels down to the river, to allow the water to flow better from behind Hampden Street houses.
 - The Matakaitaki River needs clearing out under the bridge and all round that area to better protect all the other parts of Murchison, if the gravel build up was not so high, it would reduce the amount of damage that it causes.
 - Must clean out river or town will flood
 - Gravel management [for flood control]

Extra values:

- **Respect for water:** The Kawatiri River has a mauri / life force, this needs far greater respect and gratitude shown for it. It is our life blood and our connection.
- **Gravel aggregate resource** - Access to shingle from river (for gravel resource use)

7.3.7 Values - non FMU specific

Compulsory National Values:

- **Ecosystem Health:**
 - Riparian planting which will protect fish and other stream life for the purpose of water shade and bird nesting
 - Meander waterways that have room to move for fish and bird habitat
 - The importance of recognising, valuing, and allowing the existence of the Earth's conscious energy in all life on this planet
 - Need for restoration priority areas, biodiversity (threatened bird species in particular) and forests for rainfall absorption
 - Restoration with natives

Other National Values:

- **Irrigation, cultivation, and production of food and beverages:**
 - Value water availability and security for food production, particularly horticulture crops. FMU are designed to support health through resilient domestic food system
 - Food security and production by supporting innovative and sustainable land and water management practices
 - Flow regimes, TAS's provide abstracted water of suitable water quality to support irrigation
 - Food Production value (Hort NZ)
 - Able to provide opportunities for future generations to live and work on the land with a distinct sense of heritage (farming)

Additional Values:

- **Resilience to climate change**
 - The plan needs stronger emphasis on resilience to the effects of climate change in the use and preservation of waters
 - Rivers need to be given wider pathways that allow for flooding
 - Giving Rivers Space to allow holistic and climate resilient management of our river beds
 - It is a very important supply of information to farmers who can use the information to make assessments on when and where to move stock to and likely roading impacts during extreme rainfall events
 - Re-forest the summits of ranges and hill tops with native shrubs and trees. This will absorb rainfall and reduce the force of water cascading down the slopes.
- **Infrastructure**
 - Work with the community to enhance energy and water use efficiency, reduce consumption and energy waste (e.g., home insulation)

Other Values:

- **Respect for water** - Rivers need to be valued for the contribution they make to the environment and to the wellbeing of many other living things.

7.4 Analysis of engagement

Some of the values that were identified by the community through the FMU mapping exercise were location specific. Others provided both specific and general values in writing. Overall, the most popular values were ecosystem health, infrastructure, human contact (swimming), and flooding & erosion management. Some values conflicted with each other, such the ability to access rivers for jet boating as opposed to state wanting human noise minimised. The feedback covered diverse ideologies.

7.5 Staff recommendations

One respondent noted that in order to formulate long-term visions for FMUs and understand the community's values for freshwater, it:

"...seems to me that this process will require much more sustained and deliberative discussions with communities, and will need to put communities at the heart of the process in a

meaningful way. Look at the diversity of interests in a catchment like the Waimea. It is not a straightforward task to gauge the community's values and vision."

This comment is noted and agreed with by staff. Developing visions and values will be an ongoing conversation with our iwi partners and the community and the draft visions and values will continue to evolve as we move through the plan making process. A key challenge in this process is to provide a variety of opportunities and ways in which different sectors of our community can express their views to ensure the resulting visions and value sets reflect the wide range of views.

Staff recommend that the Shape Tasman website is re-opened for feedback and redesigned so that each FMU has its own page and several placeholder visions. In this way people will be able to see progress and provide further feedback. Workshops with key staff, Councillors and interested stakeholders to develop the visions and values further are also recommended.

8 What is special about your FMU?

People were asked to identify what was special about their FMU. The following responses were provided.

8.1 Waimea

"It is an interconnected system of aquifers, rivers/streams, spring-fed creeks and wetlands that feeds into the Waimea Inlet and Tasman Bay. It sustains ecology and communities across the terrestrial and freshwater into the coastal and marine space".

"This FMU is only special because the interface between productive land use and urban communities is colliding in unhealthy ways."

8.2 Motueka-Riuwaka

The Motueka River Water Conservation Order

8.3 Buller/Kawatiri

"Kawatiri River is the largest volume free flowing river left in New Zealand... The river has a mauri / life force, this needs far greater respect and gratitude shown for it. It is our life blood and our connection."

It is wild, natural and has a small population.

8.4 Abel Tasman - Kaiteriteri

Natural, unpolluted by chemicals, clean and vibrantly alive.

9 Freshwater Pressures

9.1 Number of responses

There were 12 respondents addressing pressures on freshwater, most of whom listed multiple issues totalling 35 different responses. Comments, criticisms and matters relating to freshwater pressures were also made in other sections of the feedback. Area or FMU specific pressure concerns have been included in a separate section below.

9.2 Key themes

The comments below are taken directly from the submitters who commented on this topic area.

- **Water quality:** poor water quality was being caused by agrichemicals, forestry, land disturbance and irrigation that was enabling intensification of land use. Participants asked for tighter controls and banning of chemicals. Freshwater clarity and pollution were mentioned throughout much of the feedback. There was a request for the protection of stream health provisions in the TEP to be significantly improved. Some concerns were raised around the nitrogen levels in the Waimea Plains. One respondent stated *"It is a tragedy that NZ is ignoring the very well founded research from Denmark about safe nitrogen levels in drinking water."*
- **Stream loss and stream modification:** pressures included overpopulation, high density habitation of people, lack of fish passage, development too close to waterways. One respondent sought reconsideration of rules for the modification of land with respect to cut and fill and the diversion of watercourses. Halting modification and stream loss was noted along with the request that *"rivers need to be given wider pathways that allow for flooding with less harm to livestock and people"*.
Suggested solution from a submitter: Stream loss typically happens to increase land availability for development or agricultural use. Therefore, stream removal should be processed as land reclamation and be prohibited. With an exception for piping needed to provide access (driveway/road). With a maximum of 5 meters for a driveway and 15 metres for a road crossing.
- **Stream habitat and riparian margins:** Comments from submitters included: the need for tighter controls on the incremental loss of native vegetation when subdivisions take place or from on-farm/forestry activities; riparian margins and streams are part of one and the same stream ecosystem; it is very hard to obtain approval to undertake stream enhancement activities to the extent that the cost to obtain consent in relation to the project costs become prohibitive.
Suggested solutions from submitters: that as many as possible stream enhancement activities are permitted, when they comply with a TDC guideline. Fees for any volunteer initiatives should be waved. Council should tighten controls on run-off and sedimentation along the margins of rivers and streams and the marine foreshore.
- **Wastewater overflows:** it is *"wrong to consider dry weather overflows and wet weather overflows as not consentable and if they happen to be treated as emergency discharges. As a professional active in this area, this is bad practice."*
- **Stormwater discharges:** Comments included: no untreated stormwater should reach Tasman Bay or any body of fresh water within the district, under any weather conditions; management of stormwater run-off [is required] or a connection to reticulated stormwater so that overland flow

and flooding of neighbouring properties [does not occur]. The requirement to use water sensitive design for stormwater treatment is hardwired in the TEP.

- **Sediment discharges** were identified by submitters as being from siltation, forestry slash and intensive land uses (agriculture and forestry, market gardening). One submitter noted the *“irreversibility once stream is converted from pebbly bottom to a muddy, ooze covered streambed”*. Another noted that siltation of Tasman Bay caused by land erosion is a problem.

Suggested solutions from submitters: We need an immediate moratorium on any activity that causes silt and sediment to enter our rivers and estuaries. Prosecute forest companies who cause forestry slash and debris to enter our rivers and coast. Stop intensification of primary industries. Tighter controls on run-off and sedimentation and improved sediment management practices (earthworks, forestry, agriculture).

- **Protect our aquifers:** For drinking water safety there was a concern over Nitrate levels being many times higher than places like Denmark. There was a request for housing needs to be supported with better drinking water solutions, safer treatment of wastewater and protection from stormwater.
- **Land-use and agriculture:** Nitrates, phosphates, bacterial, E Coli levels from domestic and farming sources were identified as pressures. Irresponsible use and spreading copious amounts of 1080 on land and in streams was also noted.

Suggested solutions from submitters: Need protections on when a contaminant is discharged, as discharge will bring no protection just a clean-up job. Restrictions on land use and activities that degrade water quality.

- **Water allocation:** Pressures included: excessive irrigation taxes; new subdivisions putting pressure on freshwater bodies flows; uncertainty stifling business planning and investment; irrigation systems running during rain; TDC being a large contributor to the pollution by selling irrigation consents; the indisputable and direct link between irrigation and poor water quality; irrigation enabling intensification of land use.

Suggested solution from a submitter: ensure suitable protection of natural flows – not just baseflow.

- **Flooding/gravel:** Comments included: the need to widen and deepen creeks and waterways to cope with the likelihood of increased intensity and number of rain days and significant rain events; keep banks of waterways free enough for digger access; it is important to maintain waterways and controlled discharges flooding into the sea; there needs to be full knowledge on effects of gravel extraction on coastal erosion; allow more gravel extraction to reduce riverbed height to allow for better floodwater control and limit damage from overflowing stopbanks; maintain our waterways by continuing to extract gravel to widen and deepen rivers; Freshwater values are largely ignored by the TDC - eg why are we even considering a new gravel quarry at Peach Island? I'd like access to shingle from the river. Several submitters noted a gravel build up on Mid Island, Neds Creek and under the Matakita River bridge and wanted these areas maintained.
- **Pollution/baleage wrap:** Submitters noted: we currently have the worst pollution of baleage wrap, and tyres strewn through the river that we have ever seen. 99% of this is completely preventable, and there is a need to know where silage pits are located and monitor these; give more

recognition to the relationship between the land and the sea to protect the integrity of the coastal environment, by paying greater attention to landfills (rubbish disposal) and other non-point source pollution; ensure roadside rubbish is all picked up and not chopped up by roadside mower and washed into waterways; put in place more toilets and rubbish bins at public stopping places - limit overseas tourist numbers to limit crowd pollution at natural sites.

- **Agri-chemicals:** Comments here included: the relentless pursuit of the \$ is killing the bee population, polluting waterways, air, and spoiling soil quality; stop making the Waimea plains the dumping ground for agri-chemicals; water soluble fertilizers and agrochemicals destroy water, soil and to a limited extent air; agrochemicals are the worst; control nutrients/agrichemicals from intensive horticulture; stop agro-chemical use, e.g. TDC roadside Round-up spraying (including onto private land from the road i might add) and the plethora of industrial chemicals, so rather than paying for costly cleanups, why not stop the pollution, and spend money on improving water quality etc!!!; riparian land management - go and do it without detrimental chemicals; stop the use of agro-chemicals and so on that leach into waterways - do not use national guidelines, look at legislation being proposed/in place throughout western Europe. If current practices of using chemicals in every aspect of life, in and around farms and households, is not changed then goodbye to water in the Waimea aquifer being anything near drinkable; prohibit chemicals that will only need cleaning up later.
- **Public access:** respondents wanted free public access along the sides of all rivers. Comments included: accretion areas along rivers are protected from becoming private property; access for recreation needs – fishing, kayaking, cycling, walking; do not just have a policy for 'maintaining' but include a policy for 'extending' public access. There is currently not enough access to riversides and there is surely scope for more access points to the coast. You could consider something like 'permissive footpaths' on private land; Retain access for jetboating; and I'd like walking access to the water's edge.
- **Climate change:** here respondents noted: climate change will likely have an impact on our local community; I would like to see the concept of 'Giving Rivers Space' embraced within our TEP, another cultural shift towards a more holistic and climate resilient management of our river beds and implementation of Te Mana o Te Wai; our catchment management must be adaptive and resilient to the challenges that climate change will bring us in 100 years; the effects of climate change have not been assessed relative to water quality in the catchment; improve resilience to the effects of climate change through mitigation and adaptation and climate resilient food production; the plan needs much stronger emphasis on freshwater and coastal ecosystems under climate change; climate change (temperature, water availability etc.) is a long term issue and need to consider the effects on indigenous ecosystems, agriculture/horticulture and all living beings in the region; and a request to relocate infrastructure and housing.

9.3 Pressures in each Freshwater Management Unit:

9.3.1 Waimea

Issues:

- nutrients and sediment are hard issues to tackle and should be managed with an integrated catchment approach that begins with the receiving environment (the Inlet and the Bay) and addresses the upstream drivers.
- Jet skis, power boats, float planes, drones and helicopters all cause massive disturbance to bird life on and around the Waimea Inlet
- The sewer pond leaks at Bells Island
- Eels gone since the Waimea dam creation and concern of the ground beneath

9.3.2 Motueka-Riuwaka

Issues:

- Motueka River water for automotive fluids wants to be checked. One of the cars is still buried at Peach Island.
- Protection for all separation point granite with the progressive return of all areas under pinus radiata being restricted and all separation point granite soils being returned to indigenous permanent forest. Restrict all commercial forestry to permanently managed forest areas
- Flood protection from the Motueka River with the upgraded stop banks

9.3.3 Buller/Kawatiri

Issues:

- Ned's creek needs to be cleaned out from the road by Penman's Motels down to the river, to allow the water to flow better from behind Hampden Street houses
- The Matakaitaki River needs clearing out under the bridge and all round that area to better protect all the other parts of Murchison, if the gravel build up was not so high, it would reduce the amount of damage that it causes
- Flooding in town
- Want access to aggregate from river
- Protection of wetlands to the west of the houses (the former Duck Pond) should be free from any residential development and its slow regeneration of native vegetation should continue (St Arnaud)
- Native tree corridor on the entire length of the Ko Awatere River (Buller)
- Kawatiri River is the largest volume free flowing river left in New Zealand. The Water Conservation Order that has been placed on the river historically needs to be reviewed and kept current. It has not ensured water quality and protection of natural and scenic values.
- The river has a mauri / life force, this needs far greater respect and gratitude shown for it. It is our life blood and our connection. Currently it is just used as a resource for people to take from.
- Need more water quality testing in Buller FMU, especially downstream of the confluence of the Maruia
- When we had a drought the irrigation output levels remained the same, there needs to be a minimum river level attributed in cubic metres, not percentage
- We currently have the worst pollution of balage wrap, and tyres strewn through the river that we have ever seen. 99% of this is completely preventable, but there is not a body or group willing to enforce best practice for storing balage & wrap, and where silage pits are located.

Take measures to identify the handful of individuals that are the main contributors to this pollution

- The river downstream of the Matakitaki confluence has rubbish
- There is currently nobody who will place Rahui on our local rivers whenever there is a death. We personally volunteer our time and resource to body recovery, it is devastating that this respect is not given and anything the TDC can do to support this role being filled will be of great cultural well-being.

9.3.4 Abel Tasman - Kaiteriteri

Issues:

- Issue of sedimentation of wetlands
- Enhance natural character through more indigenous tree planting along the streetscape (Riwaka-Kaiteriteri Rd) that will also provide shade in the summer months for beach users.
- Rainwater collected on roofs for the entire housed domestic use
- Otūwhero lagoon value for the bird, plant and fish life however there is an issue of sedimentation for wetlands.
- If further housing is allowed then this needs to be supported with better drinking water solutions, safer treatment of wastewater and protection from stormwater.

9.3.5 Tākaka

Issues:

- The Tākaka catchment is complex and large knowledge gaps exist regarding relative contribution of contaminants and relative lag times of ground water to the springs
- The effects of climate change have not been assessed relative to water quality in the catchment
- Most landowners in the catchment have limited understanding of the underlying hydrology and geology and their own impacts on water quality
- Farmers and businesses owners who strive to manage complex varied systems have a strong desire to remain profitable
- A regulatory environment that is uncertain or subject to change makes business planning difficult
- In the face of much uncertainty around possible future land use change (if the actions of the proposed action plan are not effective enough to satisfy hard limits in the WCO) landowners will need maximum flexibility
- Regulatory changes that impact a business's ability to be profitable will impact land values
- If alternative opportunities for that land do not exist, then farmers will be faced with stranded assets and the flow on effects that will have to the wider community will see changes that may have a significant bearing on how the TEP should be considered, eg. how to balance maintaining special rural character from pressure to subdivide rural land or pursue carbon farming (as possible alternative land uses)
- Interaction between TEP and yet to be developed nitrogen reduction action plan for the Tākaka catchment and the yet to be released findings of the Environment court regarding the WCO for Te Waikoropū Springs create a lot of uncertainty.

9.3.6 Aorere – West Coast

Issues:

- Collingwood: *Our river and coastal area is the towns biggest asset.* Walking access on the water's edge needs to be provided. Collingwood has the best views of wildlife, water and mountains. The mouth of the Aorere River where it joins the sea is a sacred space and the Collingwood campground is an affront to this. The campervans need to be screened with plantings.

9.4 Analysis of engagement

There was a good response rate around freshwater pressures, with many respondents identifying multiple issues and concerns in their feedback.

9.5 Staff recommendations

The feedback received has helped clarify issues and desired direction and will inform the next steps in the plan development process which is an issues and options report and further community engagement.

10 Other feedback received

10.1 Feedback from the other Tasman Environment Plan workstreams

The Infrastructure and Energy Discussion Document received the following useful feedback points relating to water.

- the importance of hydroelectricity (decentralised) for energy security
- requiring the collection of rainwater storage from housing
- stormwater and sewerage concerns
- 'green' urban areas for reducing stormwater run-off and increasing absorbency or creating holding and detoxing ponds to remove pollutants from freshwater
- making room for rivers to move was also suggested given the *"increased likelihood of high intensity rainfall events"*
- *"stronger rules to reduce risks of slips and soil erosion are required (for sedimentation impacts)."*

The Rural 3 Zone and Rural Areas discussion documents received seven pieces of feedback relating to freshwater. Here the themes included riparian planting, retirement of exotic forestry blocks into lifestyle blocks with self-sufficiency in water and wastewater systems and planting around the estuaries and other important areas of bird habitat. Suggested mechanisms included:

- plan rules requiring substantial planting on new properties
- council incentives such as supplying native / exotic high carbon storage capture trees to landowners who are open to re-forestation
- methods to encourage commercially productive usage of such land for food security rather than being land banked for future housing/commercial development

10.2 Te Mana o te Wai and prioritisation for freshwater management

The following comments were not specific to any particular question but are worth noting.

- Nature and the environment should come first - then spiritual values - then food production and clean water - then human health and happiness and heart energy - then, very reluctantly - commercial.

- Endorsement of Te Mana o te Taiao and its principles. The health of the natural environment and ecosystems first. Recommend that the TEP is tested against these principles at all stages of its development. For example, during the development of the Future Development Strategy priority (c) ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future has been given a higher priority compared to priority (a) health of the water which includes climate change.
- When conflicting values are expressed during consultation Federated Farmers suggests that the voice of landowners (rate payers) is weighted to reflect their investment and commitment to the community over input from visitors and lobby groups.
- The hierarchy of values expressed by Te Mana o te Wai that puts economic use below human need is flawed logic for farmers. If a farmer's ability to provide the necessities of water, food and shelter and to maintain animal welfare is compromised then that farmer is in breach of their duty of care. Farmer wellbeing is at risk in circumstances where they cannot meet the needs and obligations upon them: animal, human or environment. The values are too intertwined to be separated out as simplistically as with TMOTW.
- Water for irrigation of horticultural crops is a priority
- How do you balance conflicting values? i.e. preserve productive land vs. aspirational housing targets
- Priority (a) from TMOTW should include climate change.
- To embrace Te Mana o te Wai in all of our freshwater management practices, especially infrastructure and engineering practices. Look forward for innovative, holistic and adaptive ways to manage our rivers so they are resilient.

11 Freshwater Summary

A reasonable amount of feedback about freshwater was received. A variety of pressures and values were identified and in some cases views on these were opposing. The engagement events on the Tasman Environment Plan and Mountains to Sea had varied success when it came to turnout and despite a sizeable marketing campaign, there was limited knowledge of the engagement by the community. In future it would be beneficial to have more advertisement and lead in time to increase the awareness and participation of the public and key stakeholders.

12 PART TWO - COAST

As well as seeking feedback on FMUs and visions and values for freshwater environments, the discussion document also sought feedback in relation to the coastal environment. The coastal environment includes all of the coastal marine area out to 12 nautical miles and the foreshore and land area along the full 700 km+ coastline of Tasman where coastal processes and patterns dominate the land.

13 Coastal Visions

Feedback was sought to assist with developing a coastal vision for the Tasman region. Coastal vision feedback was split into 3 timeframes, 10 year, 30 year and 100 year visions and people were asked

“Imagine visiting your favourite fresh or salty water places in Tasman in 10 years, in 30 years, in 100 years:

- *What would you like to see, feel, or do?*
- *How is it different from now?”*

13.1 Number of respondents

Seventeen submissions were received on visions for the coastal environment. Fifteen of these were from individuals and two from organisations.

13.2 Key themes

The key themes for visions for the coastal environment varied within the feedback received, with the main focus points being on responding to climate change, controlling activities and protecting and restoring the natural environment.

Key theme statements provided in the feedback were as follows:

13.2.1 Natural areas

10 years: *A place of nature, quiet, and a place to feel space, and a place to rejuvenate.*

Feedback for 10 years used the terms; enhancement efforts, prioritising, saltmarsh, wetland and seagrass habitats (blue carbon), 10% of the coastline in marine reserve.

A number of submissions included in the first 10 years, ecological restoration while allowing for people (communities, residential and recreational, and appropriate/sustainable commercial activity), especially where destruction of marine habitats has ceased.

30 years: *Healthy coastal ecologies and communities co-existing.*

Most of the feedback for the 30 year period focussed on ecological values and included the following statements; the seabed is no longer dominated by mud, biogenic habitats are recovering, creating stable and diverse seafloor communities. The human community appreciates the benefits of robust and resilient marine communities. Productive scallop fishery restored. No plastic and waste on our beaches. Aiming towards a continuous corridor of coastal habitat.

100 years: *Some days, you can see the seabed at 20m from the surface. There are large areas where healthy sponge and bryozoan communities project up from the seabed. Vast areas exist where large horse-mussels are covered by bright assemblages of encrusting animals. Scallops can be hand-collected from these areas, and fish, octopus, seahorses and other animals shelter and feed there.*

Feedback statements in this area included; Flourishing biodiversity. All introduced predators eradicated (Predator Free Aotearoa 2050). Healthy sea able to provide for recreation and commercial sectors. Maintain the vision and rhetoric of protecting and enhancing coastal environments. Mahinga kai gathering.

13.2.2 Climate change

A key theme across all periods is adaption to sea level rise, including managed retreat, adaption and natural buffer. The responses in relation to this theme included the following statements:

10 years: Coastal areas where climate adaptation and natural buffers are prioritised. Managed coastal retreat giving habitats and species space to adjust to sea level rise.

30 years: Managed retreat with infrastructure and property boundaries moving away from our coasts and giving habitats and species space to adjust to sea level rise.

100 years: Inland migration of saltmarsh habitat as the sea level rises; no new hard edges or development on the coastal margins.

13.2.3 Water quality

Water quality feedback related particularly to contaminants and sediment from land based activities and included the following statements:

10 years: Good water quality: fewer contaminants (including nutrients and sediments) flowing into our coastal areas from our upstream catchments and improvements to stormwater infrastructure entering our coastal waterbodies. A halt on degradation caused by siltation from slope failures and erosion.

30 years: Water quality improved and the marine environment is recovering from sedimentation impacts. Water clarity is improved, and filter-feeding shellfish are more common. Seaweeds are recovering on nearshore reefs, where a kid snorkelling sees more marine life than bare rock.

100 years: Clean water. No more sedimentation. Excellent water quality supporting mahinga kai and recreation.

13.2.4 Development and activities

Most of the feedback received touched on development and activities in the coastal areas. The focus was particularly on restricting activities and limiting development in the future, but also touched on what should be provided for. Feedback statements included:

10 years: Farming is a viable land and water use. Controls on all activity that affect biodiversity i.e dogs, quad bikes, boats, recreational vehicles. No more housing (unless maintenance) near the coast. No mining, no more commercial activities and reduction of [existing] commercial activities. No vehicles on beaches, except for remedial work or council reasons but not recreation vehicles. Boat jetties only in limited areas and no jetskis or high powered speed boats. No longer having rock walls causing erosion further along coast.

30 years: Farming is a viable land and water use. More smaller homes and restricted development. Carbon construction cost with all new homes set back 200m from high water.

100 years: Farming is a viable land and water use. Recognition that wading birds need protection from human activities to survive including rules banning jet skis, power boats, float planes, drones, helicopters and dogs in the coastal margin

13.2.5 Ownership and community

Feedback in relation to ownership, education and community values was only provided for the 10 year period, including the following statements:

10 years: An informed community is supportive of measures to enhance recovery. Community stewardship/kaitiakitanga for the coastal environment and access. Keep the 'ownership' local, as we're the ones who know what we want, what we need, and how to achieve it.

13.3 Location specific

Waimea Inlet: Feedback included that Waimea Inlet should be "*A vibrant place, richly appreciated by the community for its open space, natural, cultural, and ecological values; happily remembered by generations for their activities, adventures and discoveries; a place where tangata whenua hold mana as kaitiaki and rangatira; and a place to be shared with increasing respect*" (Waimea Inlet Management Strategy).

13.4 Keep doing / Do differently

Respondents also provided feedback on things that the council and community should continue to do and those that should be done differently:

13.4.1 Keep doing

- Increase help for landowners with wetlands and waterways...fencing, planting etc. If community value it then support landowners to protect it.
- Keep funding coastal habitat enhancement projects, keep supporting coastal forums, keep improving our stormwater discharge planning.
- Continue to build the concept of Ki Uta Ki Tai.
- Continue to improve sediment controls.
- Implement the Actions in the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy.

13.4.2 Things to do differently

- We are marching to a pollution level that will affect a lot of what we deem as the natural freshwater environment.
- Dogs must be on leash anywhere in the coastal environment and restricted from areas that are identified important coastal bird nesting and feeding sites.
- Vehicles are banned from Tasman's beaches to conform with NZ Coastal Policy Statement Policy (20).
- Domestic cats are microchipped and neutered.
- Support the creation of new marine reserves.
- Increased control of invasive species.
- Increase funding for monitoring and enforcement.
- Estuaries and bays are the receiving environments for contaminants and pressures off the land, and we need to be documenting and responding to the state of the coastal environment in our land and water planning and management in catchments.
- Rather than applying blanket rules (for example to the "Coastal Environment"), be precise, strategic and targeted in addressing hotspots, critical source areas and drivers and pressures inland and in catchments.
- Involve coastal communities and engage them constructively and meaningfully in planning for the management of coastal areas.

- Incorporate climate resilient and holistic solutions within our resource management planning, particularly infrastructure and property. Employ Te Mana o te Wai and prioritise the long term health and resilience of our coastal areas.
- Work with the fishing industry to extend protections of the seabed.
- Ensure that the plan allows for control of fishing activity for the protection of biodiversity as signalled in the Motiti decision
- Explicitly consider marine habitat, not just water quality.
- Acknowledge that the seabed in Tasman Bay and Golden Bay is arguably the largest and worst example of habitat degradation that we have in the region.
- Recognise that the limitations of our knowledge. The widespread destruction that has occurred in the marine environment means that specific high value areas may be difficult to identify.
- Stop degradation caused by siltation from slope failures and erosion.

13.5 Analysis of engagement

The feedback received expressed many views on what people's vision for the coastal environment could be both generally and over the 10/30/100 year periods. Generally, the main focus in the feedback received was on protection and restoration of natural areas and ecological function, together with recognition of climate change and adaptation.

There was surprisingly little feedback on other activities and uses within the coastal environment and this appears linked to the relatively limited feedback received during this engagement phase.

13.6 Staff recommendations

Crafting a vision for the coastal environment is important to set a strategic direction for activities and change in this highly valued area and greater engagement with the community, iwi and stakeholders is necessary to expand on the feedback received to date.

At this time, the key themes of ecological protection and restoration, and climate change adaptation will clearly need to be part of the vision. Beyond this, other likely vision elements appear to relate to recreation, water quality, economic uses, and community involvement. These elements merit greater exploration.

14 Coastal Values

There were two collection areas for people to identify coastal values, a map where a value could be pinned to a specific location or a portal where values could be described. Further values were included as part of longer written submissions and have been added to the collection below.

14.1 Number of respondents

Fifteen submissions were received on coastal values, with twelve of these being from individuals.

14.2 Key themes

The key themes expressed in relation to coastal values were:

14.2.1 Natural areas

The value statements in relation to natural areas included: Estuaries and their value for birds (feeding) and value for fish breeding. The need for restoration and enhancement of estuaries. The importance of coastal wetlands as carbon sinks. Areas for wading birds, protecting habitats and nesting sites in coastal, estuarine and wetland environments.

14.2.2 Marine habitats

The value comments in relation to marine habitats focussed on the value of marine habitats and the importance of marine reserves to increase fish population and support fishing in other areas.

14.2.3 Access

Public access was mentioned in some of the feedback with the recognition of the value of increased publicly accessible areas.

14.2.4 Climate change

A number of the submissions stated the value of responding positively to climate change, retreat and adaptation.

14.2.5 Alignment

Many of the responses agreed that the freshwater compulsory values are also applicable to the coastal environment. This includes the four key values of ecosystem health, human contact, threatened species, and mahinga kai and kai moana.

14.3 Analysis of engagement

Much of the feedback received in relation to this section of the engagement related to people's experiences and uses of the coastal environment and coastal marine area and their concerns regarding change and development. There were limited statements that were expressed as values. Interpreting the information provided shows that there is a strong recognition of ecological and natural values as being important to the character and use of the coastal area.

14.4 Staff recommendations

Again, further work needs to be undertaken with the community, iwi and stakeholders to refine the feedback and craft value statements that address the wide range of use and concern that the community has for this important coastal space.

15 Coastal Pressures

15.1 Number of responses

There were 13 submissions received that addressed activities that place pressure on coastal values. The majority of these were from individuals, with two organisations represented.

15.2 Key themes

Feedback was sought on what types of activities are thought to place pressure on coastal values. The feedback received varied and has been collated and summarised below:

Water based activities	Aquaculture. Fishing generally and overfishing. Dredging and trawling destroying sea floor. Anchoring. Noise pollution from fishing boats / marine farm boats. Discharge of effluent.
Coastal development	Rock walls, stop banks, bunds and concrete barriers that stop salt marsh migration inland or dynamic changes. Housing. Mining. Commercial activity. Infrastructure.

Land based activities	Forestry – sediment and slash. Land based run off including stormwater. Nutrient discharges. Resultant sediment from land activities. Restrictions placed on access to public land.
Human disturbance	Jet skis and fast noisy motorised craft, especially in estuaries. Dogs threaten birds - need to exclude and fence private property. Vehicles on beaches. Mai mai and hunting in estuary areas.
Human behaviour	Lack of awareness. Lack of support for change.

15.3 Analysis of engagement

There was considerable repetition in the activities expressed as placing pressure on coastal values. This feedback will assist in developing policy and rules that address the activities that threaten the identified values.

16 Coastal Environment and Natural Character

Feedback on the Coastal Environment and Natural Character was sought separately from the Mountains to Sea section as part of the wider Urban and Rural TEP discussions. It was also the subject of considerable landowner and stakeholder engagement during 2021/22 that particularly focussed on the location of the Coastal Environment line. Key elements of this engagement are reported here to provide a comprehensive coastal summary.

The Coastal Environment (CE) has been identified by way of a technical study which has applied best practice to identifying the inland boundary of the CE area. This work also identified areas of particular natural character within the CE, and also identified types of activities that could threaten the values and attributes of the CE.

16.1 Number of responses

Twenty-six respondents provided feedback on the coastal environment and natural character topic, including seven from organisations and 19 from individuals.

16.2 Key Themes

An outline of concept rules was developed to start the conversation on what controls may be needed to protect coastal character and to meet the requirements of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Feedback was sought on the draft concept rules and whether they recognise and preserve the values and attributes of the coastal environment and its areas of natural character, and if they provide appropriate levels of protection. Feedback was also sought on what is missing from the concept rules.

In relation to whether the concept rules provide sufficient recognition and preservation of values and attributes, five respondents answered yes, eight answered no, and three answered unsure (the remainder did not answer this question). Similarly, those who said there was insufficient recognition also considered the draft concept rules needed further strengthening.

Suggestions as to what was missing from the draft concept rules were wide, varied and in some cases contradictory. Some suggested that more protection was needed in coastal areas, others less restriction and greater flexibility for change. Key themes that reoccurred in the feedback included:

- Removing vehicles from beaches and restricting access through rules.
- Rules that require or encourage managed retreat/climate change and sea level rise mitigation and allow for migration of coastal habitat.
- Restriction on buildings close to the coastal edge.
- Controls on earthworks and hard protection structures.

16.3 Analysis of engagement

The feedback received will inform future development of policy and rules that will provide for protection of coastal values and will identify what controls will be placed on activities within the coastal environment. This will overlap with the work being undertaken to identify coastal values and pressures and to ensure that values and special areas are recognised and protected.

17 Coastal summary

A moderate level of feedback was received in relation to the coastal environment and while there were not many submissions in a numerical sense, they did cover all of the key factors that have been expressed through wider feedback to date.

A variety of pressures and values were identified and in some cases views on these were opposing. This represents the mixture of values and uses within the community and the range of views on how the coastal environment should be managed.

The engagement events in relation to the coastal environment have been more extensive due to the work carried out previously on the Coastal Environment line. This has helped to provide more focussed feedback on values and uses and to form the concept rules to date. The latest feedback will assist to refine the rules further and support the development of a policy response. More extensive engagement will be needed to define a clear vision and value statements that direct the Coastal Strategic Plan process.