



TE MANA O TE WAI

THE NATIONAL OBJECTIVES FRAMEWORK (NOF)

FACTSHEET 003



Purpose

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an introduction to Te Mana o Te Wai, its relationship to the National Objectives Framework, and potential approaches for participation in limit setting, monitoring and action plans.

What is the role of Hapu and Iwi and Te Mana o Te Wai?

Hapu and Iwi definitions of Te Mana o Te Wai can provide a powerful tool for strengthening freshwater management and improved environmental outcomes. Hapu and Iwi hold an inherited responsibility through whakapapa to manage their ancestral taonga in a way that balances Rangatiratanga (rights and interests) alongside Kaitiakitanga (obligations) for the benefit of current and future generations. Only Hapu and Iwi can speak with authority about their relationships with freshwater.

Te Mana o te Wai is a concept developed by Iwi as a way of describing the importance of freshwater within a Te Ao Maori framework. Throughout the motu, Hapu and Iwi are designing their own expressions of Te Mana o Te Wai that include their associations and expectations as to how freshwater is to be managed both now and in the future.

What is the role of Councils and Te Mana o Te Wai?

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFW) which can be found at www.environment.govt.nz provides councils with updated direction on how to manage freshwater under the RMA.

Councils are required to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai by engaging with Hapu and Iwi as part of Regional Plan making, implementation and across the whole water management system.

Councils must implement the NPSFW through their planning instruments as soon as reasonably practicable, but no later than 31 December 2024.

What are the main provisions of the NPSFM?

The NPSFM provides for Te Mana o Te Wai as a concept that refers to the fundamental importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and well-being of the wider environment. It is designed to support the protection of the mauri of wai. Te Mana o te Wai is about restoring and preserving the balance between the water, the wider environment, and the community.

Councils are required to ensure that collaborative processes can demonstrate compliance with the Principles and Hierarchy set out in the NPSFM.

Te Mana o Te Wai

What is the National Objectives Framework?

The National Objectives Framework (NOF) is the “engine room” of the NPSFW. Councils will play a critical role in leading collaborative processes that give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai. Iwi and Hapu are considering the following process to support their participation in the NOF that is consistent with their own mātauranga.

The NOF sets the necessary values, outcomes and specific attributes required to meet the hierarchy of obligations and local definitions of Te Mana o Te Wai, and enable long-term visions to be realised.

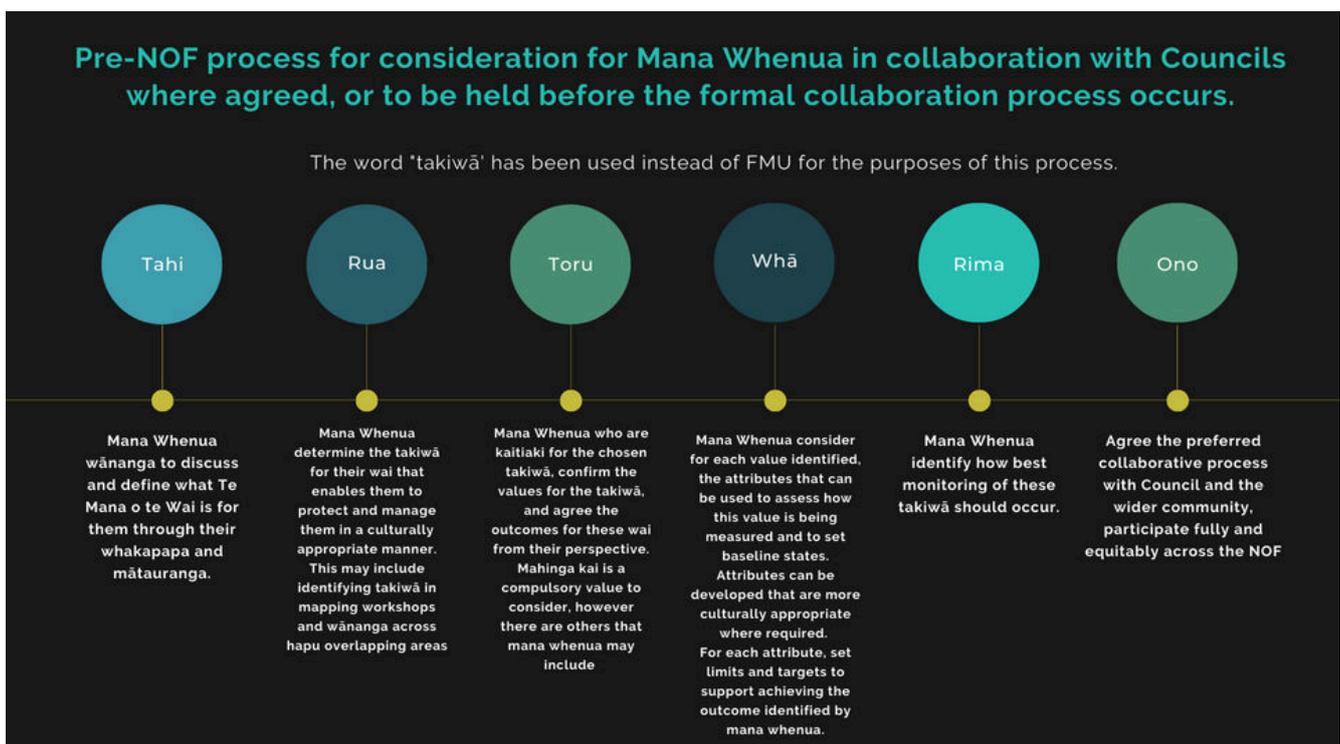
The NOF itself will may be quite new for many hapū and iwi, however we feel this is where mana whenua involvement is particularly crucial. Often mana whenua, where they are engaged in planning are participating at the high level, mainly in values, or the ‘Māori’ perspectives on kaupapa but often there are barriers to participation at the levels of detail required to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai.

Five Key requirements

Regional Councils must give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai by actioning the five key requirements set out in the NPSFW:

- Adopt an integrated approach, 'ki uta, ki tai', to the management of Freshwater
- Actively involve Tangata whenua in freshwater management
- Engage with communities and Tangata whenua to identify long-term visions, environmental outcomes, and other elements of the NOF
- Apply the hierarchy of obligations when implementing the NPSFW and the NOF
- Enable the applications of a diversity of systems of values and knowledge, such as Matauranga Maori, to the management of freshwater.

The NOF can be broken down into 7 steps; all steps being informed by engagement with mana whenua and communities, these steps are found in more detail in the guidelines for Te Mana o te Wai which can be found at www.poiipoia.co.nz. The following process is being considered by some mana whenua groups and may be helpful in understanding where and how mana whenua could participate.



Te Mana o Te Wai

What engagement approaches might be used when making plans under the NPSFM & the NOF?

Councils will play a critical role in supporting mana whenua participation in regional plan making. The process for engagement requires that Te Mana o Te Wai is at the forefront of plan making. This necessitates the preparation of Iwi and Hapu perspectives of Te Mana o Te Wai as the gateway to engagement with community and other stakeholders.



What Te Mana o Te Wai looks like, may differ from rohe to rohe, catchment to catchment, or waterbody to waterbody. Councils will need to provide adequate time and resources to enable tangata whenua to articulate their interpretation of Te Mana o Te Wai in their respective rohe.

The range of interests and collectives across regions will be diverse and so approaches to engagement will need to be flexible. Considerations for engagement will include:

FOR TANGATA WHENUA:

- Readiness, capacity and capability to participate
- Identifying preferred methods of engagement e.g. via hapu and/or iwi groups, regional or sub-regional kaitiaki forum, landowner collectives, co-governance structures
- Use of agreed technical advisors resourced by Council
- Preparation of appropriate mātauranga Māori led tools and processes
- Resourcing for parallel processes led by mana whenua

FOR COUNCILS

- The quality of the arrangements that are already in place with Hapu and Iwi
- Timely and proactive engagement to understand what processes Iwi and Hapu seek for defining Te Mana o Te Wai in their rohe
- Provision of adequate funding support, information and data to ensure that Iwi and Hapū are able to undertake their own processes in advance of engagement with communities and other stakeholders

Next Steps

Contact your regional council for further information about what support is being provided to initiate discussions about Te Mana o Te Wai and the NPSFM in your region.

This fact sheet is one of a series. Further information about Te Mana o Te Wai and its implementation can be found here www.poiipoia.co.nz including guidelines and case studies.