

Proposal 6: Tāngata whenua values

(Section 4.6 in the discussion document)

Māori have a special relationship with fresh water, so it's important that this is recognised. The proposed changes more clearly articulate tāngata whenua values for fresh water, including Te Mana o te Wai. Tāngata whenua values are also part of the National Objectives Framework so they must be considered as part of decisions on managing fresh water. For example, regional councils, iwi and communities will need to consider whether they should manage a water body for mahinga kai.

Proposal 7: Monitoring

(Section 4.7 in the discussion document)

These proposed changes would make it clear that regional councils need to identify a range of representative sites in waterways at which to monitor progress towards, or achievement of, freshwater objectives. The additions also recognise that water quality needs to be monitored over long-term trends.

Have your say

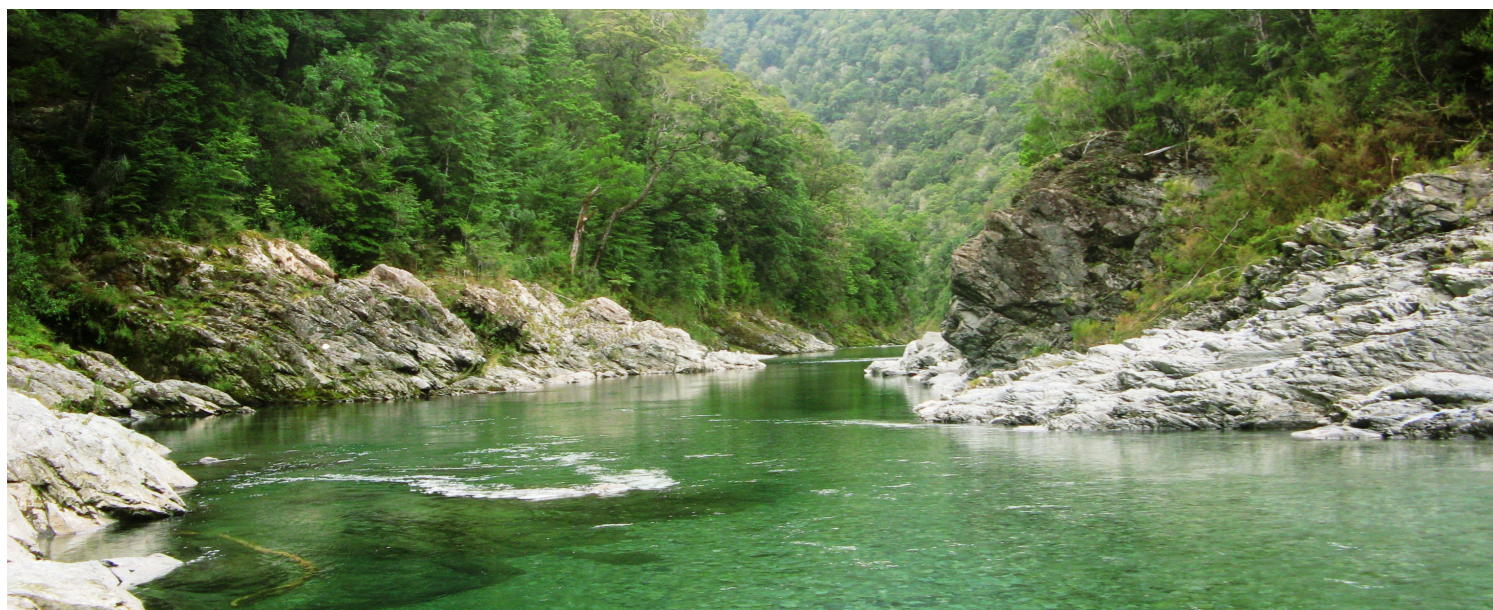
It's important we get this right as part of New Zealand's long term vision for improving the way we manage our fresh water, so we want to hear from you. You can have your say on the Government's proposals to amend the NPS-FM by making a written submission:

- online at www.mfe.govt.nz, or
- by email to watersubmissions@mfe.govt.nz, or
- by posting it to Freshwater Reform, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington.

Submissions need to be received by 5pm on 4 February 2014. Further details on making a submission can be found in section 7 of *Proposed Amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011: A discussion document*. This can be found at www.mfe.govt.nz along with supporting studies and other material.

If you have questions, email: watercomments@mfe.govt.nz

If the proposed changes to the NPS-FM go ahead, there may be some changes to regional plans. So get involved with your regional council and be part of the conversation on the implications of choices made under the NPS-FM in your region.



New Zealand Government



Improving our freshwater management: Proposed amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011

Fresh water is New Zealand's most important natural asset. Councils, communities and iwi have responsibility for managing their fresh water so it will continue to support New Zealand's environment, economic growth and our way of life into the future.

To do this, councils, communities and iwi need:

- good information to support decisions on fresh water in their region
- good processes for deciding how to manage fresh water
- protection of values that are important to all New Zealanders
- good information on the values they choose and the impacts of those choices.

To make this happen, the Government is proposing some additions to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM).

Existing requirements of the NPS-FM

The NPS-FM already requires regional councils to:

- maintain or improve overall water quality within a region
- safeguard the life-supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species (including their associated ecosystems) of fresh water
- set freshwater objectives and limits for all water bodies.

These requirements will still be in the NPS-FM alongside the proposed additions.

