

# Report to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group – for Agreement and Approval

**File No:** 23 10 02  
**Date:** 6 October 2015  
**To:** Collaborative Stakeholder Group  
**From:** Chairperson – Bill Wasley  
**Subject:** **Policy options – CSG decisions needed to meet proposed amended timeline**  
**Section:** **Agreement and Approval**

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## **Disclaimer**

This report has been prepared by Waikato Regional Council policy advisors for the use of Collaborative Stakeholder Group Healthy Rivers: Wai Ora Project as a reference document and as such does not constitute Council's policy.

## **1 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to set the scene for the policy options discussions of CSG 18 on 13 and 14 October.

The report contains information about:

1. The implications of the CSG recommendation on 2 October 2015 to adjust the timeline, where key policy and project decisions are linked with the CSG's existing and new meeting dates.
2. An overview of the three main types of policy options the CSG may consult on from 27 October to 13 November (catchment-wide rules, nutrient property-limits, and tailored property plans).

## **Recommendation:**

1. That the report [Policy options – CSG decisions needed to meet proposed amended timeline] (Doc #3572653 dated 6 October 2015) be received, and
2. That the Collaborative Stakeholder Group confirm that:
  - a. The topics and CSG meeting dates contained in Section 2 of this report are the key decisions the CSG needs to make each meeting, in order to be ready to deliver the overall policy mix to a mid March 2016 Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee (HRWO) meeting and then a final recommendation to HRWO on 9th May 2106.
  - b. Section 3 of this report contains an overview of the policy approaches they may consult on from October 27<sup>th</sup> to mid November 2015.
3. The Collaborative Stakeholder Group recommend the proposed new timeline to Te Rōpū Hautū and the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee.

## 2 Milestones and key tasks for CSG

The CSG discussed and suggested changes to the project timeline at their meeting on 1 and 2 October 2016. They had some background information for their discussion, in a report entitled 'Decisions and pathways for CSG's recommendations on the Plan Change to help achieve the Vision and Strategy' (Document #3538439 dated 30 September 2015).

### 2.1 Adjusted CSG timeline discussed at CSG 17

At this meeting, the CSG discussed proposing an amendment to the project timeline. The existing timeline was December 2015 for CSG to deliver a recommendation to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee meeting of the overall 'policy mix', and then a final recommendation in April 2016. The adjusted timeline would propose March 2016 to deliver a recommendation of the overall 'policy mix', and then first week of May for a final recommendation on the plan change and section 32 analysis.

In summary, the CSG has suggested an extension to their timeline for delivering the CSG final recommendation on the plan change by about three weeks. Roughly, they have given themselves more time (an extra 2-3 months) to deliver the first recommendation (overall policy mix), and less time to draft the final plan and section 32 document (about 5-6 weeks).

See [Attachment 1](#) for the timeline diagram was drafted after 1 October discussion and agreed by CSG on 2 October.

The CSG recommendations on the timeline were as follows:

#### Recommendations to TRH and HRWO Committee

- That the timeframe for the development of a plan change be amended so that a draft plan change is signed off and recommended to the HRWO Committee by 10 May 2016
- That workshops be arranged with HRWO Committee in March and April 2016 to allow the CSG to discuss the draft plan change as it is developed

#### CSG subsequently agree to:

- Establish a plan change advisory sub group to be chaired by the CSG chair; and
- Development of a sub-group terms of reference for subsequent confirmation by CSG.

### 2.2 Next steps to implement the new timeline

- New CSG meeting dates set, and some existing dates changed.
- Meeting dates for Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee meeting and TRH need to be set. Currently, there are no confirmed 2016 dates for the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora committee or Te Rōpū Hautū. Both the committee and Te Rōpū Hautū meeting dates for 2016 will be scheduled to accommodate the new timeline.
- A CSG subgroup to finalise the plan drafting in March-April is to be set up. This includes terms of reference to be drafted and agreed and 3-5 volunteers called for.

### 2.3 CSG meetings and decisions needed

The following key decisions have been taken from the report above and fitted in with existing and new CSG workshop dates.

### **October 13-14 CSG**

1. Decide whether we will consult on a property-level numerical limit for nutrients (An Overseer number).
2. Decide whether we consult on how to manage extra contaminant discharges to the water from intensifying land use (e.g. catchment-wide rule to prevent intensification).
3. Decide what water quality lakes targets we will consult on, for the long term and for the 2016 Plan change.
4. Decide on the approach to tailored property plans and what to consult on (industry-supported option and/or a WRC resource consent option).
5. Decide detail of catchment-wide rules to consult on (stock exclusion, riparian setbacks, sediment mitigation).

### **Intensive engagement 27 October – 13 November**

#### **Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee 13 November**

### **November 23-24 CSG**

After considering the feedback from consultation:

6. Decide if we need to revisit water quality limits and targets.
7. Decide if we need to add or remove policy options.
8. Decide initial allocation:
  - a. How to distribute total contaminant load between sectors.

#### **Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee 4 December**

### **December 9-10 CSG**

9. Decide detail around allocation:
  - a. whether Good Management Practice is a first requirement,
  - b. within-sector allocation (e.g. if I am a dairy farmer, do I have to reduce the same amount as my dairy farm neighbour).
  - c. fairness and equity questions around aspirations of owners of undeveloped land, including iwi.

### **December 17-18 CSG**

Continue allocation debate and confirm approach.

### **January 28- 29 2016 CSG**

10. Decide changes to policy options to reflect CSG decisions on equity and fairness.

### **Early February 2016 CSG engagement with sectors on rules**

## Iwi engagement on rules

### February 18 -19 CSG 2016

11. Decide how existing funding could be used.
12. Decide implementation timing, resources and processes needed.
13. Decide how long are we going to give landowners to make contaminant discharge reductions.

### March 2 – 3 2016 CSG

14. Decide overall recommendation to Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee:
  - a. Drafting instructions for the plan change
  - b. Recommendations about what else is needed, that is outside the plan change (processes to access funding, training and resources needed for implementing agencies).

## Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee Mid March 2016

## 2.4 Finalising the plan change and section 32

### April 4-5 CSG [placeholder if required]

#### Mid march – third week of April CSG subgroup

#### Tasks and decisions required from CSG sub-group and staff, as plan change is drafted are:

15. Write the Section 32 analysis of alternatives and reasons for each policy provision<sup>1</sup>.
16. Decide final wording of objectives and policies and non regulatory methods.

Assuming the group decides on property plans and catchment wide rules

17. Decide and write up detail of individual rules:
  - a. Should tailored property plans be phased in at different times in different areas
  - b. Where costs lie for developing and auditing plans
  - c. Should the most stringent new catchment-wide rules be phased in
  - d. Confirm and write in methods, support to speed uptake of new rules or what other policy approaches might be needed
  - e. Rules are reviewed (legal).
18. Decide detail of how all provisions fit together
  - a. Overall implementation check with WRC and any other implementing agencies
  - b. Check for inconsistencies with other documents (including definitions)
  - c. Consequential changes to Regional Plan
  - d. What will be part of the full Regional Plan review (underway in 2016).
19. Decide what agreements and processes need to be set up outside the plan change.
20. Decide overall form and content with partners.

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<sup>1</sup> This document must be finished and notified with the plan change. In the past WRC section 32 documents run to about 200 pages of background, references, summaries of research undertaken, analysis of the preferred and discarded alternative rules and policies and the associated costs and benefits of each one.

### April 28 – 29 CSG

Receive draft Plan Change and section 32 wording from CSG subgroup and work through any changes on wording.

### May 9 CSG

CSG receive the Proposed Plan Change and section 32 with changes from their late April meeting, and sign off the two documents as their final recommendations to Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee.

## 3 Overview of policy approaches being investigated

Policy staff have been investigating three main policy approaches on behalf of CSG, and this is shown in Table 1. There is a separate report on each of these sections:

1. Report back from Overseer subgroup on property level limits #3574906
2. Catchment wide rules #3494533
3. Tailored property plans #3563987

**Table 1: Overview of policy approaches policy staff are investigating on behalf of CSG**

	Policy Approach	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Sediment	Microbes
<b>Property level limit</b>	<b>Rules</b> <b>Performance standards</b> Catchment wide rules  <i>Important aspect is that an individual landholders contribution of contaminant can be measured or modelled at a property level</i>	Hard limit - N kg N/ha/yr Use Overseer			
<b>Waikato and Waipa catchment wide rules – apply to everyone/apply specific areas</b>	<b>Rules</b> <b>Technology standards/ process standards</b> Catchment wide rules Rules in the most risky areas/activities  <i>Rules can be written for these activities that are:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Clear and provide a level of certainty to the regulated</i></li> <li>• <i>Focus on environmental effect of higher risk activities</i></li> </ul>		Earthworks – tracking/roading		
			Riparian planting/management		
			Forestry harvesting		
			All sectors vegetation clearance setbacks		
			All sectors setbacks		
			Cultivation		
			Olsen P		
			Fertiliser		
			Smoothing out hills - overburden		
			Offal holes*		Offal holes*
			Property drains – discharge points		
			Deer and cattle in water Effects of stock crossing water bodies		

		Dairy shed effluent* Feed pad effluent, standoff pad effluent
		Catch all rule for low intensity activities, so they are not captured by other rules
<b>Tailored Property Plan</b>  <b>Activities/ mitigations that may be included in property plan</b>	<b>Rules</b> <b>Process standards</b> Catchment wide rules to require a property plan, either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WRC consented property plans, or</li> <li>• Industry-supported or industry assurance scheme property plans</li> </ul> In addition to meeting the requirements of catchment wide rules, the landholder may be required to manage the listed activities as part of their property plan.  Property plans could include or reference existing Sustainable Milk Plans, forestry harvest plans or be informed by industry codes of practice.  <i>Important aspect is HOW the activity is undertaken. Context specific mitigations in the property plan.</i>	Fodder cropping – timing (winter) and location in relation to waterway - setbacks
		Cropping with grazing – (anywhere on the property)
		Cropping with harvesting - Including horticulture (anywhere on the property)
		Soil erosion plans – cropping and harvesting
		Forestry harvesting - harvesting plans and soil erosion plans
		Setbacks from water ways – all sectors
		Stock exclusion water bodies
		Riparian plantings/management
		Intensive grazing on paddocks near waterways - setbacks
		Limit stock on steep slopes
		Cultivation
		Manage actively eroding sediment sources
		Manage erosion from risk areas
		Earthworks – tracking and roading
		Farm different classes to land use capability
Nutrient management/budgeting*		

\* These ideas are not CSG ideas but as considered relevant by staff to investigate

## 4 Summary

This report sets the scene for the CSG policy options discussions on 13 and 14 October, by summarising the policy options that the CSG has discussed since June 2015 and outlining some implications about the CSG recommendation to adjust the timeline.

Section 2 sets out new and existing CSG meeting dates, and key decisions the CSG needs to make each meeting, in order to be ready to deliver the overall policy mix to a mid March 2016 Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee (HRWO) meeting and then a final recommendation to HRWO on 9th May 2106.

Policy staff have been investigating three main policy approaches on behalf of CSG, and this is shown in Table 1 above. There is a separate report to CSG on each of these sections:

1. Report back from Overseer subgroup on property level limits #X
2. Catchment wide rules #3494533
3. Tailored property plans #3563987

The policy options summary Table 1, and the three reports referred to above, should enable the CSG to first, refresh their memory on what has been canvassed so far, and second to start thinking about the key matters that are important to outline for the community and potentially affected people during the intensive engagement period of 27 October to 13 November.

Attachment 1 timeline diagram drafted by policy staff after 1st October discussion and agreed by CSG on 2 October.

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**Bill Wasley**

Independent Chairperson, Collaborative  
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# References



# Attachment 1: Timeline – CSG ideas as of 1 October 2015

