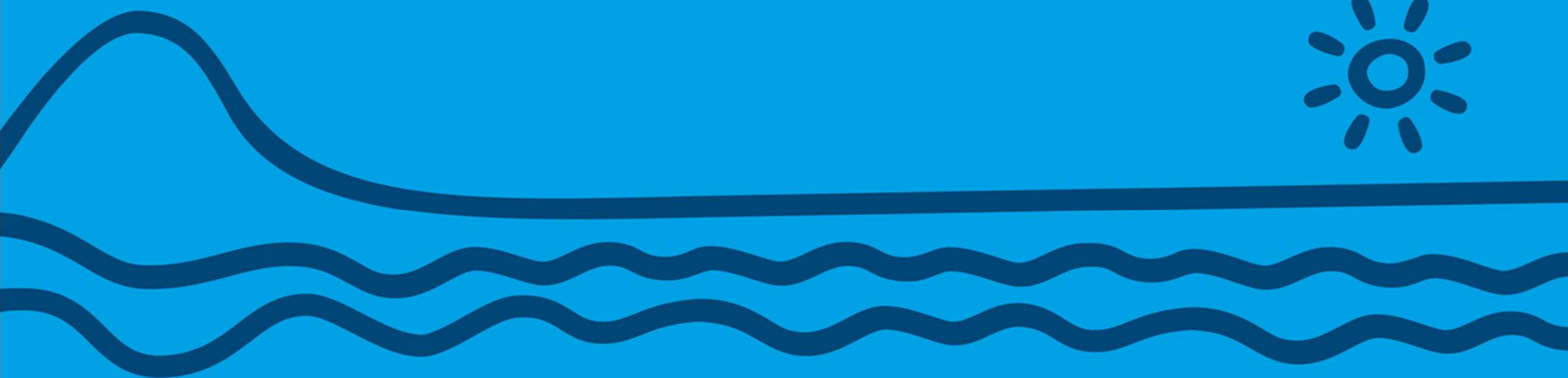


# Action for healthy waterways

## Proposals summary





# Action for healthy waterways package

1. Discussion document
2. National Policy Statement- Fresh Water  
Set and clarify policy direction, raise the bar for ecosystem health
3. National Environmental Standards - Fresh Water  
For gazettal mid-2020
4. Section 360 livestock exclusion

Submission period closes ~~17 Oct~~, 31 Oct.

Rules subject to change in response to submissions, panel recommendation, select committee/other processes.



# Te Mana o te Wai NPSFM

- **Hierarchy** of obligations
- Underpins whole NPSFM framework
- Long-term vision
- Flexibility to apply Te Mana o te Wai locally.

First – the health and wellbeing of waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems

Second – the essential health needs of people

Third – the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, now and in the future



# Māori values NPSFM

## ***Proposal 1:***

Make **Mahinga Kai** a compulsory value.

## ***Proposal 2:***

Create a Tangata Whenua  
Freshwater Values category  
in the NPSFM.





# More integrated management

## NPSFM and Discussion Document

- TLAs to have policies on effects of urban development on water
- Strengthen requirements to assess and control risks to drinking water sources
- Better manage wastewater and stormwater





# Raising the bar on ecosystem health NPSFM NPSFM

- Overall approach
- Protect wetlands (500m<sup>2</sup>)
- Protection for threatened indigenous species
- Manage effects on streams
- Provide for fish passage







# Water quality

NPSFM

- New bottom lines for nutrients
- New attribute tables and bottom lines for Deposited and Suspended Fine Sediment
- Higher standard for swimming

Table 5 – Dissolved inorganic nitrogen

Value (and component)	Ecosystem health (water quality)	
Freshwater Body Type	Rivers	
Attribute Unit	DIN mg/L (milligrams per litre)	
Attribute band and description	Numeric Attribute State	
	Median	95 <sup>th</sup> percentile
<b>A</b> Ecological communities and ecosystem processes are similar to those of natural reference conditions. No adverse effects attributable to DIN enrichment are expected.	≤ 0.24	≤ 0.56
<b>B</b> Ecological communities are slightly impacted by minor DIN elevation above natural reference conditions. If other conditions also favour eutrophication, sensitive ecosystems may experience additional algal and plant growth, loss of sensitive macroinvertebrate taxa, and higher respiration and decay rates.	> 0.24 and ≤ 0.50	> 0.56 and ≤ 0.1.10
<b>C</b> Ecological communities are impacted by moderate DIN elevation above natural reference conditions, but sensitive species are not experiencing nitrate toxicity. If other conditions also favour eutrophication, DIN enrichment may cause increased algal and plant growth, loss of sensitive macroinvertebrate & fish taxa, and high rates of respiration and decay.	> 0.5 and ≤ 1.0	> 1.10 and ≤ 2.05
<b>National Bottom Line</b>	1.0	2.05
<b>D</b> Ecological communities impacted by substantial DIN elevation above natural reference conditions. In combination with other conditions favouring eutrophication, DIN enrichment drives excessive primary production and significant changes in macroinvertebrate and fish communities, as taxa sensitive to hypoxia and nitrate toxicity are lost.	>1.0	>2.05
Groundwater concentrations also need to be managed to ensure resurgence via springs and seepage does not degrade rivers through DIN enrichment. Numeric attribute state must be derived from the rolling median of monthly monitoring over five years.		



# Water Quantity

NPSFM/Water Metering Regulations

- Clarify minimum flow requirements
  - objectives to state ecosystem health outcome
  - flows and limits must relate to objectives
- Mandate telemetry (direct electronic transmission)
  - measuring water use every 15 minutes
  - transmitting daily electronic records
  - Starts with consents of 20 l/s, 6 years later smaller consents







# Exceptions for major Hydro

NPSFM

- Exceptions for six largest hydro schemes

*Waikato, Waikaremoana, Tongariro, Waitaki, Manapouri and Clutha*

- Have regard to not adversely impacting generation capacity and responsiveness of a scheme





# Other

- More detail on accounting systems
- More reporting
- Action plans must be prepared



# New planning process RMA

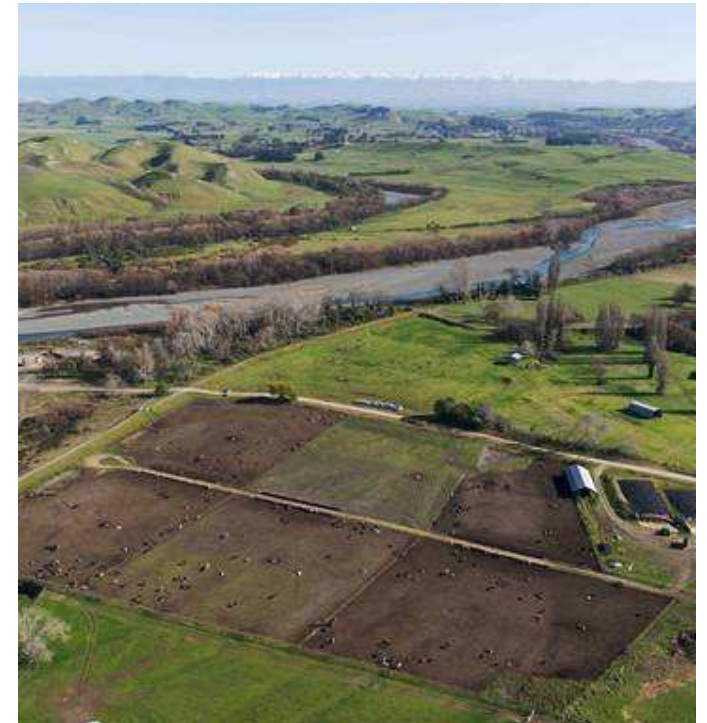
- New regional plans in place by December **2025**
- Give full effect to NPSFM 2020
- Expert panels will hear/consider plans
- Restricted options for appeal





# National Environmental Standard NES

- Wetland earthworks & veg removal /culverts/fish passage
- Farm Plans
- Restrict intensification
- Control intensive winter grazing
- Control stock holding areas
- Reduce N in N-impacted catchments (Upper Rangitāiki)
- Irrigation
- Feedlots







# s360 RMA Regulations

Differing timeframes

- Stock setback from wetlands
- Stock setback from rivers > 1m
- Stream crossing only by bridge/culvert







# What does this mean for farmers /growers?

## Proposals that apply to all farmers and growers

- Farm plan to understand and manage environmental risks, address freshwater
- Limits on intensification of land use (for example converting to dairy)
- Exclude stock from waterways more than 1 metre wide (all lowland farms and some steeper land with high stock carrying capacity)
- Plan to exclude stock from smaller waterways



# What does this mean for farmers /growers?

## Proposals that apply to specific locations and activities

- Restrictions on draining/clearing wetlands and piping/infilling streams
- Report large water usage (e.g. irrigation) using telemetry
- In high nitrate/nitrogen catchments, with no existing rules, reduce excessive nitrogen losses (to happen within 5 years)
- Meet minimum standards for winter grazing on forage crops
- Get a resource consent for feedlots, stock holding areas



# What does this mean in the longer term

NPSFM/ NES

## Proposed new bottom lines

- Regional councils will plan how to meet these and over what time period
- Opportunity to be involved in plan development
- **Nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus)**
  - In many areas, nutrient reduction already needed over time to meet current NPS-FM attributes
  - New option would require significant reductions, may mean land use change in some catchments
- **Sediment**
  - Will mean more planting on erosion prone land
  - Modelling indicates sediment bottom line can mostly be achieved through good practice

# Make a submission by 31 Oct

## Online submission tool

[www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/action-for-healthy-waterways](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/action-for-healthy-waterways)

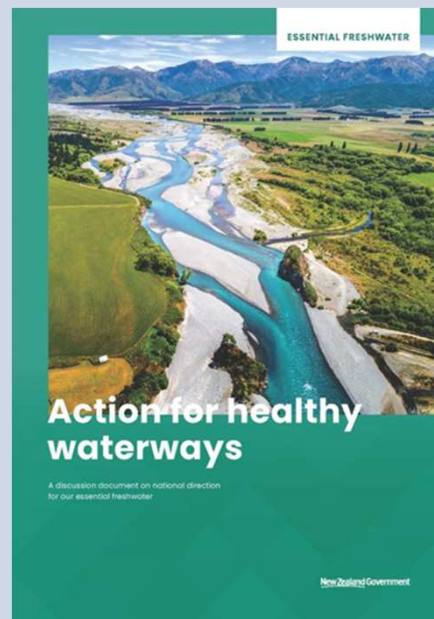
This is MfE's preferred way to receive submissions.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Action for healthy waterways - consultation". It includes a "Name your role" section, a "Contact person" section, and a "Submitter type" dropdown menu. Below these are sections for "General responses to the proposals", "Questions of the proposed amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and ecosystem health aspects of the proposed National Environmental Standards for Freshwater", "Driving water, stormwater, and wastewater", "Improving farm practices", and "Interactions between National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, National Environmental Standards for Freshwater and other policies". At the bottom, there is a "Save & Exit" button and a "Submit" button.

## Email

[consultation.freshwater@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:consultation.freshwater@mfe.govt.nz)

Answer the questions in the discussion document – page 19.



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