

SUMMARY



Draft Issues and Options for Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan Wetlands chapter

This paper provides a high-level review of the current Wetlands chapter of the RNRP and discussion of wetland issues, policy gaps and options for the Bay of Plenty. It is one of a series of reports being prepared to support a full review of the Regional Natural Resources Plan.

Key findings include that:

- New national freshwater regulations set a suite of controls for activities in or near wetlands. The RNRP needs to be amended to remove duplication and inconsistencies with this regulation.
- Te Mana o te Wai and kaitiakitanga considerations need to be further developed for the wetland provisions.
- There is a misalignment between the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017 (NESPF) and the, more recent, National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 insofar as loss wetland extent and values is concerned, which needs addressing.
- Simplification of provisions controlling wetland maintenance and restoration would help these beneficial activities, but is limited by new national freshwater regulations that already address this. Regional rules cannot be less stringent than the national regulations

This paper should be considered a work development in progress, not a council position. Further development, tangata whenua engagement and public engagement is ongoing in 2023.