

National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020 – Objectives and Policies Assessment

Relevant Objective & Policies	Comment
<p>2.1 Objective</p> <p>(1) <i>The objective of this National Policy Statement is to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed in a way that prioritises:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems</i></p> <p>(b) <i>second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)</i></p> <p>(c) <i>third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being, now and in the future</i></p>	<p>The proposal is considered to be consistent with the objective and policies of the NPS Freshwater for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai by ensuring the appropriate protection (and enhancement) of water, while enabling a development that will have significant benefits for the social, economic and cultural well-being of the wider community.
<p>2.2 Policies</p> <p>Policy 1: <i>Freshwater is managed in a way that gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai.</i></p> <p>Policy 2: <i>Tangata whenua are actively involved in freshwater management (including decision making processes), and Māori freshwater values are identified and provided for.</i></p> <p>Policy 3: <i>Freshwater is managed in an integrated way that considers the effects of the use and development of land on a whole-of-catchment basis, including the effects on receiving environments.</i></p> <p>Policy 4: <i>Freshwater is managed as part of New Zealand’s integrated response to climate change.</i></p> <p>Policy 5: <i>Freshwater is managed through a National Objectives Framework to ensure that the health and well-being of degraded water bodies and freshwater ecosystems is improved, and the health and well-being of all other water bodies and freshwater ecosystems is maintained and (if communities choose) improved.</i></p> <p>Policy 6: <i>There is no further loss of extent of natural inland wetlands, their values are protected, and their restoration is promoted.</i></p> <p>Policy 7: <i>The loss of river extent and values is avoided to the extent practicable.</i></p> <p>Policy 8: <i>The significant values of outstanding water bodies are protected.</i></p> <p>Policy 9: <i>The habitats of indigenous freshwater species are protected.</i></p> <p>Policy 10: <i>The habitat of trout and salmon is protected, insofar as this is consistent with Policy 9.</i></p> <p>Policy 11: <i>Freshwater is allocated and used efficiently, all existing over-allocation is phased out, and future over-allocation is avoided.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal utilises best practice erosion and sediment control to minimise sediment discharges to the receiving environment of artificial drains and ultimately Lake Waikare and Lake Rotokawau. • Stormwater management infrastructure included quality treatment wetlands that will remove contaminants as a result of urban development. • The provision of water supply for communities is not affected by the proposed works. • The proposal has been formulated in a way that provides for social, economic and cultural well-being. The project has support of the tangata whenua on terms of job creation and economic growth while also accounting for restoration and preservation of the environment. • The Tangata Whenua Governance Group has enabled active participation of iwi in decision making as it relates to matters relating to freshwater management and ecological matters. • The proposal has considered the effects on a catchment wide basis as the receiving environment is of a large scale with an important role in flood management. Extensive modelling has been undertaken as part of the wider rezoning proposal to ensure that the effects of the development on the floodplain are negligible. • The stormwater modelling for the proposal has accounted for climate change adjusted rainfall predictions. • The proposal will not result in the loss of any part of a river, or affect the values of any river. It also does not impact any habitat of indigenous freshwater species, trout or salmon.

Policy 12: *The national target (as set out in Appendix 3) for water quality improvement is achieved.*

Policy 13: *The condition of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems is systematically monitored over time, and action is taken where freshwater is degraded, and to reverse deteriorating trends*

Policy 14: *Information (including monitoring data) about the state of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems, and the challenges to their health and well-being, is regularly reported on and published.*

Policy 15: *Communities are enabled to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing in a way that is consistent with this National Policy Statement.*

- The proposed leads to a restoration of part of the existing dairy farm to a wetland park of approximately 1ha in area. This area of planting is adjacent to Lake Rotokawau.
- The proposal includes a minor groundwater take for the purposes of construction. This take will not lead to an over-allocation.
- The proposed development is anticipated to lead to an increase in water quality in Lake Rotokawau due to less runoff from the existing dairy farm and best practice stormwater management infrastructure treating stormwater runoff.
- APL will monitor the water quality from the stormwater management infrastructure, and the Waikato Regional Council and/or Department of Conservation are expected to monitor Lake Rotokawau adjacent to the site.