



THE MANUKAU HARBOUR CONSOLIDATED RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT STORMWATER PRIORITIES: PROTECTING OUR WATERS

STORMWATER CONSULTATION – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

June 2014

Introduction:

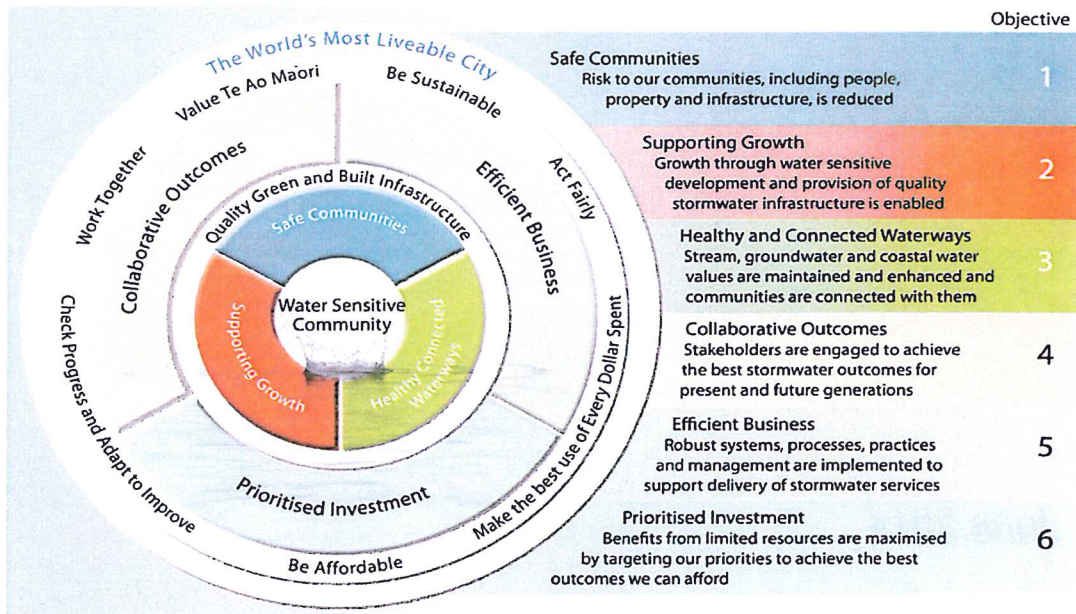
This is your chance to inform Auckland Council's Stormwater Unit on your priorities for stormwater management for the Manukau Harbour Consolidated Receiving Environment (CRE).

This consultation is being undertaken as part of the Stormwater Unit's stormwater network discharge consent process, and has been completed for the Waitematā Harbour and Greater Tāmaki CREs. It is now focusing on the Manukau Harbour CRE.

The Manukau Harbour, embayments and streams all have significant cultural value to the various iwi and hapu, and Aucklanders as a whole. The connection we hold with the waters of Manukau Harbour is a reflection of the important role that this special place plays in Auckland's history and community. All receiving waters have cultural significance to local iwi due to the mauri (life force) of the water, and many have important historical significance. These values will be prioritised through the Stormwater Unit's management initiatives.

However, the past growth of the city around the harbour has degraded its environment and caused stream erosion and flooding problems. Contaminants originating from urban land use in the form of excess sediment, metals (such as zinc and copper), oils, litter and other pollution have been washed into the streams and the harbour, either directly or through the urban stormwater system.

Careful management of land-based activities, such as development through good land use practices, can help prevent this harm. The Stormwater Unit is committed to the Auckland Plan vision to become the world's most liveable city. To be a liveable city we need to promote a "water sensitive community". To achieve this vision, the Stormwater Unit has set out the key objectives of safe communities, supporting growth, and healthy and connected waterways, as highlighted below.



Key functions of the Stormwater Unit are to manage approximately 5,900km of pipe network, 10,000 km of streams, and to look after assets worth over \$2.5 billion. It also leads best practice stormwater management advice for Auckland Council. As part of its operations, the Stormwater Unit is currently putting an application together for a region-wide stormwater

network consent. Whilst this work is on-going, we would like you to provide feedback and input on the following stormwater issues around the Manukau Harbour CRE:

- managing growth,
- managing infrastructure/ assets,
- managing flooding (or the risk of flooding),
- urban stream management,
- contamination of the Manukau Harbour Estuary and coastal inlets;
- managing stormwater discharges to groundwater, and
- reducing stormwater effects on the wastewater network.

You will also be asked to provide your views on the criteria that inform how, through this network discharge consent process, Auckland Council selects its priorities for stormwater management in the Manukau Harbour CRE and its associated sub-catchments (i.e. stream catchment areas).

This feedback will provide important information for the Manukau Harbour CRE within the region-wide stormwater network discharge consent application, a resource consent that will permit Auckland Council to continue discharging stormwater from the public network. Your feedback will assist in setting out the priorities for stormwater management around this important environment.

These “**Frequently Asked Questions**” have been designed to assist you in understanding the process we are going through, and should be read in conjunction with three other documents, which explain the consultation surrounding the Manukau Harbour CRE NDC stormwater priorities:

- **Manukau Harbour CRE Stormwater Priorities Consultation - Information Brochure and Request for Feedback**
- **Manukau Harbour CRE Stormwater Priorities Consultation – Feedback Form**
- **The Manukau Harbour CRE Stormwater Priorities Consultation Summary Document** – a detailed technical report regarding the challenges of managing the stormwater draining to the Manukau Harbour CRE. This report contains details regarding key issues within the Manukau Harbour CRE catchment area, along with an explanation of network discharge consents and the potential criteria for prioritisation.

These documents are available at <http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay>, and more information on stormwater is available on the Auckland Council website's stormwater pages www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/stormwater.

Alternatively, please contact us on:
ndc@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Glossary of Terms

Consolidated receiving environment: A consolidated receiving environment (CRE) describes the area of land draining to a distinct marine receiving environment or coastal catchment. For example, the freshwater streams of Manukau Harbour CRE drain to the Manukau Harbour marine receiving environment (See frequently asked question 14).

Impervious Surface: means surfaces constructed of materials which are resistant to water or other fluid passing through them.

Levels of Service: Levels of Service are measurable performance indicators and targets, describing how managing stormwater contributes to the delivery of the strategic goals of the organisation and how social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes identified by the community are supported.

Network discharge consent: A stormwater network discharge consent is applied for under the Resource Management Act (1991) and the Auckland Regional Plans Air, Land and Water and Coastal, and Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan. It is a consent that authorises the diversion and discharge of stormwater, including associated contaminants, from existing and potential future public stormwater networks within urban areas and rural and coastal settlements.

Riparian: The Auckland Plan (2012) defines riparian as the strip of land identified along the edges of natural watercourses.

Sensitive Receiving Environment: With respect to stormwater, any land, or marine or fresh water body with significant social, cultural and environmental values which are susceptible to adverse effects of stormwater contaminants and flows.

Stormwater: Stormwater is rainwater that flows over land (buildings, roads, etc) into drains, along waterways, eventually discharging at the coast and includes the pollutants that are picked up along the way. In urban areas, rain that falls onto roofs, roads and other hard surfaces collects in stormwater catchpits and is carried through a system of pipes to our receiving waters. These pipes have been built to protect public safety by directing water away from houses and people and to prevent flooding.

Stormwater Network: The stormwater network consists of natural assets used for conveying stormwater (including streams, ground aquifers and overland flow paths) and built infrastructure assets (including pipes, detention and treatment devices, outfalls, culverts and channels), which carry and manage stormwater before it is discharged to the receiving environment.

Sub-catchment: A sub-catchment refers to the stream (freshwater) catchment areas which drain into a marine area. There are a number of sub-catchments within one consolidated receiving environment.

Wastewater: Another term for wastewater is sewage. Sewage refers to the liquid wastes of a community, which may contain toilet wastes, sullage, trade wastes and stormwater infiltration (Auckland Regional Policy Statement, 1999).

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Questions on the Consultation Process

1. What is the purpose of this consultation process?

This is your chance to help establish priorities for stormwater management in the Manukau Harbour CRE (i.e. the area of land draining to a coastal receiving environment, such as the Manukau marine receiving environment). Council has completed consultation on the Waitematā Harbour and Greater Tāmaki CREs, and this process is focusing on the Manukau Harbour CRE.

The Auckland Council Stormwater Unit would like you to provide feedback and input into which of the following stormwater issues around the Manukau Harbour CRE that are the highest priorities:-

- managing growth,
- managing infrastructure/ assets,
- managing flooding (or the risk of flooding),
- urban stream management,
- contamination of the Manukau Harbour and coastal inlets;
- managing stormwater discharges to groundwater, and
- stormwater effects on the wastewater network.

You will also be asked to provide your views on the criteria that inform how, through this network discharge consent (NDC) process, Auckland Council selects its priorities for stormwater management in the Manukau Harbour CRE and its associated sub-catchments (i.e. stream catchment areas).

This feedback will provide important information on the priorities for stormwater management in the Manukau Harbour CRE within the framework of a region-wide NDC. The NDC will permit Auckland Council to continue discharging stormwater into the Manukau Harbour CRE and its contributing streams. Your feedback will assist in setting out the requirements and priorities for stormwater management around this important environment. These "*Frequently Asked Questions*" will assist you in understanding the consultation process for this project, as well as different aspects of the network discharge consent process in relation to stormwater management.

2. What aspects of the consent application are you requesting feedback on?

The Manukau Harbour CRE Consent Consultation Process is focusing on two specific questions for consultation:

1. *From the stormwater issues identified, what do you think are the **priorities** for the Manukau Harbour CRE and what must be most urgently addressed?*
2. *From the Stormwater Unit's responsibilities, what do you think are the **criteria** that council should use for selecting stormwater management priorities?*

Specific information from the Manukau Harbour CRE, which is relevant to these questions, is included in Section 5 and 6 of the "*Consultation Summary Document*". This document can be found on Council's website at:

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay>

3. How can I provide feedback?

There are a number of different ways in which you can provide feedback:

- complete the consultation feedback form and post/ email it to the relevant address, or
- contact us on ndc@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

4. Who should I contact for further information?

For further information please send an email to: ndc@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Alternatively contact Sue Ira on: 021 922 408

5. Where can I get a copy of the consultation information?

A copy of the relevant documentation pertaining to the Manukau Harbour CRE is located on Council's website at:

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay>

If you would like to obtain a hard copy of this information, please send an email to:

ndc@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

6. What happens to my feedback?

Feedback received from the consultation process will be summarised and will help to inform the setting of priorities within the Manukau CRE for the region-wide network consent application. Based on priority issues and the selected criteria for prioritisation, a "best practicable option" approach to managing stormwater discharges from the public network will be developed (see frequently asked question 21).

7. Haven't Auckland Council already asked us this before?

Feedback that has already been provided through previous consultation on the Auckland Plan and the Unitary Plan will be referenced, but this consultation is more focused on the key task of getting the right balance between the various stormwater priorities within each CRE.

Some of you will also have provided input to previous City and District council consent processes. However, under the Auckland Council we are seeking to identify issues and priorities across the legacy council areas that contribute to the stormwater network consent process.

Where possible, relevant feedback from this consultation will also be used for the Auckland Council's consultation relating to Council's implementation of the National Policy Statement: Freshwater – which relates to stream catchments in detail, and to the Marine Spatial Plan - which relates to how our marine and coastal space is utilised (see the figure below). Further information on these processes can be found leaflet attached at the end of these frequently asked questions.

Figure Caption: Illustration of the different planning initiatives and their respective areas of interest. The network consent focusses on public network stormwater discharges from land based activities into the Harbour, streams and to groundwater. Implementation of the National Policy Statement: Freshwater focusses on stream catchments in detail, whilst the Marine Special Plan relates to how our coastal and marine space is utilised.

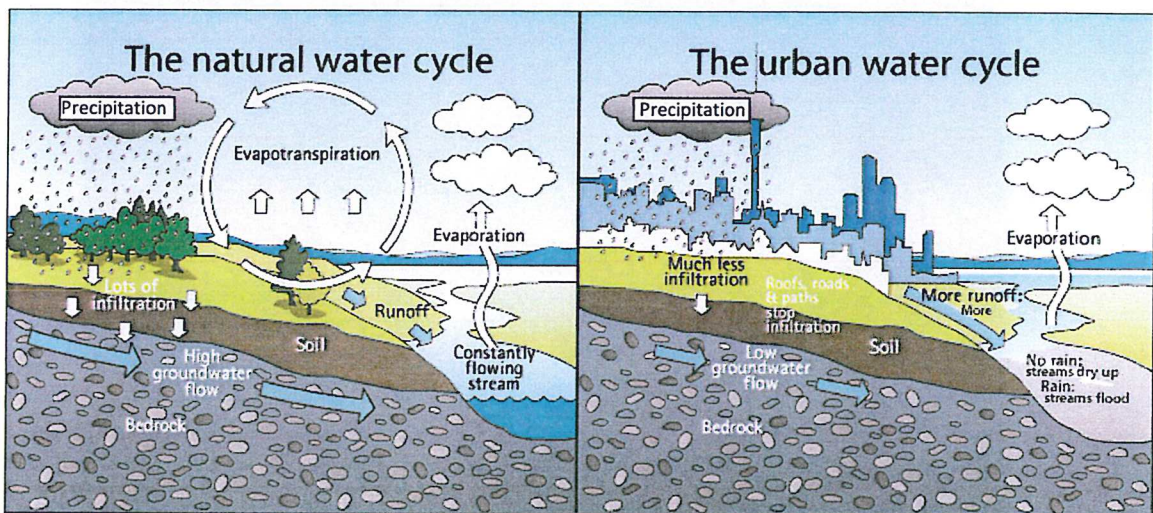


Questions on urban stormwater and its effects

8. What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that flows over land (buildings, roads, etc.) into drains, along waterways, eventually discharging at the coast. In urban areas, rain that falls onto roofs, roads and other hard surfaces collects in stormwater catchpits and is carried through a system of pipes to our receiving waters. These pipes have been built to protect public safety by directing water away from houses and people and to prevent flooding.

However, as land changes from bush or farmland to hard urban (impervious) surfaces, the amount of water running off the land increases and the amount of water soaking into the ground decreases. This increased quantity of water can cause problems downstream. In addition, as stormwater runs over impervious surfaces it picks up contaminants such as sediment, hydrocarbons and trace metals such as zinc, copper and lead which can then affect the quality of our streams and harbours.



9. What are the effects of stormwater?

The three key adverse effects of urban stormwater on the environment are:

Water quantity effects

Large areas of impervious surface cause increases in stormwater run-off, and this increases the risk of flooding and erosion. Developments which are too close to existing watercourses, or located in areas where flood waters flow or pond, are particularly susceptible to flood risks.

Water quality effects

Impervious surfaces collect pollutants derived from our everyday urban life. This could be anything from litter, dust, decomposing vegetation and sediment to zinc, copper and lead from building materials, and oils and exhaust emission particles from motor vehicles. These everyday pollutants can affect water quality in our streams and harbours and be deposited and build up in sediments.

In addition, wastewater overflows into the stormwater system or streams can cause public health and environmental effects.

Aquatic habitat and ecological effects

Increased stormwater flows cause erosion and sedimentation of streams, and contamination of stormwater run-off causes a deterioration of the quality of water entering receiving environments.

This altered hydrology (i.e. increased stormwater flows) and contamination of stormwater may then cause a loss of freshwater aquatic resources and degrade riparian areas. A build-up of contaminants in estuary and harbour areas can also affect benthic (sea bed) organisms such as crabs and shellfish.

Many of these adverse effects are already occurring. While continued growth and redevelopment have the potential to increase existing effects if not well managed, they also offer an opportunity to reduce existing effects through better land use practices and improved stormwater management. In addition, the stormwater network discharge consents provide us with an opportunity to create a framework for managing and mitigating these identified existing effects to Auckland's stream and coastal environment, and its public stormwater network.

Questions on the responsibilities for managing urban stormwater

10. Why do we need to manage stormwater?

Urbanisation modifies the natural process in which rainwater flows by gravity across or through the ground to groundwater, formal drains, streams, lakes, wetlands and ultimately to the coast. As a city develops the area covered by impervious surfaces (i.e. surfaces which do not allow rainfall to infiltrate the earth, such as roads and roofs) also grows. Importantly, impervious surfaces also make the water runoff faster so that in heavy rainfall, flows can be significantly larger than natural flows. This increases the potential for flooding and erosion.

Urban streams are often piped, lined and channelised during development to efficiently convey stormwater runoff and minimise erosion. As a consequence, many areas lack a network of open stream channels and the extent of urban streams has been severely reduced.

Contaminants and sediment become entrained in stormwater as it flows from the land, and through natural and artificial drainage systems. The type and amount of chemical contaminants present in stormwater runoff varies in relation to the activities occurring in the catchment and contaminant management practices. The primary contaminants of concern in the Auckland Region are sediments, copper, zinc, lead and hydrocarbons. These contaminants attach to sediment and organic particles, and are dispersed and accumulated in depositional areas in the coastal zone. The build-up of contaminants in sediments can be toxic to aquatic life.

If not effectively managed, the effects listed above can increase. This, in turn, increases the risk to our communities and natural environments. Effective management of stormwater involves minimising its generation and then conveying, managing and discharging runoff in a way that minimises potential adverse effects.

11. Who is responsible for managing stormwater from urban areas?

Auckland Council's Stormwater Unit ("the Unit") manages a network of natural assets and approximately \$2.5 billion worth of built infrastructure (including pipes, detention and treatment devices, outfalls, culverts and channels), and also leads best practice stormwater management advice for Auckland Council. The Unit is responsible for the operation of this regional stormwater network and managing its effects, as outlined in the 2010 amendment of the Local Government Act 2002. This includes the operation, maintenance and management of the region's urban public stormwater infrastructure and natural assets on public land.

Other entities also manage stormwater assets:

- Assets located in parks and reserves are jointly maintained by the Stormwater Unit and the Parks, Sports and Recreation Department.
- Auckland Transport owns stormwater assets in road corridors. It has been agreed that the Stormwater Unit maintains these assets, which will help to ensure consistent maintenance practices and to optimise maintenance costs.
- Watercare Services Limited manages the combined sewer network (these are pipes which discharge both wastewater and stormwater, and are located in some parts of the city).
- A variety of private entities own and maintain stormwater assets, including stormwater reticulation and water quality devices. In addition, streams on private land are the management responsibility of property owners.

Questions on stormwater network discharge consents and why they are needed

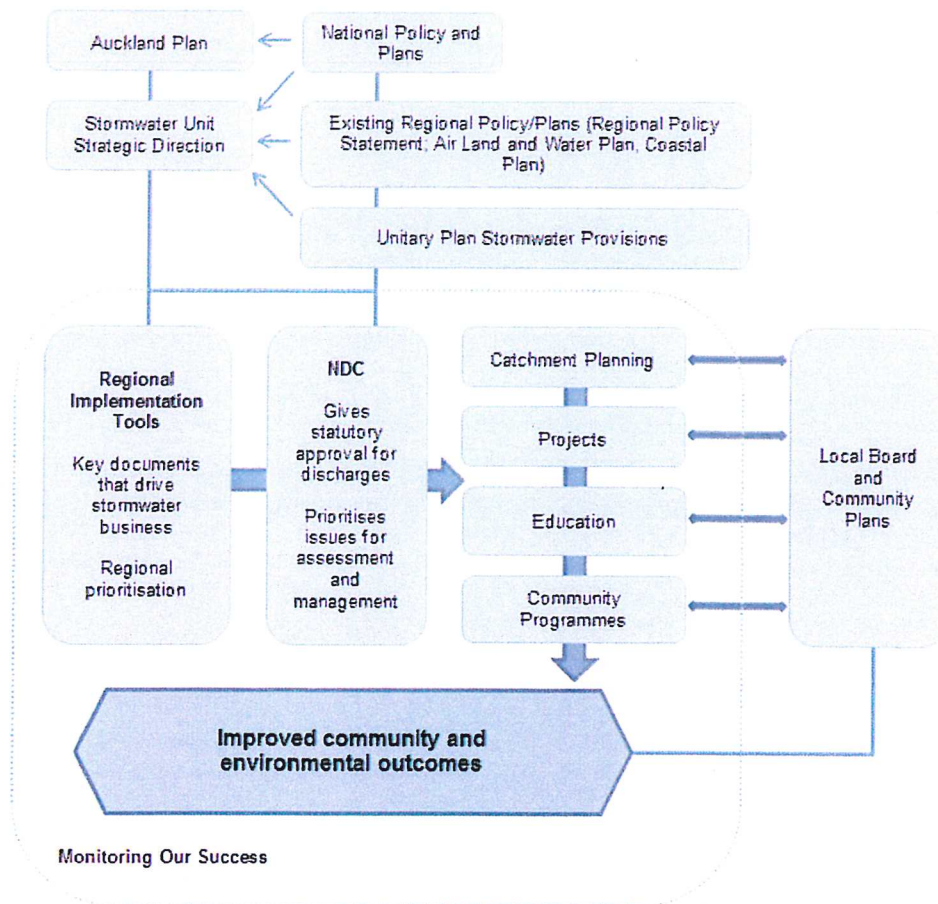
12. What is a stormwater network discharge consent?

The Auckland Council Stormwater Unit is required under the Resource Management Act (1991) to obtain resource consents to discharge stormwater (water and contaminants) from the region's stormwater network into the natural environment. Within the Auckland region, the specific requirements for this stormwater discharge consent, called a "network discharge consent" or "NDC", are set out under the Auckland Regional Plan: Air Land and Water, Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal, and the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan. A stormwater NDC can authorise the following activities:

- diversion and discharge of stormwater from existing and potential future public networks in urban areas, and in rural and coastal settlements, and
- discharge of contaminants (those typically carried in stormwater runoff – not from industrial or other trade processes).

The NDC does not cover rural, or "point source" discharges like wastewater, sediment from urban development and industrial trade process discharges, as they are covered under the requirements within the region.

The figure below illustrates the relationship between NDCs, Council policies and statutory documents.



13. Why does Auckland Council need a stormwater network discharge consent?

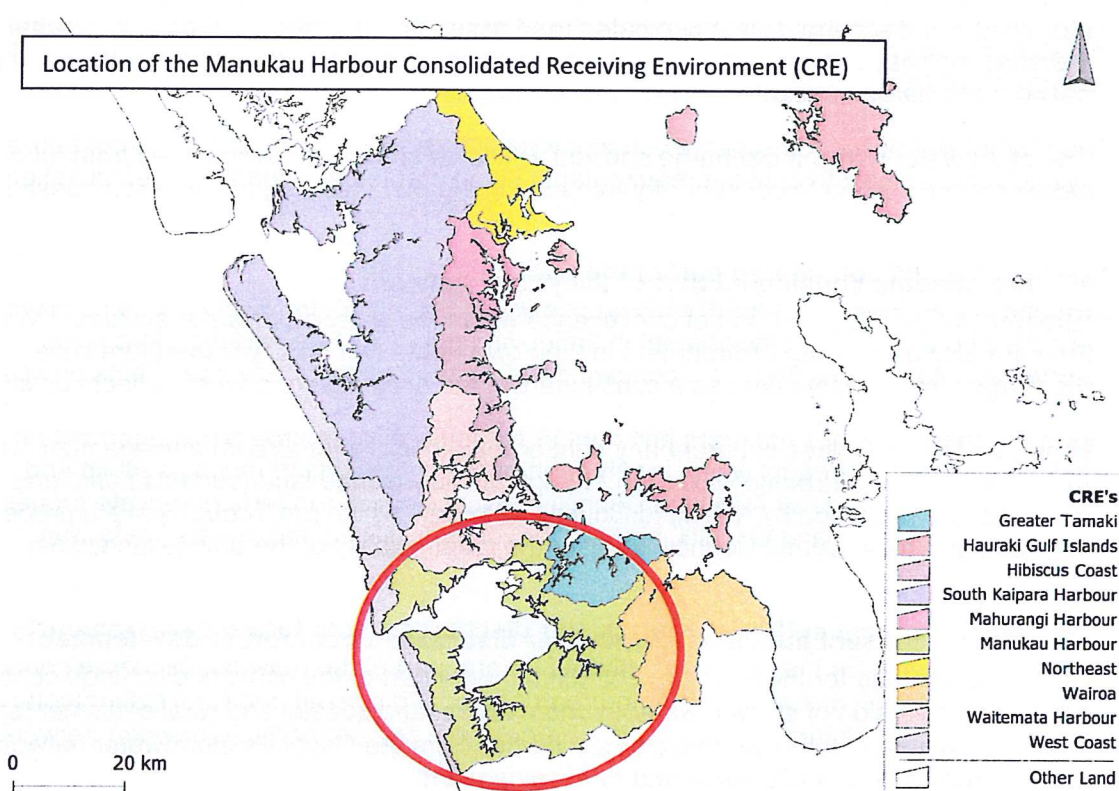
The Auckland Council Stormwater Unit is required under the Resource Management Act (1991) to obtain resource consents to discharge stormwater (water and contaminants) from the region's stormwater network into the natural environment. This authorisation of stormwater discharges from the public network is known as a stormwater network discharge consent under the Auckland Regional Plan: Air Land and Water, the Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal, and the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan.

Questions on what the network discharge consent covers and what this means for you

14. What area will this consent cover?

Auckland Council has seeking a region-wide consent, reflecting a high level, broad-scale approach in managing discharges from the urban network. It will focus on outcomes for Consolidated Receiving Environments (CREs), which comprise the area of land draining to a coastal receiving environment. Ten CREs have been identified for the Auckland region (see map below).

Consultation on the Waitematā Harbour CRE and the Manukau Harbour CRE has been completed, and the current focus is on the Manukau Harbour CRE consultation process (circled in red). The Manukau Harbour CRE priorities are important to the long term wellbeing and interests of a large number of people.



15. How does this consent application affect me?

The issues and priorities under discussion – those of flooding of homes and businesses, erosion of streams, sedimentation of streams and estuaries, and contamination by pollutants of sensitive natural habitats, fish, shellfish, birdlife, marine mammals and other biota – are of interest and concern to a wide range of stakeholders. It is neither practically possible nor affordable to address all the existing negative effects inherited from historical development within the next 35 years (the duration of a stormwater network consent). Effort and resources therefore need to be directed to where we can make the most difference, in accordance with identified priorities.

The network consent is a strategic, high level consent and seeks to set a number of high level priorities for stormwater management. These priorities will be further investigated through a sub-catchment management planning programme, during which local issues will be identified and investigated (see frequently asked question 22)

16. Would the consent authorise stormwater discharges from my property?

If your property is in the Manukau Harbour CRE area and discharges into the public network (and not directly into a stream, the coast or to ground soakage); then the stormwater runoff from your property will be included within the Auckland Council's stormwater network discharge consent.

The network discharge consent will not authorise, amongst other activities, private stormwater discharges that do not enter the public network, discharge of industry related contaminants from industrial premises and discharge of wastewater and associated contaminants.

The discharges from the Auckland Transport road network, including those where the stormwater is discharged via a dedicated road asset, are included. Stormwater discharges from the state highway network that enter Council's stormwater network are also included in the network discharge consent.

The stormwater network discharge consent will cover stormwater discharges from future development, subject to consent requirements being met (see frequently asked question 18).

17. Are streams considered part of the public network?

Streams are an important part of conveyance within the wider stormwater system. However, they are also a receiving environment in their own right. Our NDC will therefore cover discharges into streams and, as a consequence, the mitigation of adverse effects on streams.

However, the NDC does not grant any right or responsibility for stream management on Auckland Council. Streams which run through publicly owned land (such as parks and reserves) are managed by Auckland Council. Streams which run through private property are not managed by Auckland Council, and are the responsibility of the private landowner.

18. Will the consent authorise stormwater discharges from future development?

Council is applying for the following activities to form part of the network discharge consent:

- the diversion of surface water in urban areas, and coastal and rural settlements; and
- existing and future stormwater discharges from the Council's stormwater network in urban areas, and coastal and rural settlements.

In this case, "future" stormwater discharges relate to infill development, major redevelopment and new greenfields development, subject to meeting established process and performance requirements.

19. What structures are included within the authorisation of the network?

The stormwater network resource consent application will not seek consent for construction, operation and maintenance activities in the marine environment or within streams, nor for existing structures (as these are generally permitted activities). New structures will be consented separately on an 'as needed' basis.

20. Does the consent authorise discharges or overflows from the wastewater system?

The stormwater network resource consent application will not seek consent for the discharge of wastewater and associated contaminants. Wastewater is managed by Watercare Services Ltd who is applying, through a separate network consent process, to authorise discharges and overflows from the wastewater system. However, the Stormwater Unit and Watercare will work together to seek integrated solutions where this is possible.

21. What is “Best Practicable Option”?

As mentioned earlier in Question 6, your feedback will inform the regional and CRE level “Best Practicable Option.” The BPO is a key backbone of the consent, driving how the Stormwater Unit priorities and management.

Under Section 2 of the RMA, the best practicable option (BPO) is defined as:

“BPO, in relation to a discharge of a contaminant or an emission of noise, means the best method for preventing or minimising the adverse effects on the environment having regard, among other things, to:

- a) The nature of the discharge or emission and the sensitivity of the receiving environment to adverse effects; and*
- b) The financial implications, and the effects on the environment, of that option when compared with other options; and*
- c) The current state of technical knowledge and the likelihood that the option can be successfully applied.”*

Policy 5.4.8 of the Auckland Regional Plan: Air Land and Water further explains BPO in the context of the types of matters that the regulatory authority will have regard to when assessing stormwater network discharge consents. This includes further matters such as the timeframe in which the adverse effects can be addressed, funding availability, the extent to which the network operator is responsible for or has control over the identified effects, and the benefits of maintaining and optimising existing infrastructure.

22. What is the “Best Practicable Option” approach the Stormwater Unit is taking?

Auckland Council is undertaking a four-tiered approach to planning, network discharge consenting and delivery. The diagram below shows the four levels together with the outputs from these levels that contribute to the best practicable option (BPO). While all four levels form part of the BPO, the network consent process comprises the first two stages. The second two stages are focused on developing, optimising and delivering solutions and improvements.

Regional Tier Level: Some stormwater management options are appropriately assessed implemented at the regional level. These options include land use planning and implementation (District, Regional and Unitary Plan), and region-wide initiatives.

Network Consent Tier Level: The focus is primarily on identifying priority catchments and areas for more detailed investigation. Prioritisation will be undertaken as part of each network consent application, and will be specific to each consolidated receiving environment. This consultation forms part of this process.

Sub-catchment Tier Level: The focus is on developing detailed solutions to the priority issues identified through the NDC and working at a local level to develop solutions that, where possible, are integrated with local initiatives to deliver multiple benefits.

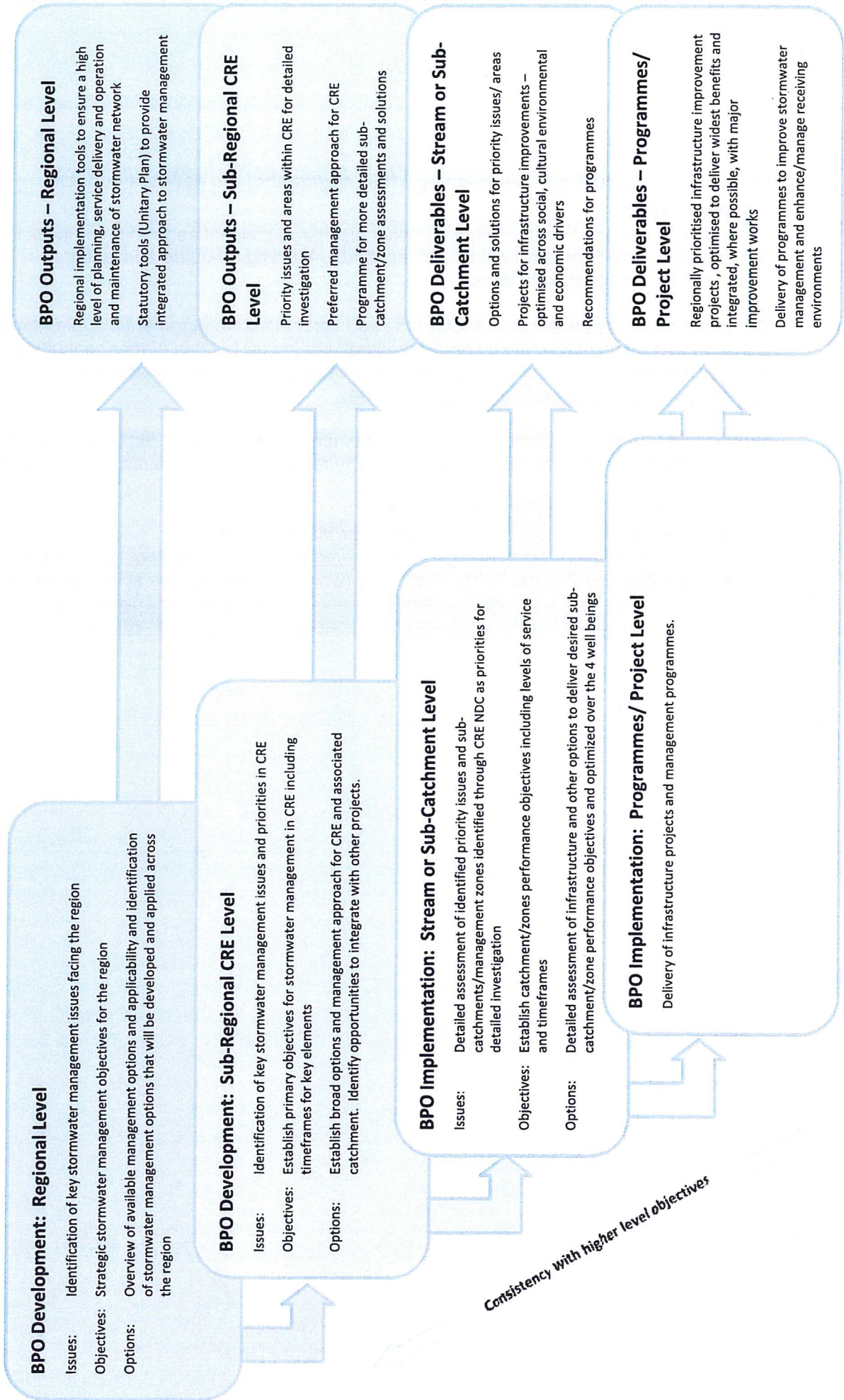
The Project/ Programme Delivery Level: The focus is where solutions and improvements are delivered “on-the-ground”.

23. What options are being proposed for managing the effects of stormwater on the receiving environment?

At this stage, the Stormwater Unit is still working through objectives for management. The objectives can only be developed once the issues and criteria for prioritisation have been confirmed. This consultation is an essential part of this process.

Options for management will be considered once the objectives have been finalised. Please see the “Consultation Summary Document” for further information at:

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay>



24. Will the consultation be on-going after lodgment of the network consent application?

Consultation through the stormwater network discharge consent application process is just the first step. The Stormwater Unit is committed to building on-going and lasting relationships with its stakeholders.

Consultation will be undertaken through the sub-catchment management planning process, and also at a project level. If you are interested in being part of this further consultation, please indicate this to us on the feedback form located on Council's website at:

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay>

Consultation on other aspects of water management in the Auckland region will also provide you with the opportunity to have input on how the region's water resources will be managed.

These projects include implementation of the:

- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/freshwater-management.html> ; and the
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (which includes marine spatial planning)
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/marine-and-coastal/new-zealand-coastal-policy-statement/new-zealand-coastal-policy-statement-2010/>

Our Water Our Future: Leaflet on Auckland Council Water Consultation Initiatives

The Auckland Plan and Auckland's Water

The importance of our marine, coastal and stream environments is reflected in the number of goals focusing on its management in the Auckland Plan. Consultation offers an opportunity to better focus stakeholder's opinions and ideas on the key aspects of stormwater management, stream and freshwater standards and how we use our marine space. Goals of the Auckland Plan that particularly relate to these water management projects include:

Directive 7.8
Establish freshwater values and aspirations with communities and make freshwater an identifying feature of Auckland

Directive 7.13
Ensure integrated and sustainable management of marine areas through marine spatial planning for the Hauraki Gulf, Kaipara Harbour, Manukau Harbour and west coast.

Directive 12.1
Identify, protect and provide existing and future network utility infrastructure to ensure efficient provision of secure and resilient water supply, wastewater, stormwater, energy and telecommunication services that will meet the needs of Auckland over time.

OR

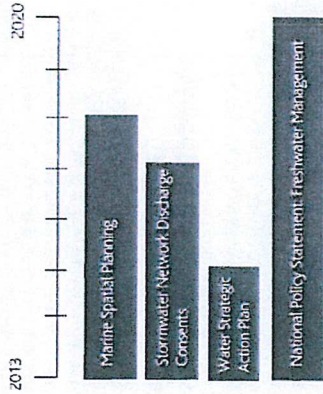
Directive 7.10
Manage land to support the values of waterbodies by protecting them where they are high and reviving them where they are degraded.

How Auckland Council will engage

Auckland Council engages with the community to understand issues, develop options and solutions and build a common understanding. We also consult to receive formal or statutory feedback on its options and proposals.

Because the subjects of these consultations are so interconnected, the council teams managing them will also be closely working together to ensure that feedback and information is shared. The teams will also be utilising information provided to consultations on the Unitary Plan and the Auckland Plan.

The engagement approach being endorsed by Auckland Council is a participatory one, in which everyone who has a stake in their area of interest can have a voice, either in person or by representation. Everyone's participation will be welcomed and respected.



Find out more: phone 09 301 0101
or visit www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/bylaws



Introduction

Auckland Council is involved in a number of large-scale projects that focus on significant water management areas. These will make a big difference to how we play, work, invest and live around Auckland's water. Because of the importance of water, your say will be considerable and influential. This brochure aims to provide an overview of all these projects and how you can have your say. These projects include:

- Marine Spatial Planning
- The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
- Auckland's Water Strategic Action Plan
- Auckland's Stormwater Planning

From the expanse of our seas to the headwaters of our streams, beaches and harbours in between, water defines us as a place and as people. It is the foundation of our quality of life, and the answer to why many people choose to invest, live, work and play in Auckland.

Unfortunately, a history of poor choices by everyone has allowed pollutants, sediment and other harmful elements to degrade our aquatic, coastal and marine environments. Too often we forget how these are intertwined. Land and sea environments are connected and sustained by the dynamic systems of our coastlines and our waterways - harming one element inevitably damages the others.

But Auckland has to grow, and a balance has to be found. The choices that we make now will decide in the long term how we use our land, how we interact with our streams and how we manage our coastal and marine space.

Marine Spatial Plan

Auckland Council, along with Waikato Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Primary Industries and the Hauraki Gulf Forum, are currently developing a marine spatial planning programme for the Hauraki Gulf. This programme was announced in 2013, with the goal of covering the Kaipara and Manukau harbours by 2018.

The marine spatial plan will be a public process for determining how we can best use and manage the gulf to achieve a balance between environmental, social, cultural and economic values. The planning process to be followed is recognised internationally as a best practice tool that pro-actively aims to provide for sustainable use and protection of our coastal and marine resources.

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

This National Policy Statement (NPS) requires local government to change the way we manage freshwater, both in terms of water quality and quantity. The legislation aims to provide a more integrated and sustainable approach through engagement and collaboration with local stakeholders to understand community values and objectives for freshwater. The programme for the NPS is expected to start in the middle of 2013 for some parts of Auckland and it is expected to take until 2020 to cover all parts of Auckland.



Auckland's Water Strategic Action Plan

In the Auckland Plan, Auckland Council committed to the delivery of a water strategy which aims to holistically examine the complex issues of water and water management within the Auckland region. The water strategy will address the resilience of water in Auckland and include future planning of infrastructure, water supply and freshwater management. A definitive programme for engagement has not yet been set for the Water Strategic Action Plan, but it is anticipated that it will commence in late 2013 or early 2014.

Auckland's Stormwater

Auckland Council wants to know from its stakeholders what stormwater issues need prioritising, on a sub-regional catchment basis. The sub-regional catchment boundaries are based upon where the stormwater will flow to - for example areas that drain to the Waitemata Harbour are in the Waitemata Harbour sub-region.

The purpose of this consultation is to identify priorities for the sub-regional catchment areas, and what principles and criteria should be used.

Two questions are being asked about each sub-regional catchment.

1. From the stormwater issues already identified, what do you think are the priorities for the sub-regional catchment, and what must be most urgently addressed?
2. From their current stormwater responsibilities, what do you think are the criteria that Auckland Council should use for selecting stormwater management priorities?

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