



TE MANA O TE WAI

A FACTSHEET FOR HAPŪ AND IWI

FACTSHEET 001



Ki te ora te wai, ka ora te whenua, ka ora te tangata.
When the water is healthy, the land and the people are nourished.

Purpose

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an introduction to Te Mana o Te Wai, the opportunities it presents for Iwi and Hapū, and potential pathways for implementation.

Introduction

Hapū and Iwi hold an inherited responsibility through whakapapa to manage their ancestral taonga in a way that balances Rangatiratanga (rights and interests) alongside Kaitiakitanga (obligations) for the benefit of current and future generations. Only Hapū and Iwi can speak with authority about their relationships with freshwater. Hapū and Iwi definitions of Te Mana o Te Wai can provide a powerful tool for strengthening freshwater management and improved environmental outcomes for our waters.

What is Te Mana o Te Wai?

Te Mana o te Wai is a concept developed by Iwi as a way of describing the importance of freshwater within a Te Ao Māori framework. It was derived in part from the principles and values expressed in the Ngā Mātāpono ki te Wai developed through the Freshwater Iwi Chairs in 2017 and was included in the National Policy Statement of Freshwater (NPSFW).

Te Mana o te Wai requires people to think about the water as a living breathing taonga in its own right that needs to be looked after rather than a commodity to be taken until it is gone or pushed to its limits until it can no longer survive. It is about operating from a place of abundance, not abstraction.

Throughout the motu, Hapū and Iwi are designing their own expressions of Te Mana o Te Wai that include their associations and expectations as to how freshwater is to be managed both now and in the future. While approaches will vary, an example of a tangata whenua led process is provided below:

STAGE	OUTCOMES
Tahi	Mana Whenua wānanga to discuss and define what Te Mana o te Wai is for them through their whakapapa and mātauranga.
Rua	Mana Whenua determine the takiwā for their wai that enables them to protect and manage them in a culturally appropriate manner. This may include identifying takiwā in mapping workshops and wānanga across hapū overlapping areas.
Toru	Mana Whenua who are kaitiaki for the chosen takiwā, confirm the values for the takiwā, and agree the outcomes for these wai from their perspective. Mahinga kai is a compulsory value to consider, however there are others that mana whenua may include.
Whā	Mana Whenua consider for each value identified, the attributes that can be used to assess how this value is being measured and to set baseline states. Attributes can be developed that are more culturally appropriate where required. For each attribute, set limits and targets to support achieving the outcome identified by mana whenua.
Rima	Mana Whenua identify how best monitoring of these takiwā should occur.
Ono	Agree the preferred collaborative process with Council and the wider community, participate fully and equitably across the NOF

Te Mana o Te Wai, as defined by tangata whenua, will provide an important foundation for Hapū and Iwi to lead freshwater management within their takiwā.

Tangata Whenua models of Te Mana o Te Wai can inform:

HAPŪ/ IWI

- Mātauranga Wānanga.
- Mauri restoration and enhancement of taonga including mahinga kai.
- Taiao management plans.
- Mātauranga led cultural monitoring programmes for water quality and ecosystem health.
- Strategies for ensuring access to safe drinking water.
- Land use decisions and access to freshwater for whenua Māori.
- Strategies for working with others to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

- Adoption of Hapū and Iwi defined models of Te Mana o Te Wai as the korowai for freshwater planning processes including resource consents and conditions within rohe.
- Kaitiaki led approaches to compliance, monitoring and enforcement.
- Infrastructure planning.
- Best practice models and case studies.
- Training programmes e.g. RMA commissioner certification for tangata whenua and cultural competence training for non-Māori decision makers.

STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

- Mechanisms for formal recognition of Hapū and Iwi relationships with freshwater. For example: governance arrangements, Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and Joint Management Agreements.
- Partnership approaches to Regional Plan making and implementation including the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM).

The NPSFW provides Councils with updated direction on how to manage freshwater under the RMA. We have provided a set of guidelines for the full NPSFW for Mana Whenua which is also available for more detail.

Councils are now required to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai by engaging with Hapū and Iwi as part of Regional Plan making and implementation.

The NPSFW came into force on 3 September 2020. Councils must implement the NPSFW through their planning instruments as soon as reasonably practicable, but no later than 31 December 2024.

This means that Hapū and Iwi who want to engage in this process will need to develop their own approaches to Te Mana o Te Wai in readiness for engagement with Councils who will lead the development of Regional Plans under the NPSFW.



The NPSFW provides for Te Mana o Te Wai as a concept that refers to the fundamental importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and well-being of the wider environment. It protects the mauri of the wai. Te Mana o te Wai is about restoring and preserving the balance between the water, the wider environment, and the community.

Councils are required to ensure that collaborative processes can demonstrate compliance with the Principles and Hierarchy set out in the NPSFM.

Principles

Six principles of Te Mana o te Wai have been established to inform the implementation of the NPSFM:

1. **Mana whakahaere:** the power, authority, and obligations of tangata whenua to make decisions that maintain, protect, and sustain the health and well-being of, and their relationship with, freshwater.
2. **Kaitiakitanga:** the obligation of tangata whenua to preserve, restore, enhance, and sustainably use freshwater for the benefit of present and future generations.
3. **Manaakitanga:** the process by which tangata whenua show respect, generosity, and care for freshwater and for others.
4. **Governance:** the responsibility of those with authority for making decisions about freshwater to do so in a way that prioritises the health and well-being of freshwater now and into the future.
5. **Stewardship:** the obligation of all New Zealanders to manage freshwater in a way that ensures it sustains present and future generations.
6. **Care and respect:** the responsibility of all New Zealanders to care for freshwater in providing for the health of the nation.

Hierarchy

There is also a hierarchy of obligations in Te Mana o te Wai that prioritises:

- First, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems;
- Second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water); and
- Third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future.

What should Council engagement look like?

Councils will play a critical role in supporting Iwi and Hapū participation in designing collaborative processes for Te Mana o Te Wai to inform Regional Plan making under the NPSFW.

Councils will need to:

- Consider the arrangements that are already in place with Hapū and Iwi.
- Engage early and proactively to understand what processes Iwi and Hapū seek for defining Te Mana o Te Wai in their rohe.
- Provide adequate funding support, information and data to ensure that Iwi and Hapū are able to undertake their own processes in advance of engagement with Councils and communities.

These processes, if successful, will provide improved recognition of Hapū/Iwi relationships with freshwater through a range of pathways including:

- Better outcomes for freshwater management including Te Mana o Te Wai.
- The setting of freshwater objectives and limits that recognise and provide for Hapū and Iwi values and aspirations. For example, this could include Māori freshwater values for freshwater management units¹ and specific descriptions of values and associations with mahinga kai.
- Agreed protocols and methods to enable the appropriate use of Mātauranga Māori within the context of customary use, compliance, monitoring and enforcement.
- Building datasets and information that can better inform future decision making.

Next Steps

Contact your local Council for further information about what support is being provided to initiate discussions about Te Mana o Te Wai and the NPSFM in your rohe. Consider how your Hapū will define Te Mana o te Wai for your takiwā.



This fact sheet is one of a series. Further information about Te Mana o Te Wai and its implementation can be found here at <https://ourlandandwater.nz/temanaotewai> including guidelines and case studies.