



Submission on Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region.

1. Details of submitter: Name(s) and Address for service

Name (First and Last) OR Organisation / Company: Phone:

Wairarapa Water Users Society

021 638 629

Address for service:

(Physical Address OR Email) **Wairarapawaterusers@gmail.com**

Contact person for submission:

(If different to above) **Geoff Copps**

I wish to be heard in support of my submission at a hearing: Yes No

I would consider presenting a joint case at the hearing with others who make a similar submission: Yes No

2. Disclosures:

I could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission: Yes No

Only answer this question if you ticked 'yes' above: Yes No

I am directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:

(a) adversely affects the environment; and

(b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition

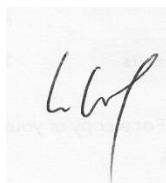
Note: If you are a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission, your right to make a submission may be limited by clause 6(4) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

I confirm that I have permission to provide this information, and that I have read and understood the Privacy Statement:

Signature

Date

14 October 2022



Organisation Description

The Wairarapa Water Users Society was formed in 2011 as an organisation tasked with supporting the efficient and productive use of water in the rural environment of Wairarapa.

It has a stable membership base of around 60 rural water users which is estimated to include approximately 80% of consented rural takes.

It has been a valued and respected submitter to regulatory bodies such as GWRC since its inception. It also provides information and training opportunities to its members.

Provision (i.e. issue, objective, policy, method, definition)	Support/ Oppose	Decision Sought What changes you would like to see?	Reasons Please provide reasons for your views
Chapter 3.4: Fresh water			
Chapter introduction	Partial Support	Removal of the Freshwater Chapter from this review. If the chapter is retained, the Introduction should recognise the Ruamahanga Whaitua Implementation Plan AND the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy	There is no time-critical imperative to review the Freshwater provision of the RPS. The only urgent requirement is the Urban Development provisions. The additions to the chapter introduction are symptomatic of the unnecessary haste being applied to the Plan change. The fact that only 2 out of 6 iwi have managed to provide an Expression of their meaning of Te Mana o Te Wai makes the plan review less than inclusive. The introduction should also recognise the significant community input into the Ruamahanga Whaitua and the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy. Both of these documents have been accepted by GWRC.

<p>Policy 44: Managing water takes and use to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai.</p>	<p>Partial Support</p>	<p>Removal of the new clause (h) there is consideration of alternative water supplies such as storage or capture of rainwater for use during the drier summer months</p>	<p>This would appear to be an additional requirement for new consents and the renewal of existing consents. There are existing limitations to avoid water sources becoming over-allocated and the need for applicants to consider alternatives is unnecessary.</p>
<p>New Policy FW.7</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The aim of this new Policy echo's the principles in the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy. We believe the foundations laid by this policy would be enhanced if it became an Objective.</p>	<p>The recognition of both Nature-based and built solutions is vital in allowing water to assist in achieving community wellbeing in Wairarapa and the rest of the region.</p>
<p>Method 48</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Removal of (f) as it appears to suggest that a new water allocation policy that is outside the current RMA is considered.</p> <p>If the provision is retained, any review process should include having the current water users at the table with the ability to provide information and influence the decisions made.</p> <p>A factor in the consideration of alternatives needs to be the value of assets that may become "stranded" if access to water is reduced or removed.</p>	<p>The consideration of alternatives to the "first in first served" principle in the RMA would seem to be beyond the remit of a Regional Council. If a new fundamental principle is proposed, this should be left to Central Government as they hold the power to create law.</p> <p>This would also seem to cut across the overall review of the RMA that is currently underway with the Government.</p> <p>The potential exists for this change from "first in first served" to be applied to existing consents, particularly if the Council believes that the current consents create an unfair allocation.</p>