

Waikato Regional Plan Change 1

Waikato | September 2023

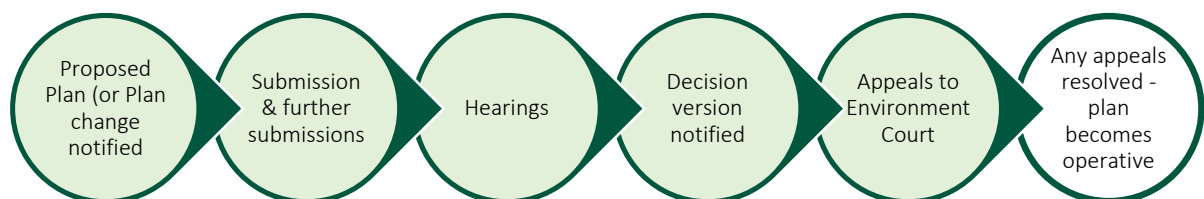
What is Plan Change 1?

Plan Change 1 is a change to the regional plan to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPSFM). The NPSFM is part of the Government's freshwater reforms and sets an 80-year vision for improving water quality across New Zealand.

Key changes from Plan Change 1 include:

- Introducing short-term and long-term targets for nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and *Coli*.
- Rules requiring all commercial vegetable activities to get consent.
- Introducing farm environment plans based on risk-management and Good Management Practice to achieve short-term water quality goals.
- Requiring a Nitrogen Leaching Loss Rate to be calculated as part of the consent requirement. The loss rate is a benchmark in the farm environment plan.

Following consultation in 2016 and hearings in 2019, a decision was notified April 2020. PC1 is now at appeals stage. HortNZ is participating in the Environment Court hearings. Following the Environment Court decision, the plan will become fully operative.



What does it mean for growers?

Although the plan change is still “proposed”, the rules have “legal effect” and must be complied with.

- Waikato Regional Council will be enforcing the rules notified 22 April 2020.
- If you have a resource consent, you will need to reapply under the new rules.
- All activities that need consent are considered permitted until the plan change is fully operative.

- Once the plan becomes operative, different sub-catchments have different deadlines for when consent must be applied for. This are in Table 3.11-3 of Plan Change 1.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Waikato Regional Council website](#)
- Keep an eye on [HortNZ's website](#)
- HortNZ contact: Michelle Sands (michelle.sands@hortnz.co.nz)