

Water Quality Targets

Horizons Region | February 2024

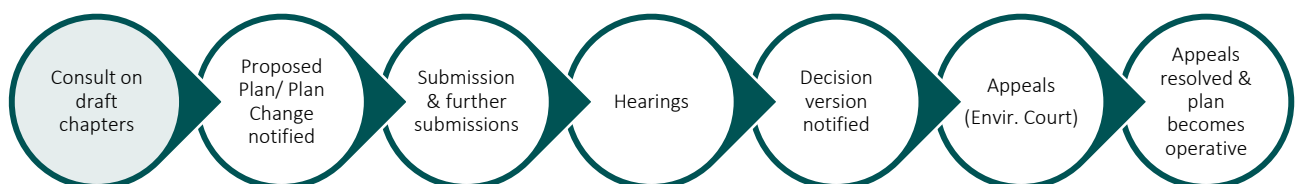
What is the draft water quality targets consultation?

The Draft Water Quality Targets consultation outlines draft water quality targets to achieve environmental outcomes that have been identified for freshwater resources in the region from previous consultations. This consultation is focused on water quality targets for rivers and streams within FMU and excludes Lakes.

The visions, values, target attribute states and level of ambition will form the basis of the NPSFM plan changes which are now due to be notified by December 2027.

The Regional Council have set a timeline of 30 years to achieve the draft targets and have sought specific feedback about the level of ambition and if the timeframes to achieve the targets are right.

There was no economic or social impact information to support the draft water quality targets which means the community do not have full information about the impact or scale of changes required to meet these targets.



Summary of HortNZ submission

HortNZ do not believe enough information has been made available to understand the implications of these water quality targets. There is no social or economic impact information to help provide the community with an understanding of the consequences of the targets.

HortNZ believes it is the community's view on what targets to set outside of the minimum required under the NPSFM. Proceeding with targets based solely on 'blue sky' visioning processes is not adequate direction from a community to set all plans towards. Community set those ambitions based on no information or idea of the consequence and thus have not had the ability to reflect on what trade-offs or compromises they are willing to accept before confirming a target.

There needs to be greater clarity on the target attributes state, social impacts and consequences with the associated level of the target attribute state, and the impact and distribution of the economic and social impacts over the region associated with the design

of the limits. For example the reductions required, how they are to be achieved, what is required of community and the timeframes improvement will be achieved and then seen with understanding of any lags. There is consequences of being more ambitious and it is critical the community have full understanding of their options, and consequences. HortNZ sees the use of Freshwater Farm Plans as being one tool that can help achieve

HortNZ believes there needs to be a longer timeframe to achieve the targets to allow for technology development and the cost to be spread over a longer timeframe.

There needs to be active community discussion about areas where the water quality is already close to, or exceeds the national bottom lines in its natural state.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Horizons Regional Council Oranga Wai - [Home | Have Your Say \(horizons.govt.nz\)](https://www.horizons.govt.nz/)
- Keep an eye on HortNZ's website - [Home | Horticulture New Zealand – Ahumāra Kai Aotearoa \(hortnz.co.nz\)](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/)
- Contact: Leanne Roberts - leanne.roberts@hortnz.co.nz