

# Wellington Regional Policy Statement - Plan Change 1

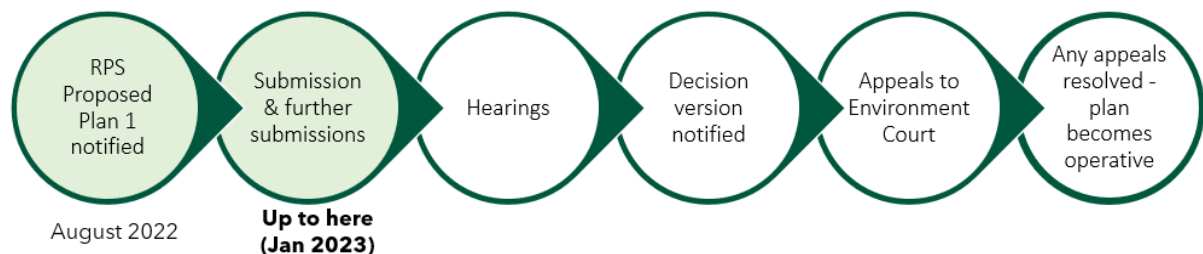
Wellington region | January 2023

## Summary of HortNZ's submission

### What is Plan Change 1?

Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region ('RPS PC1') is an amendment to the existing RPS to account for national direction and issues facing the region. The focus of RPS PC1 is on urban development, freshwater, climate change, indigenous biodiversity, and natural character.

Overview of the plan change process:



### What is a regional policy statement (RPS)?

Each region is required to have an RPS - they provide an overview of resource management issues in the region and policies and methods to achieve integrated management. They do not include rules - but provide direction to regional and district plans.

Wellington's RPS was made operative in 2013 - this plan change updates sections of this document.

### Key changes /provisions

**Urban development** - RPS PC1 includes direction for urban direction to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Urban Development, which requires the RPS to enable more urban development and housing intensification - the general approach is one that promotes public transport oriented, compact urban design.

**Freshwater** - amendments to implement part of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM), including:

- New objective into the RPS reflecting Te Mana o Te Wai
- Te Mana o Te Wai expressions for Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.
- Amendment of existing freshwater provisions to reflect the NPSFM

- Direction to district and regional plans on how to manage the effects of urban development on freshwater.

*Note: RPS PC 1 as notified did not include long-term visions for freshwater (which are required by the NPSFM) however some long-term visions are sought as part of further submissions. The review of the Natural Resources Plan in 2023-24 will be the main mechanism for giving effect to the remainder of the NPSFM.*

**Climate change** - RPS PC1 includes an objective that the region is a low-emission and climate-resilience region by 2050, and emissions reduction targets (by 2030 contribute to 50% reduction, to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050), as well as:

- Introduction of climate change adaptation and mitigation focused provisions.
- Relating to Natural Hazards: amendments to the existing hazard provisions have been made to account for the important links to social and environmental values for better integrated management of natural hazard mitigation and adaptation activities
- Relating Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions: direction to avoid increases in greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, and reducing emissions where practicable, methods relating to supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation.

**Indigenous biodiversity** - direction and provisions to maintain and enhance indigenous ecosystems and habitats, provide for the critical role that indigenous ecosystems play in the provision of ecosystem services, and more fully recognise and provide for Māori values.

## Summary of HortNZ submission

Key theme of HortNZ's submission	Summary of HortNZ's submission
Food security and food production values	Submission sought inclusion of food security and food production values in policy direction (including in the context of climate change and impacts of natural hazards and water security, and the need to strengthen resilience).
Highly productive land (HPL)	During the submission period, the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPSHPL) was gazetted, HortNZ's submission sought greater focus on highly productive land and that the provisions of this national direction be reflected in the proposed changes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisions that protect HPL from inappropriate use and enable it's use for primary production.</li> <li>• Recognition of effects of loss, fragmentation and reserve sensitivity effects on HPL.</li> </ul>
Climate change mitigation and adaptation	HortNZ's submission sought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of impacts of climate change on food production values</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistency with upcoming national direction for process heat</li> <li>• Provisions that enable land use change (e.g. to horticulture) as part of climate change mitigation/adaptation, rather than 'punitive' (avoid) policy focus.</li> <li>• Seeking to enable water storage options, and that regional water supply strategy covers both urban and rural communities</li> </ul>
<p>Freshwater provisions that start implementing the NPSFM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HortNZ raised concerns in their submission that the range of provisions identified to go through the 'Freshwater Planning Process' was too broad i.e., not all clauses freshwater related.</li> <li>• Provisions repetitive of the NPSFM (sometimes incorrectly paraphrasing).</li> <li>• Seeking food security be considered alongside other uses for essential human health.</li> </ul>

## WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Greater Wellington Regional Council's website: <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/plans-policies-and-bylaws/updating-our-regional-policy-statement-and-natural-resources-plan/regional-policy-statement-change-1/>
- Keep an eye on HortNZ's website: <https://www.hortnz.co.nz/environment/regions/north-island/wellington/>