

# Reflections of state of the environment reporting from a regional council perspective (Panel discussion – Monitoring and reporting)

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1. SOE (State of the Environment) monitoring can but not often meet the needs of policy decisions (used the example of Lake Taupo science)
2. How is SOE information/data used
  - a. care required not to “cry wolf” and over interpret trends in water quality data. (e.g., an apparent 5-yr trend in Taupo water quality turned out to be cyclic)
  - b. Care required to not wait until they are ‘supremely’ confident about a declining trend before bringing to attention of managers – by which time the environment may be degraded. The precautionary principle would say managers ‘had’ to act when Taupo was identified as ‘worsening’.