



Freshwater reform – 2013 and beyond

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Landcare Freshwater Policy
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New Zealand Government

Freshwater reform
2013 and beyond

The future of fresh water

- Fresh water is our greatest asset (after people!)
 - It underpins our wealth and our well-being
- It is a taonga of intrinsic value to all New Zealanders
- Opportunities exist to use it more sustainably
 - Empower community choices and decisions
 - To stop the decline and improve freshwater quality
 - Economic growth within environmental limits

The Journey

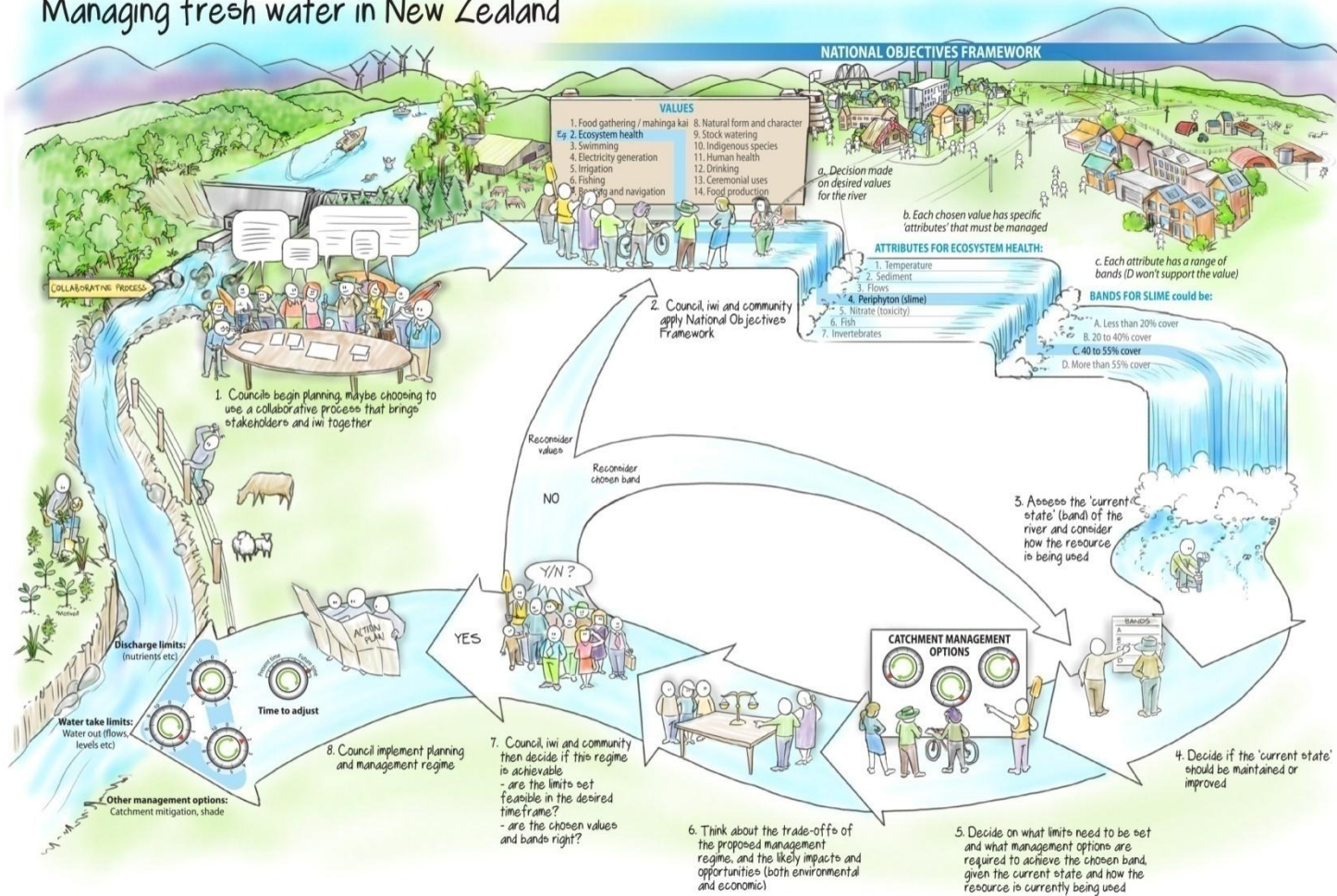
- We're on this journey together – it will be a generation of reforms
- Government has taken a three-pronged approach to freshwater management since 2009:
 - Comprehensive work programme led by officials
 - Engagement with the Freshwater Iwi Leaders Group
 - Land and Water Forum
- Began with the New Start for Fresh Water strategy, which in 2011 initiated:
 - National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
 - Fresh Start for Fresh Water Clean-up Fund
 - Irrigation Acceleration Fund
- Clear message from ILG, LAWF, councils and stakeholders to 'get on with it'

Foundational steps – Government's proposals

- First things first and realistic timing:
 - Foundational steps now
 - Staged reforms over coming years
 - Full system in place within a generation to ensure sustainable management of our fresh water

A new way of working together

Managing fresh water in New Zealand



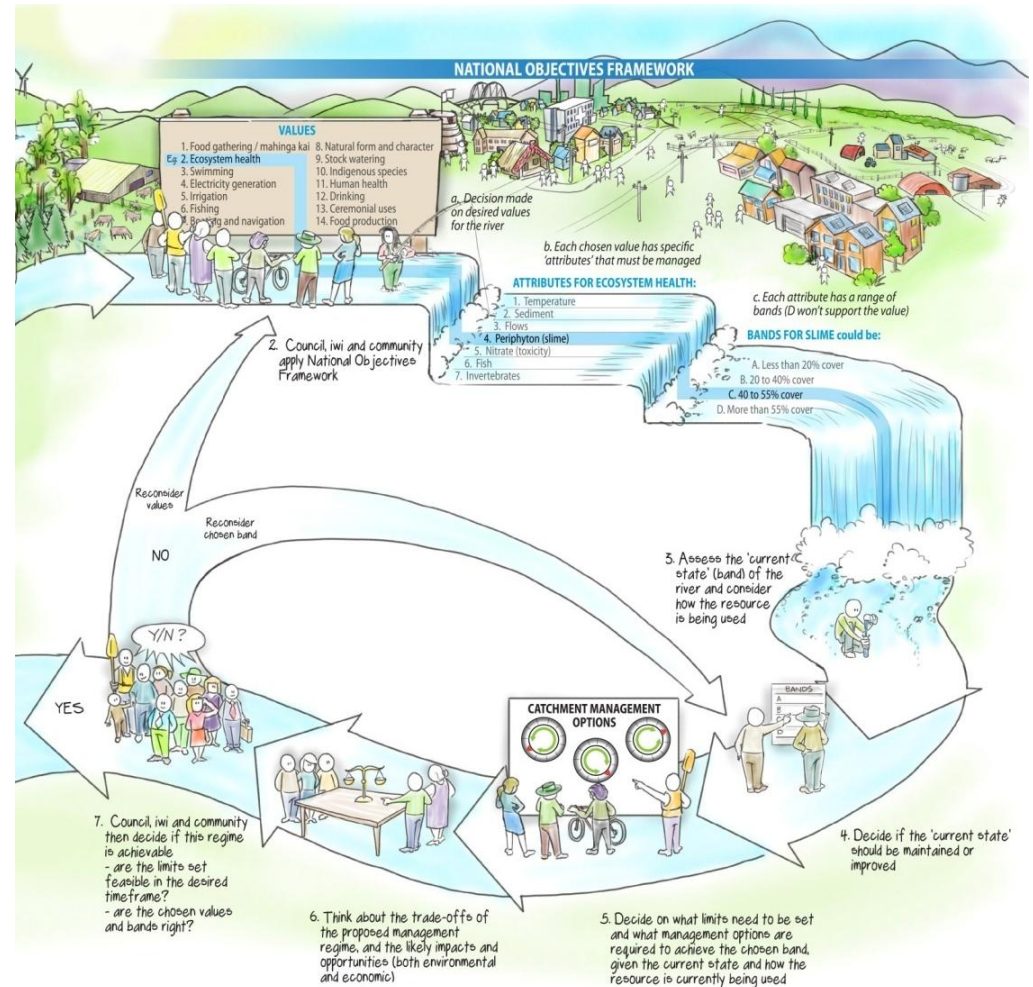
Proposed alternative collaborative planning process

- Why collaboration?
- Emerging practice – Canterbury, Waikato, Greater Wellington and Hawkes Bay Regional Councils
- Overseas experience in resolving ‘wicked’ problems
- Local solutions for local issues



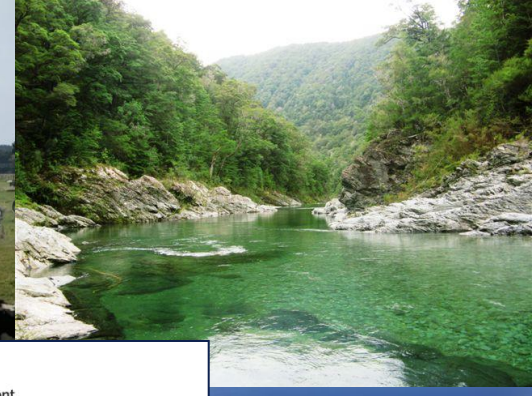
National framework for setting objectives and limits

- Community decides values and uses for its fresh water
- Standard measures for freshwater quality and quantity
- National bottom lines:
 - Ecosystem health
 - Human health




Next steps

- Still lots to be done!
 - Ongoing engagement with iwi/Māori
 - Support and guidance for councils implementing the NPS-FM
 - Work on outstanding policy issues, particularly in relation to managing within limits
 - Continuing monitoring and evaluation of reforms



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Questions?

