RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT
REGULATION OF FRESHWATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

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• How is freshwater being regulated now?
• Why is this not working to provide the water quality and quantity that we all want?
• How can regulation be improved? What are the government’s latest proposals for reform?
Managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while:

(a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations;

(b) safeguarding the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and eco systems;

(c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.
By every regional council making or changing regional plans to the extent needed to ensure the plans establish freshwater objectives and set environmental flows and/or levels for all bodies of freshwater in its region (except ponds and naturally ephemeral water bodies) to give effect to the objectives in this National Policy Statement, having regard to at least the following:

(a) the reasonably foreseeable impacts of climate change;

(b) the connection between water bodies.
Freshwater reform
2013 and beyond
Proposed amendments
to the National Policy Statement
for Freshwater Management 2011

A discussion document
“The key tenet of the Government’s freshwater reform programme is that improving our water management system will require solutions that start now and build over the long term. There is no quick fix.”