

## **Council submission on Action for Healthy Waterways**

**Meeting:** Kaipara District Council  
**Date of meeting:** 11 December 2019  
**Reporting officer:** Virginia Smith, Policy Analyst

### **Purpose/Ngā whāinga**

To retrospectively approve the submission sent to the Ministry for the Environment on behalf of the Kaipara District Council regarding the *Action for Healthy Waterways* consultation.

### **Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

In September, the Ministry for the Environment released the *Action for healthy waterways* package, with submissions closing at the end of October. Staff drafted a response (available at Attachment A) and submitted it by the due date. It was submitted on the proviso that Council had not provided approval, and that this would be sought post the election.

### **Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga**

That Kaipara District Council:

- a) Approves the Council submission for the Ministry for the Environment's "Action for healthy waterways (October 2019)" at Attachment A.

### **Context/Horopaki**

In October 2019, the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) released the *Action for healthy waterways* package that contained the draft National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, proposed National Environmental Standards for Freshwater, and the draft Stock Exclusion Section 360 Regulations.

Staff drafted a submission and provided it to the MfE prior to the due date. The submission ensured that a District perspective was given. The MfE were advised that Council approval would be sought post the elections.

The submission supports the Government's proposed objectives to;

- Stop further degradation of New Zealand's freshwater resources
- Reverse past damage to bring New Zealand's freshwater resources, waterways, and ecosystems to a healthy state within a generation.

The submission, however, highlighted issues such as the lack of procedural practice, and suggested drafting improvements that could be made. Recommendations were made in the submission.

## Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

### Options

1. Approve the Council's submission for Action for healthy waterways (October 2019).  
This is the recommended approach. There are no implications from a financial, policy and planning or risk perspective. The Government is the decision-maker in this area and will take views in to account.
2. Do not approve the Council's submission for Action for healthy waterways (October 2019).  
Again, there are no implications from a financial, policy and planning or risk perspective of the submission.  
If this is the decision of Council, staff would withdraw the submission from the process.

## Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda on the website.

## Next steps/E whaiake nei

Staff will advise the MfE of the decision made by Council on this submission.

## Assuming adoption, staff will provide Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

Number	Title
A	Action for healthy waterways (October 2019)

Virginia Smith, 21 November 2019