



# ATUATANGA AND TE TAI AO

A Te Taitokerau worldview on water management  
and ethical decision making

*Troy Brockbank and April Nordstrom*





## April Nordstrom

Ngati Kahangunu ki te Wairoa

Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori  
Northland Regional Council



## Troy Brockbank

Te Rarawa, Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi,  
Ngātiwai, Ngāti Kahu, Pākehā

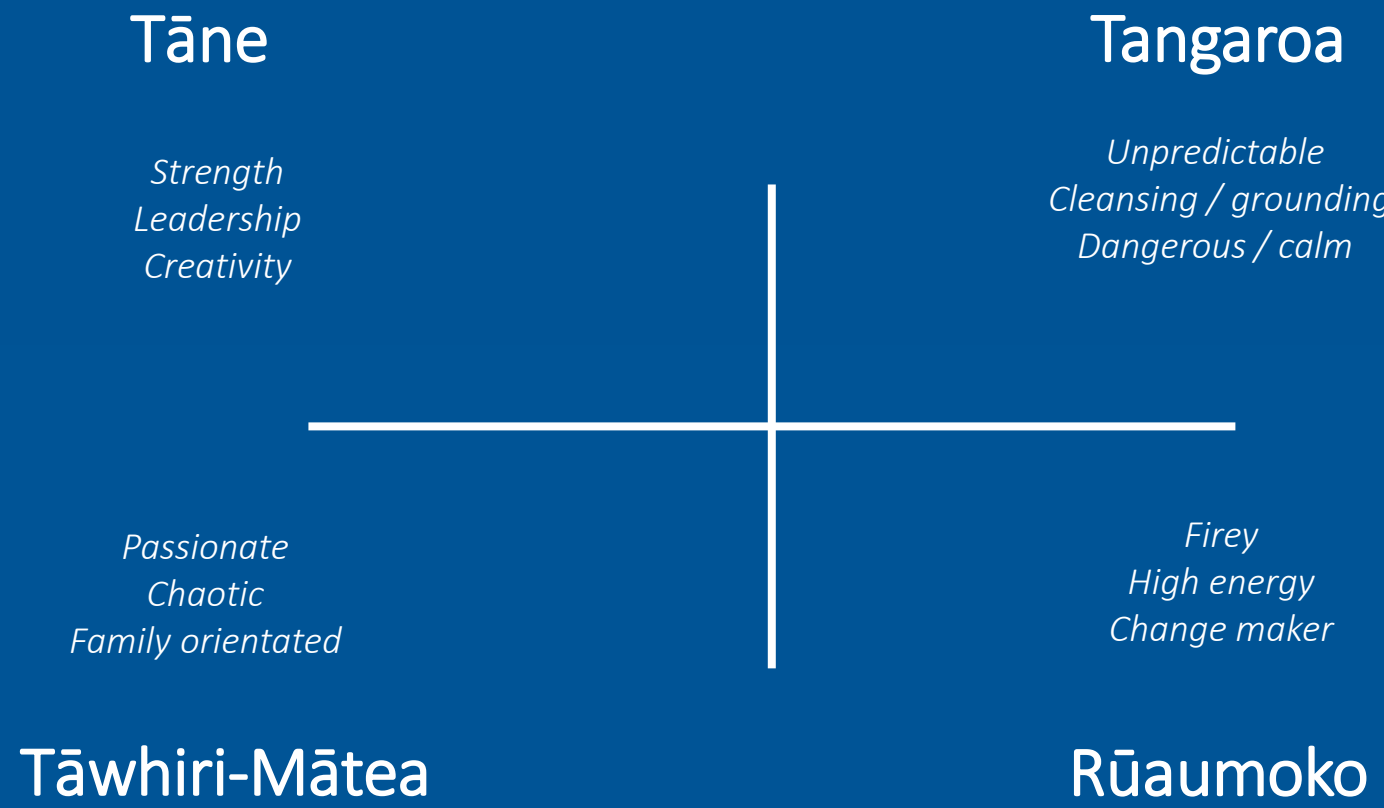
Te Mana o te Wai Lead (Beca)  
Tangata whenua water advisory  
group member (Northland Regional  
Council)



Ko wai au? Who am I?  
The waters that you whakapapa to.



*Atua have distinct personalities,  
how they interact with te taiao and ourselves*



# *The cultural significance and importance of Wai*

Wai has mana given to it by the atua, the mauri of wai changes depending on the system that moves through.

The biggest contributor to the changes in mauri of wai is humans. Wai does not need us to obtain mauri ora however, humans are conceived and nourished and made by wai. Humans need wai to survive.

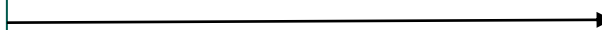
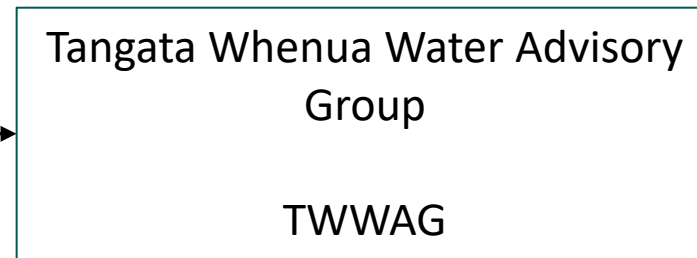
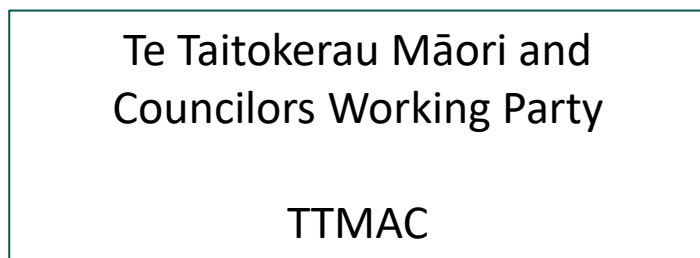
How wai / water is being managed, has caused the necessary weaving together of two world views.



# National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management 2020



- Fundamental concept of Te Mana o te Wai
- NOF process required consultation at every step
- Enable the application of a diversity of system of values and knowledge, mātauranga Māori to the management of freshwater
- Ki uta ki tai – integrated approach to freshwater management



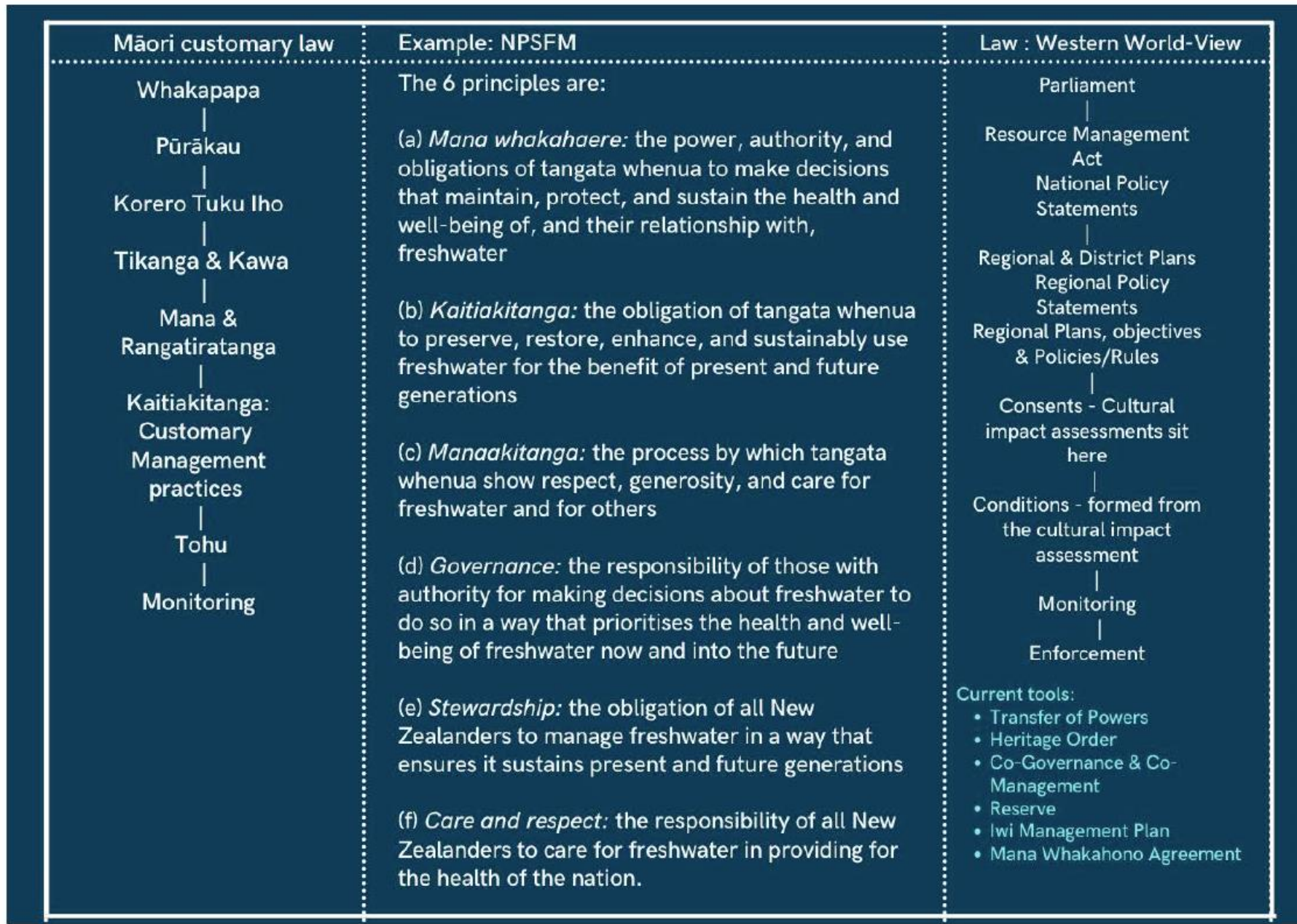
# *Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group*

- Established in 2020 to provide feedback on the NPS-FM and how to implement in Te Taitokerau
- Group of individuals that all whakapapa back to Te Taitokerau, the members are kaitiaki and have careers that revolve around wai
- Developed a series of reports and case study that provide a tangata whenua perspective
- Does not diminish the voice of mana whenua, but provides a platform for others to be able to speak on and provide feedback



Co-chairs of TWWAG Delaraine Armstrong and Dave Milner

# High-level overview of Māori Customary Law and Western Law





# TWWAG Reports

2022

## Te Mana me te Mauri o te Wai: A Discussion Document for Te Tai Tokerau



AUTHORS: TUI SHORTLAND & KAHU ARMSTRONG  
Awatea Organics  
3/15/2022

Scan to have a look at the reports here



## VOICES OF NGA WAI MAORI KI TE TAI TOKERAU: A CASE STUDY REPORT

Case study report prepared on behalf of:  
Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group and  
Northland Regional Council

Authors: Alyx Pivac and Toni Pivac-Hohaja



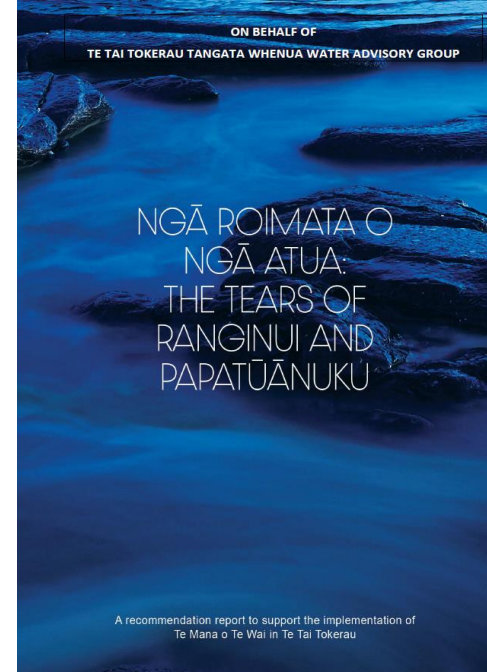
## Whakapapa-Based Methodologies

Attribute and Baseline States & Hapori Wai Action Plan



Tihema | December 2023

Prepared for the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group  
Written by Kelly Moana Murphy



ON BEHALF OF  
TE TAI TOKERAU TANGATA WHENUA WATER ADVISORY GROUP

## NGĀ ROIMATA O NGĀ ATUA: THE TEARS OF RANGINUI AND PAPATŪĀNUKU

A recommendation report to support the implementation of  
Te Mana o Te Wai in Te Tai Tokerau

## Te Taitokerau Draft Freshwater Plan Change – Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group Feedback

Prepared for  
Northland Regional Council

April 2024



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# Te Mana me te Mauri o te wai

TŪ KAPUA & TĀWHIRIMĀTEA  
Cloaking Ranginui | Condensation



HINEPŪKOHURANGI  
Mist & Fog | Evaporation



TEIHORANGI = HURUTERANGI  
The heavens - Ngaroto Wakamaru  
Kāorangi | Hineteihorangi & Hinewai | Precipitation

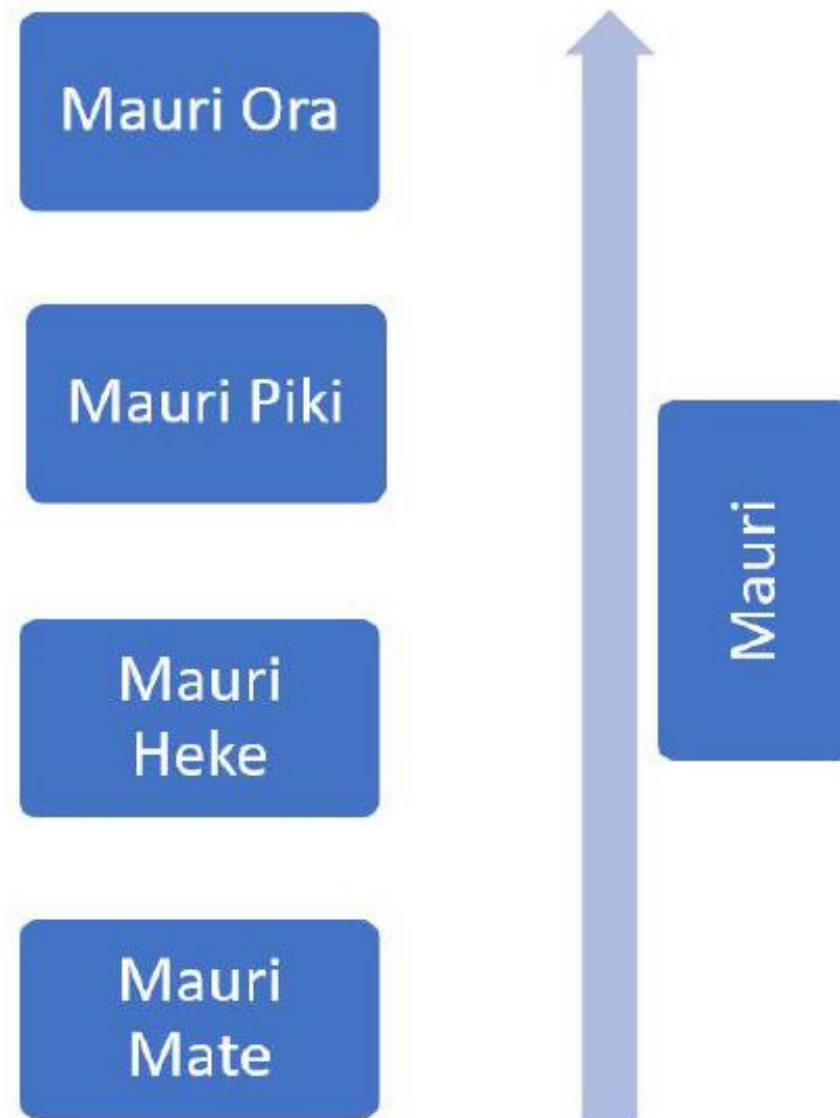


PARAWHENUAMEA  
Daughter of Tane Te Waiora and Hinetuparimaunga |  
Married Kiwa | Collection

- The spiritual well-being and whakapapa of Te Hurihanga Wai is prioritized, respected and protected
- Given NRC a direction to include Te Aō Māori, mātauranga Māori, mana tiaki
- Start to see wai as a holistic part of Te Taiao, and not a resource to be managed
- The stage 2 report, is the bare minimum that Māori deserve

# Fundamental ideas from TWWAG

- Inclusion of 19 tangata whenua freshwater values
- 9 new monitoring attributes including cultural health and rangatiratanga
- Freshwater planning needs to be done at a hapori wai / rōhe awa level, rather than region wide
- Wai should have legal personhood so it has the same rights as humans
- The increase in the amount of cultural impact assessments for freshwater
- Targeted water allocation policy



# Attribute Example – Te Oranga o te Repo

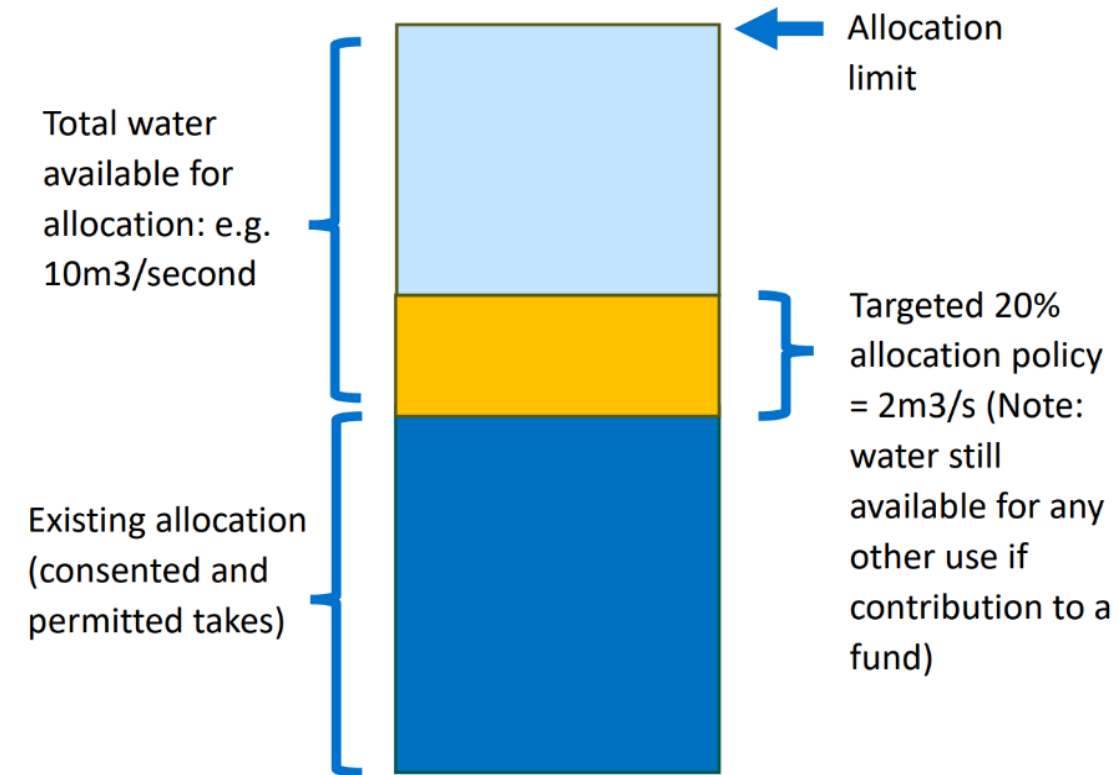
Attribute Table A6: Repo / Wetland Health

Value (and component)	Māori freshwater values
Freshwater body type	All
Attribute unit	Repo / Wetland Health
Attribute band and description	Narrative attribute state
<b>A</b>	Excellent / Mauri ora
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Repo / Wetland health is excellent and ecological / flood mitigation functions are optimal.</li> <li>b. The vitality of the wai is healthy.</li> <li>c. There is an abundance and diversity of lush riparian vegetation, indigenous flora, fauna, and kai species for tangata whenua to access sustainably.</li> <li>d. The area is teeming with native birds.</li> <li>e. The area is pest and invasive species free.</li> <li>f. Te matangaro o tangata whenua is elevated through te tairongotanga (touch/feel, sound, sight, smell, taste) o te wai.</li> <li>g. Tangata whenua return to the area regularly for ceremony, to gather, to swim and access the healing abilities of wai.</li> <li>h. Kawa and tikanga are in place to assist enhancement of mauri.</li> </ul>	
<b>B</b>	Good / Mauri piki
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Repo / Wetland health is reasonable and ecological / flood mitigation functions are generally good.</li> <li>b. The vitality of the wai is somewhat healthy.</li> <li>c. Riparian vegetation, indigenous flora, fauna, and kai species are present but not in a state of abundance.</li> <li>d. Native birds are generally seen and heard.</li> <li>e. Evidence of harm from pests and invasive species.</li> <li>f. Te matangaro o tangata whenua is somewhat elevated through te tairongotanga (touch/feel, sound, sight, smell, taste) o te wai.</li> <li>g. Tangata whenua return to the area intermittently for ceremony to gather, to swim and to access the healing properties of wai but this may depend on the condition of the wai and surrounding eco-systems.</li> <li>h. Kawa and tikanga are in place to assist enhancement of mauri.</li> </ul>	
<b>Te Tai Tokerau Bottom Line</b>	
<b>C</b>	Diminished and impaired / Mauri heke
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Repo / Wetland health is diminished or impaired but some ecological / flood mitigation functions exist.</li> <li>b. Life giving and healing properties are in decline and the wai struggles to sustain the surrounding eco-systems.</li> <li>c. There is little riparian vegetation, indigenous flora, fauna, and kai species present.</li> <li>d. Native birds are rarely seen and heard.</li> <li>e. The area is swarming with pests and invasive species.</li> <li>f. Te matangaro o tangata whenua is diminished through te tairongotanga (touch/feel, sound, sight, smell, taste) o te wai.</li> <li>g. Tangata whenua do not return to this site often.</li> <li>h. Kawa and tikanga are generally absent and do not assist enhancement of mauri.</li> </ul>	
<b>D</b>	Poor / Mauri noho / mate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Repo / Wetland health is poor and ecological / flood mitigation functioning limited.</li> <li>b. Surrounding eco-systems are negatively impacted.</li> <li>c. There is little to no riparian vegetation, indigenous flora, fauna, and kai species present.</li> <li>d. Native birds are not seen and heard.</li> <li>e. The area is overtaken with pests and invasive species.</li> <li>f. Te matangaro o tangata whenua is negatively impacted through te tairongotanga (touch/feel, sound, sight, smell, taste) o te wai.</li> <li>g. Tangata whenua do not return to this site.</li> <li>h. Kawa and tikanga are absent and mauri is degraded.</li> </ul>	

## Advisory Note:

- (a) Tangata monitor this attribute. Mechanism needs to be developed to enable this to happen such as a s.33 transfer of powers or a joint management agreement.
- (b) Tangata whenua will need to determine the best percentage for each - species, birds, tohu.

# Water Allocation Policy



## Policy 5.3 (amended)

Where primary allocation is available for extraction, the Northland Regional Council will allocate 20% of the total wai available in every allocation unit, for use of the following activities:

- a) Environmental enhancement
- b) Wai for domestic use by marae and papakainga
- c) Any other use of wai, provided that:
  - It includes contribution to a Te Mana o te Wai fund
  - The fund be used to provide for development of Māori well-being
- d) The development of Māori owned land and land returned to a Post-Settlement Governance Entity through a Treaty Settlement



Scan to have a look at the background document.

# *Partnerships and participation*

## *Things to consider when you are undertaking new mahi*

- Engagement has levels, choose early engagement and discuss the mahi with tangata whenua **before** it is commenced
- Use a tikanga process to undertake your mahi and create enduring not transactional relationships
- Consider in your own role how you uphold the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Think about how you can enhance the mana and mauri of the wai (this also means the people)
- Recognising that it will take time to weave different world views together

*Take biscuits for tea, korero with kuia and kaumatua,  
and do the dishes.*

Ngā mihi Thank you  
He pātai? Any questions?



# Northland

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau



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