

# POLICY ROLLOUT FOR SOUTHLAND

## – USING SYSTEMS APPROACHES

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As Environment Southland nears completion of the first phase of regional plan development, with the Water and Land Plan about to have its appeals heard, the council has been working on the second integrated phase. The People, Water and Land Programme which is the Council's integrated approach to freshwater management in Southland that is designed to improve our land and water. The programme is a partnership between Environment Southland and TAMI., with a vision to "inspire change to improve Southland's water and land". It recognises that we will need to adapt our activities to reduce the adverse effects that land use practices have on the environment, and enabling our economy and society.

Taking this step is critical if Southland is to be more resilient and sustainable in the future. The Programme aims to enable Southlanders to improve their water and land through knowledge, decision-making and on-ground action. As a result there is a clear focus on supporting and enabling action on the ground (which has been referred to as implementation first) supported by the regulatory framework to set limits.

The programme consists of three main workstreams to ensure integrated management. The first is Action on the Ground, which is focused on catchment management activities that improve our land and water environment and help build resilient communities. The other workstreams are Values and Objectives and a Regional Forum, which are needed to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) 2017. The Values and Objectives workstream precedes and will inform the Regional Forum workstream and the two workstreams will guide Action on the Ground. It is recognised that there are dependencies within each of the workstreams to ensure effective water and land management.

These workstreams work towards identifying and implementing regulatory and non-regulatory methods to achieve the community's values and objectives by 2021/22. A plan change will be required and notified in order to meet the NPSFM requirement of setting limits by 2025. This in effect is the second phase of the plan development where limits within a regulatory context are developed.

**Editor's Note:** An extended manuscript has not been submitted for this presentation.