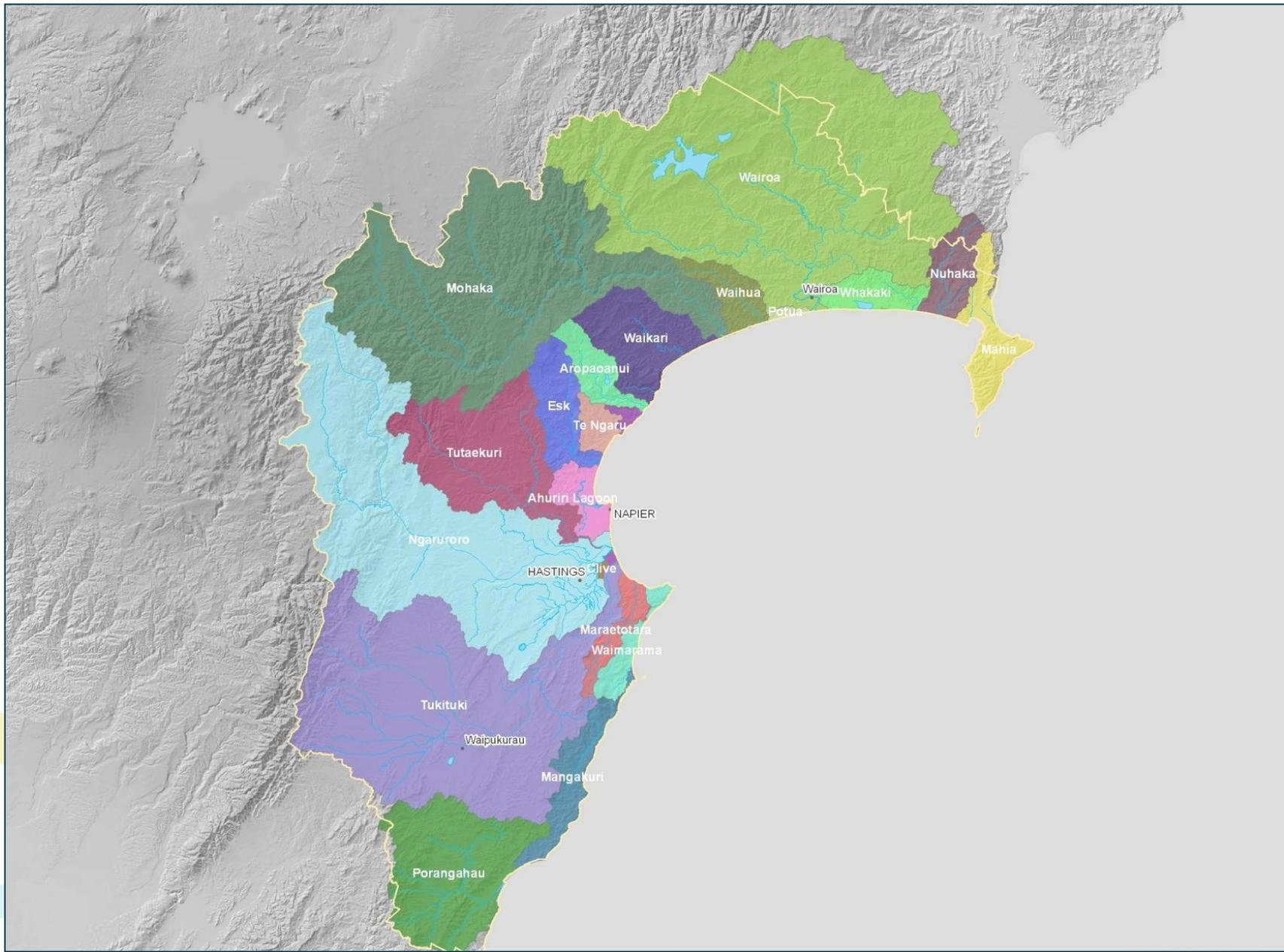


# Water Symposium

1 June 2017

## A regional council perspective on freshwater management

Liz Lambert  
Group Manager  
External Relations



# Hawke's Bay's freshwater resources

**24** river catchments

**7** major rivers – Wairoa, Mohaka, Esk, Tutaekuri, Ngaruroro, Tukituki, Waipawa

**3** major lakes – Waikareiti, Waikaremoana, Tutira

**2** major aquifer systems – Heretaunga Plains and the Ruataniwha Plains

**13** major flood control and drainage schemes

**239** kms of stopbanks to protect urban areas and rural land from river overflows

# Hawke's Bay's freshwater resources

**2261** resource consents to take and use  
ground and surface water

**246** data collection sites

**3000+** water samples analysed each year



# Local Government Act

Regional councils' responsibilities include –

- Sustainable regional well-being.
- **Managing the effects of using freshwater, land, air and coastal waters, by developing regional policy statements and the issuing of consents.**
- **Managing rivers, mitigating soil erosion and flood control.**
- Regional emergency management and civil defence preparedness.
- Regional land transport planning and contracting passenger services.
- Harbour navigation and safety, oil spills and other marine pollution.

District and city councils' responsibilities include –

- Sustainable district well-being.
- **The provision of local infrastructure, including water, sewerage, stormwater, roads.**
- Environmental safety and health, district emergency management and civil defence preparedness, building control, public health inspections and other environmental health matters.
- **Controlling the effects of land use** (including hazardous substances, natural hazards and indigenous biodiversity), noise, and the effects of activities on the surface of lakes and rivers.

# Resource Management Act

## Regional Councils are responsible for :

- all activities in the coastal marine area
- **discharges of contaminants into** or onto to land, air or **water** and **discharges of water into water**
- **water takes and uses (both surface and groundwater)**
- **the damming and diversion of water**
- **land use for soil conservation, water quality/quantity purposes**
- natural hazards mitigation
- hazardous substances

# Resource Management Act Responsibilities:

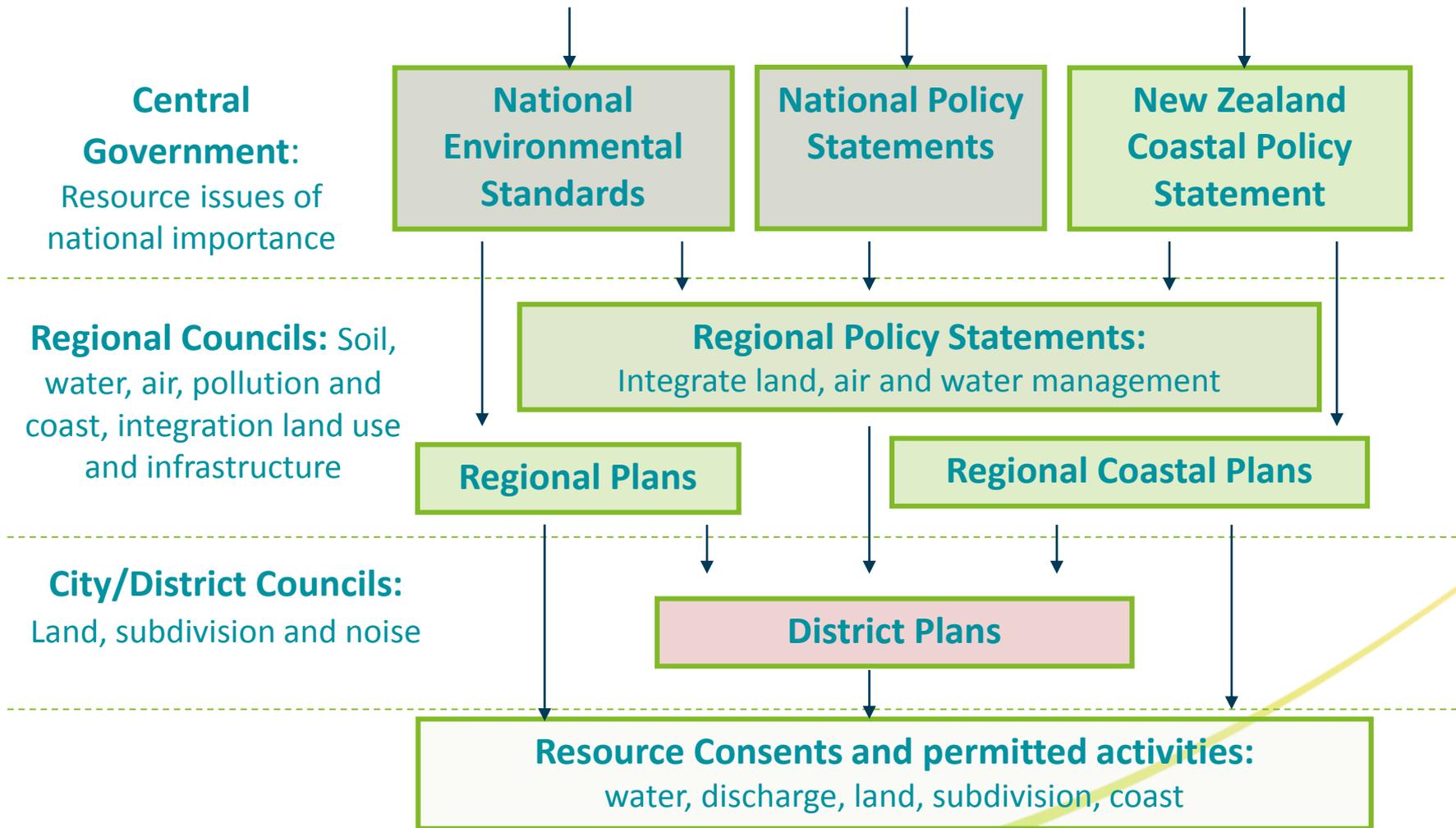


Figure courtesy of Gina Sweetman (Sweetman Planning Services Ltd)

# Resource Management Act

Regional Council ability to influence outcomes and activities is through two processes:

- Planning involves the development of outcomes based on community values, consistency with the national planning framework and a scientific understanding of natural resources.
- Resource consents – decisions are determined by the policies and rules in our regional planning documents

# Crown Research Institutes

Each of the 7 CRIs is aligned with a productive sector of the economy or a grouping of natural resources:

**AgResearch** (Pastoral Agriculture Research Institute)

**Plant & Food Research** (Institute for Plant and Food Research)

**ESR** (Institute of Environmental Science and Research)

**Scion** (NZ Forest Research Institute Ltd)

**GNS Science** (Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences)

**Landcare Research**

**NIWA** (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research)

+  
 -

Show me...

- All sites
- Air Quality sites
- Coastal sites
- Lakes sites
- River Quality sites
- Water Quantity sites
- Clear selection

Whangarei  
 Auckland  
 Hamilton  
 New Plymouth  
 Gisborne  
 Napier  
 Palmerston North  
 Wellington  
 Nelson  
 Blenheim  
 New Zealand  
 Greymouth  
 Hokitika  
 Christchurch  
 Ashburton  
 Timaru  
 Queenstown  
 Dannevirke  
 Dunedin  
 Invercargill

Leaflet | Terms and Feedback

## LAWA connects you with New Zealand's environment through sharing scientific data

Search for a site near you



Near me now



Explore topics



Can I swim here?



**TOXIC ALGAE**

What do you need to look out for?

**FACTSHEET**

Why is air quality important?

**ENEWSLETTER**

Signup for the LAWA eNewsletter

**FACTSHEET**

How is air quality measured?

**FACTSHEET**

Urban waterways

### Explore topics

**AIR QUALITY**

Clean, healthy air is important to all of us. Find out more about air quality in your region ▶

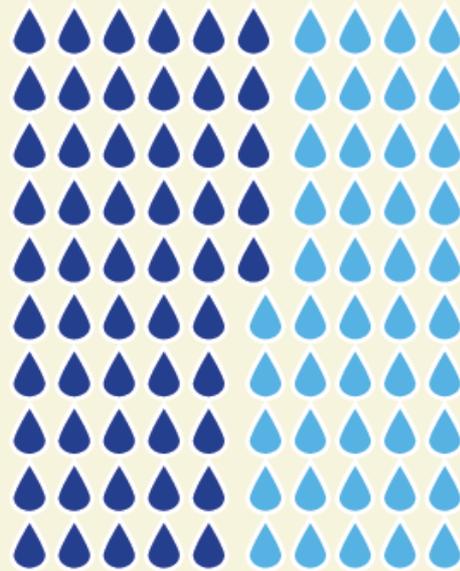
**CAN I SWIM HERE?**

We have many rivers, lakes & beaches to swim in. Find out the water quality at sites near you ▶

# Let's talk Heretaunga Plains

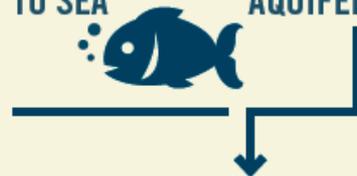


**19.7  
BILLION**  
CUBIC METRES OF RAIN FALLS  
IN HAWKE'S BAY EACH YEAR\*



🔹 OVER HALF  
OF THIS GOES  
STRAIGHT OUT  
TO SEA

🔹 THE REST  
MOVES THROUGH  
THE HAWKE'S BAY  
AQUIFERS



**ONE OF THOSE IS THE  
HERETAUNGA AQUIFER  
(ABOUT 3.4 BILLION CUBIC METRES)\*\***



**OF THIS RESOURCE, ABOUT  
5% IS CONSENTED FOR USE**

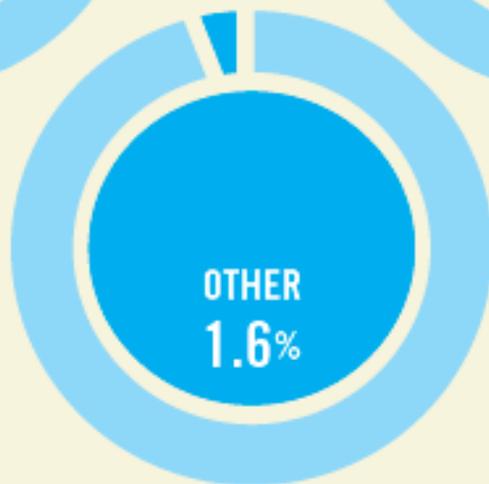
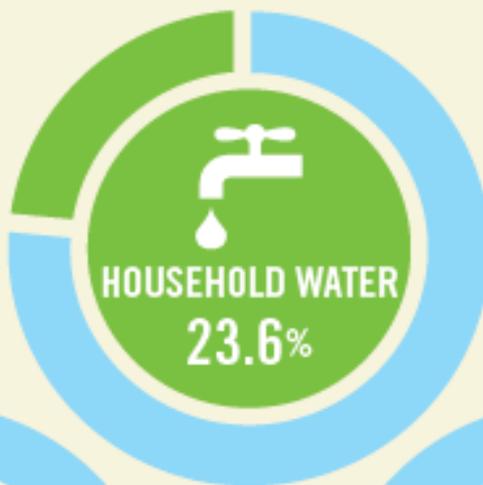
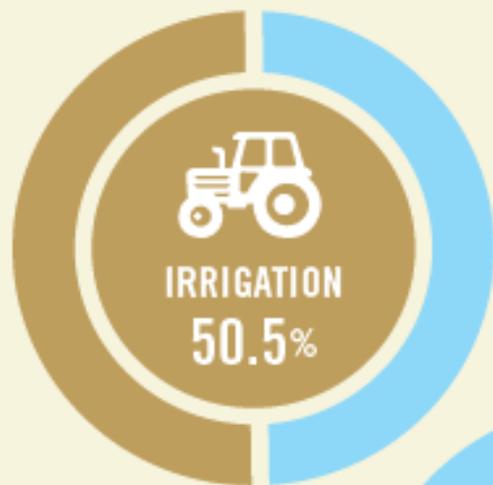


**AND OF ALL CONSENTED USE,  
ONLY 2.5% IS CONSENTED  
FOR WATER BOTTLING**

\*Source: [www.lawa.org.nz](http://www.lawa.org.nz) \*\*Current available estimate

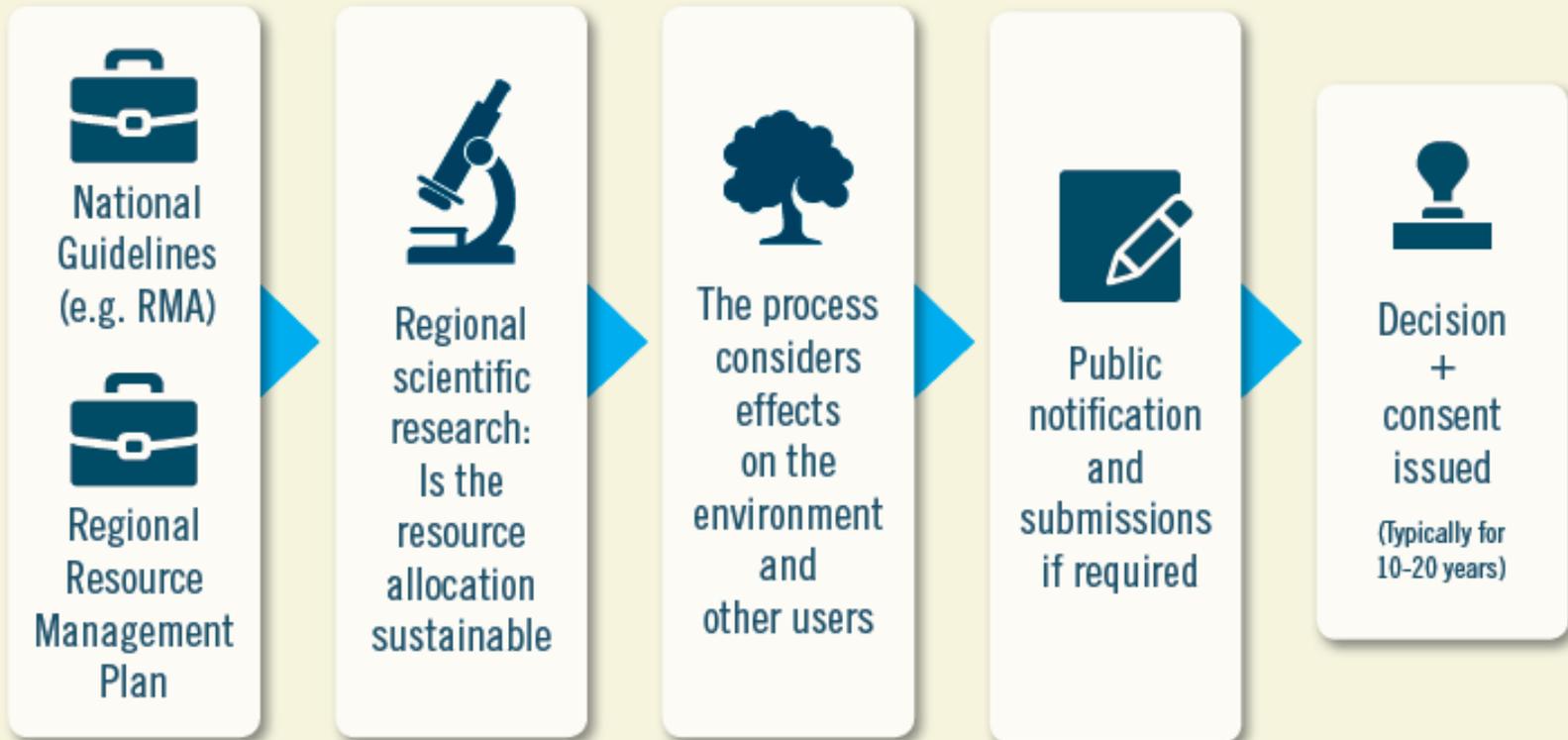
# A BREAKDOWN OF WATER USE

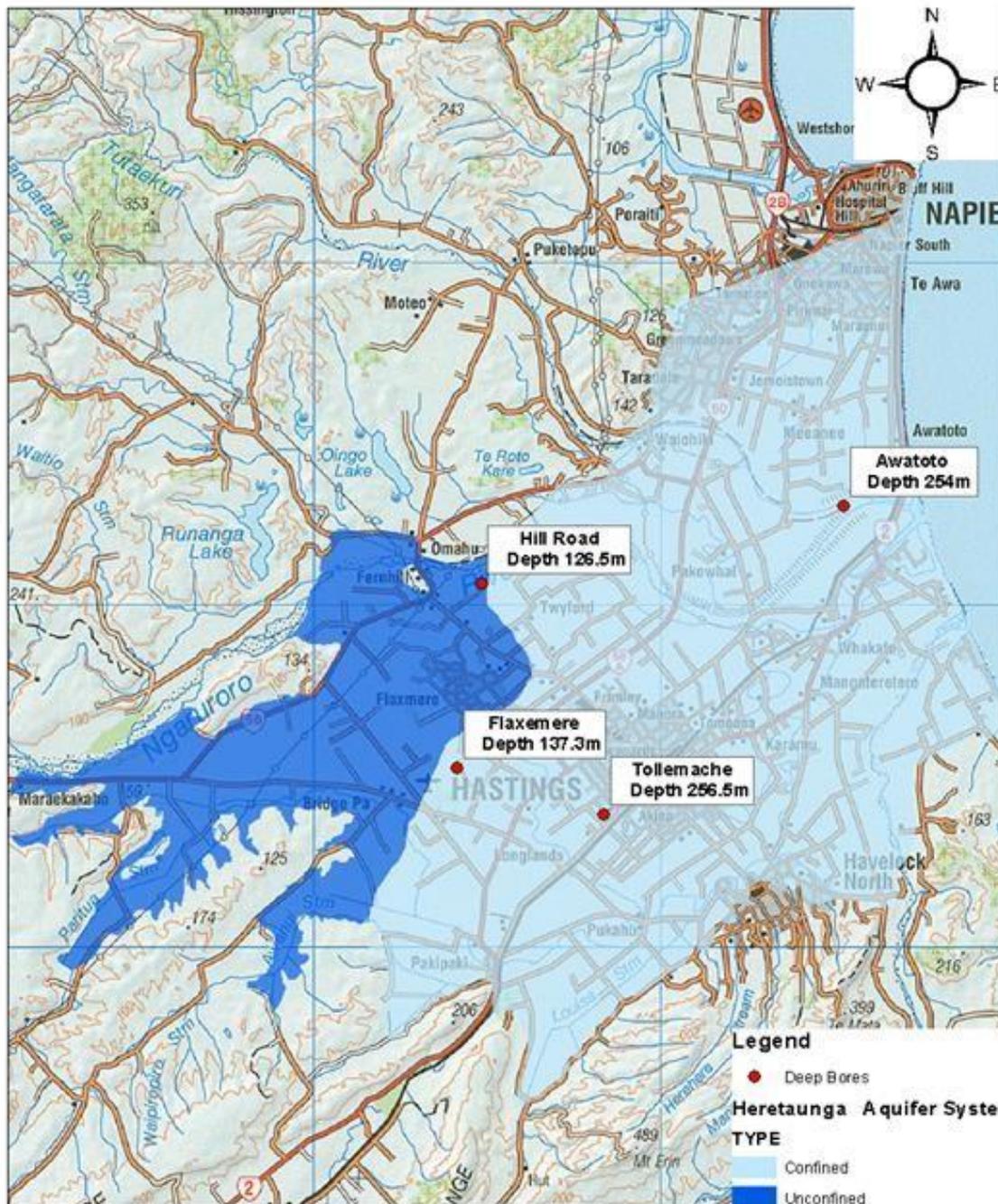
AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL CONSENTED USE



# Resource Consents

## THE CONSENTS PROCESS





0 2.5 5 10 Kilometres



# Resource Consents

*“How can we allow water bottling plants when irrigators have their supply cut off in dry summers or we have bans on watering our gardens?”*

Taking water from a confined area does not directly affect river flows or levels. All water bottling plants are drawing water from confined areas.

However water taken from an unconfined aquifer does. That’s why in severely dry conditions water consent holders are sometimes not allowed to take water from an unconfined aquifer.

If you live in an urban area your local council is the consent holder to take water. During high demand periods they may not be able to supply enough water from their system.

# Resource Consents

*“It seems anyone can get a consent for as much water as they like”*

Not true.

A resource consent application to take water is assessed against rules in our Regional Plan. Local scientific research shows how much water is available for use and where.

Council also makes sure that the applicant only receives what they actually need, that they are using it efficiently and are not affecting neighbouring bores, or nearby rivers, lakes or wetlands

# Resource Consents

*“Can we charge royalties on water use?”*

No we can't.

By law we can charge only for the costs of managing the resource (such as scientific research, monitoring and consent administration)

Around a third of these costs (\$1.7M) are met by the water user and the rest (\$3.4M) with ratepayers.

Royalties possible only with changes to the law. To date central government has resisted such changes saying “no-one owns the water”



# Challenges

Key determinants of water quality:

- land owners and land uses , both rural and urban;
- city and district councils in terms of infrastructure, especially stormwater.

Different challenges for different waterways:

- *eColi*/pathogens
- Nutrients
- Sediment
- Heavy metals

will likely require different solutions

# Challenges

The national environment report on water quality reports the following average *eColi* levels :

	cfu/ml
Urban land use	400
Pastoral	180
Forestry	50
Native forests	20

While the average length of urban waterways is lower than in pastoral and forestry areas it is clear that both urban and pastoral land uses need to bear the costs of improvement

# Challenges

We will need a seismic shift in regulating the way people use their land.

This will affect not only rural owners but will change decisions on urban expansion and industrial growth over unconfined aquifers and will require the upgrading of urban infrastructure as examples.

Costs will be significant



# What can we do

- Agree that collectively we are willing to do what is necessary to lift our game
- Agree on our desired outcomes
- Focus on trends, not get fixated on numbers
- Set priorities and in the process acknowledge that everything cannot be done at once, or even be done quickly
- Retain both regulatory and non-regulatory tools, the latter to support behavior changes
- Financial planning

