

Proposed Visions, Values, Environmental Outcomes for the Awatere FMU

(As at October 2023 based only on community feedback after the first round of community engagement, as such this does not include tangata whenua visions, values and environmental outcomes, these will be included in 2024)

AWATERE FMU		
Visions		
<p>The health of the waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems are maintained, protected, and enhanced for current and future generations. There are healthy freshwater systems, a resilient wider environment, and thriving communities which are connected to the Awatere River and its tributaries.</p> <p>The natural and scenic values of the Awatere FMU are maintained and protected from degradation. Freshwater and riparian habitats are restored, enhanced and protected. The area continues to be used for recreational purposes, mahinga kai gathering, and whitebaiting.</p> <p>The Black Birch Stream continues to be recognised and protected as the source of drinking water for the community. The viability of community and stock drinking water supply is ongoing into the future.</p> <p>The productive landscape of the Awatere continues to provide for the economic wellbeing of the community. The Awatere River is recognised as an important source of irrigation water to the community now and into the future, within the bounds of waterbody and ecosystem health. Storage of water continues to provide an effective response to seasonal water availability issues, contributing to a resilient economy and community.</p>		
Values	Value description	Environmental Outcomes
1 - Ecosystem Health	<p>Five biophysical factors contribute to freshwater ecosystem health, and it is necessary that all of them are managed. They are water quality, water quantity, habitat, aquatic life, ecological processes.</p> <p>In a healthy freshwater ecosystem, all five biophysical components are suitable to sustain the indigenous aquatic life expected in the absence of human disturbance or alteration (before providing for other values).</p>	<p>The five biophysical components that contribute to freshwater ecosystem health are managed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Water quality – Freshwater quality supports and sustains healthy waterbodies and their freshwater ecosystems. b. Water quantity – Waterbody flows and levels, including variability, supports and sustains healthy waterbodies and their freshwater ecosystems. c. Habitat – The extent, form and structure of waterbodies including their bed, banks and margins are maintained, protected and enhanced, including riparian vegetation. Restoring, retaining and maintaining connections to and between channels, floodplain, wetlands and groundwater including refuges to enable recolonisation following disturbance. d. Aquatic Life – Waterbodies and their margins support and sustain abundant, healthy and diverse biota, including microbes, invertebrates, plants, fish and birds. Indigenous ecosystems are thriving, and populations are resilient to disturbance including changing climatic patterns.

		e. Ecological Processes – Healthy functioning ecological process occur in waterbodies and their margins, including primary production, nutrient cycling, trophic connectivity as well as life cycle functions such as feeding, migration, reproduction.
2 - Human Contact	Waterbodies support people being able to connect with the water through a range of activities, particularly near the State Highway 1 bridge, including swimming, and a limited amount of kayaking and jet boating, when flows or levels are suitable.	Waterbodies can be enjoyed and are safe for people to connect with through a range of recreational activities, particularly near the State Highway 1 bridge, including swimming, kayaking and jet boating, when flows or levels are suitable.
3 - Threatened Species	Critical habitats and ecosystem health necessary to support the presence, abundance, survival, and recovery of a population threatened species. Species identified for the Awatere FMU – further information to come.	Habitats of threatened species and conditions necessary to support the presence, abundance, survival, and recovery are protected and improved. Habitats for species identified for the Awatere FMU are protected and enhanced.
4 - Mahinga Kai	Kai is safe to harvest and eat and the mauri of the place is intact. Mahinga kai generally refers to freshwater species that have traditionally been used as food, tools, or other resources. It also refers to the places those species are found and to the act of catching or harvesting them. Customary resources are available for use, with customary practices able to be exercised to the extent desired, and tikanga and preferred methods able to be practised. Transfer of knowledge can occur about the preparation, storage and cooking of kai.	Kai is safe to harvest and eat and the mauri of the place is intact. Customary resources are available for use, with customary practices able to be exercised to the extent desired, and tikanga and preferred methods able to be practised. Transfer of knowledge can occur including the species / resource location, harvesting, preparation, storage and cooking of kai.
5 - Natural form and character	The very high natural character of the Upper Awatere River. Natural form and character being the degree of naturalness and natural qualities that people value which includes the natural elements, patterns, process and experiential attributes of an environment.	The very high natural character of the Upper Awatere River is protected. Other highly valued natural qualities and characteristics of riverine and other waterbodies within the Awatere FMU including exceptional, natural, or iconic aesthetic features are protected.
6 - Drinking Water	Black Birch Stream water quality and quantity are sufficient for water to be taken and used for drinking water supply.	Black Birch Stream water quality and quantity is sufficient for water to be taken and used for drinking water supply, with minimal treatment to meet Drinking Water Standards. Allocation of water for domestic and community water supplies is prioritised over other water uses.
7 - Fishing	Whitebaiting at the mouth of the Awatere River.	Whitebaiting at the mouth of the Awatere River is sustainable, being in sufficient numbers to maintain a thriving population and are safe to be eaten.

8 - Animal Drinking Water	Water quality and quantity meets the needs of farmed animals, including being palatable and safe.	Drinking water for farmed animals is safe and palatable, being available to meets the needs of farmed animals, including allocation during droughts to provide for animal welfare.
9 - Irrigation / Cultivation / Production of Food and Beverages	Water quantity is suitable for irrigation needs, including supporting the cultivation of food and beverage crops, the production of food from farmed animals, non-food crops such as fibre, and pasture.	Within waterbody and freshwater ecosystem limits, water is available to support irrigation needs for the cultivation of food and beverage crops, the production of food from farmed animals, non-food crops such as fibre, and pasture. Allocation is based on efficient use requirements.
10 - Commercial Use	Black Birch Stream water quality and quantity can provide for commercial activities providing economic opportunities for people and business.	Black Birch Stream water quality is suitable for commercial requirements, with allocation related to efficient use requirements supporting economic opportunities for people and business within waterbody and ecosystem limits.
11 – Recreation and Amenity	The Upper Awatere Valley and the Awatere River high amenity landscape is valued, including the Molesworth Recreational Reserve. Access to Tapuae-O-Uenuku via the Hodder River. Recreational activities can take place adjacent to waterways, that do not involve direct water immersion, including walking, biking, picnicking, camping, and four-wheel driving.	Access to Tapuae-O-Uenuku via the Hodder River is maintained. The Upper Awatere Valley and the Awatere River high amenity landscape, including the Molesworth Recreational Reserve is protected. Waterbodies are desirable to be close to and access to waterbody margins is maintained and enhanced, supporting opportunities for recreational activities to take place close to waterbodies, walking, biking, picnicking, camping, and four-wheel driving, except in circumstances where public health and safety, ecological or cultural values are at risk.
12 - Water Storage	The ability to store water extracted from rivers provides a means to improve water quality through settlement and enable use through irrigation of crops during times of low flows and dry conditions.	Water storage is available within waterbody and freshwater ecosystem limits to improve water quality through settlement and enable irrigation of crops during times of low flows and dry conditions.
13 - Gravel Management	Gravel is available and valued as a resource for the construction and maintenance of roads and use by other industries.	Gravel resources are managed to support economic opportunities except where ecosystem health, natural values and cultural values are adversely affected.
14 - Fossil Hunting / Geology	Where exposures are located within waterways there is opportunity to explore and investigate, subject to landowner permission if access over private land is required.	Access to waterbodies and their margins is maintained and enhanced, supporting opportunities to explore and investigate fossils and geology, subject to landowner permission if access over private land is required and except in circumstances where public health and safety, ecological or cultural values are at risk.