

Proposed Visions, Values, Environmental Outcomes for the East Coast Complex 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 we be included in 2024)

EAST COAST COMPLEX 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 well-connected communities which are actively involved with and understand their catchments.</p> <p>The natural and scenic values of the East Coast Complex FMU are maintained and protected from degradation. Freshwater and riparian habitats are restored, enhanced and protected.</p> <p>The Flaxbourne River and associated shallow alluvial gravels and the Black Birch Stream, in the Awatere FMU, continue to be recognised and protected as important sources of drinking water for the East Coast FMU communities. The viability of drinking water supplies for the Ward Township, the wider community and stock is ongoing into the future.</p> <p>Rivers are performing their natural function of moving water from the mountains and land to the ocean. Pest and weeds are managed within catchments and together with sustainable gravel management, flood damage is minimised. The area continues to be used for recreational purposes and mahinga kai and food gathering.</p> <p>The productive landscape of the East Coast Complex continues to provide for the economic wellbeing of the community. The rivers are recognised as important sources of irrigation water to the community now and into the future, within the bounds of waterbody and ecosystem health. Storage of water provides 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>Healthy freshwater ecosystems sustaining indigenous aquatic life expected in the absence of human disturbance or alteration.</p> <p>Lake Elterwater and the estuarine Lake Grassmere provide refuges for wildlife</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 including refuges to enable recolonisation following disturbance.

		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Lake Elterwater and the estuarine Lake Grassmere are celebrated refuges for wildlife.</p>
2 - Human Contact	Waterbodies support people being able to connect with the water through a range of activities such as swimming, paddling, kayaking, fishing and mahinga kai and food gathering, when flows or levels are suitable.	Waterbodies can be enjoyed and are safe for people to connect with through a range of recreational activities such as swimming, paddling, kayaking, fishing and mahinga kai and food gathering, in a range of different flows or levels.
3 - Threatened Species	Critical habitats and ecosystem health necessary to support the presence, abundance, survival, and recovery of a population threatened species. Species specifically identified for the East Coast Complex 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 East Coast Complex FMU are protected and enhanced.
4 - Mahinga Kai	<p>Kai is safe to harvest and eat and the mauri of the place is intact.</p> <p>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.</p>	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 high natural character of the Waima / Ure River.	The high natural character of the Waima / Ure River is protected. Other highly valued natural qualities and characteristics of riverine and other waterbodies within the East Coast Complex FMU including exceptional, natural, or iconic aesthetic features are protected.

6 – Drinking Water	Water quality and quantity are sufficient for water to be taken and used for drinking water supply. Particularly the Flaxbourne River and associated shallow alluvial gravels which supply the Ward Township through the Ward Community Water Supply and also the Black Birch Stream situated in the Awatere FMU which supplies the Blind River catchment and Lake Grassmere surrounds.	Flaxbourne River and associated shallow alluvial gravels and the Black Birch Stream situated in the Awatere FMU provide water of sufficient quantity and quality 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 - Wai tapu	Places where rituals and ceremonies are performed, or where there is special significance to tangata whenua.	Places where rituals and ceremonies are performed, or where there is special significance to tangata whenua are free from human and animal waste, contaminants and excess sediment. The features and unique properties of the wai and identified taonga in the wai are protected.
8 - Fishing	Flaxbourne catchment whitebait fishery.	The Flaxbourne catchment whitebait fishery is sustainable, being in sufficient numbers to maintain a thriving population and are safe to be eaten.
9 - 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.
10 - Irrigation / Cultivation / Production of Food and Beverages	Water quality and 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.
11 – Commercial and Industrial Use	Water quality and quantity can provide for commercial and industrial activities providing economic opportunities for people, business and industries.	Water quality and quantity is suitable for commercial and industrial requirements, with allocation related to efficient use requirements supporting economic opportunities for people, business and industries within waterbody and ecosystem limits.
12 – Recreation and Amenity	The outstanding natural feature of the Chalk Range, including Isolated Creek, Sawcut Gorge and parts of the Waima River and the high amenity landscapes of Lake Grassmere and the eastern end and mouth of the Waima. Recreational activities can take place adjacent to waterways, that do not involve direct water immersion, including walking, biking, picnicking, camping, and four-wheel driving.	The outstanding natural feature of the Chalk Range, including Isolated Creek, Sawcut Gorge and parts of the Waima River, is protected. The high amenity landscapes of Lake Grassmere and the eastern end and mouth of the Waima River within the Wharanui coastline are protected. Waterbodies are desirable to be close to and access to waterbody margins is maintained and enhanced, supporting a range of opportunities for recreational activities to take place close to waterbodies, including walking, biking, picnicking, camping, and four-wheel driving, except in circumstances where public health and safety, ecological or cultural values are at risk.

13 – Water Storage	Water storage is available within waterbody and freshwater ecosystem limits to enable irrigation of crops during times of low flows and dry conditions.	Water storage is available within waterbody and freshwater ecosystem limits to enable irrigation of crops during times of low flows and dry conditions.
14 – Flood Management	Rivers can perform their natural function of moving water from the headwaters and land to the ocean, particularly when in flood. River channels are kept clear of weeds and debris, particularly for the Waima / Ure and Flaxbourne Rivers.	Rivers are performing their natural function of moving water from the headwaters and land to the ocean, particularly when in flood. River channels are clear of weeds and debris especially the Waima / Ure and Flaxbourne Rivers, assisting to minimise flood damage.
15 – Gravel Management	Sediment supply changes have occurred in the catchments because of the recent earthquakes (Kaikoura 2016). Removal of gravel in areas where it is building up assists in reducing flood damage, particularly for the Waima River catchment.	Reducing flood damage is assisted by sustainable management of gravel resources, particularly in the Waima / Ure River catchment.
16 - 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.