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Community-centric freshwater policymaking

Implications for s32 assessment

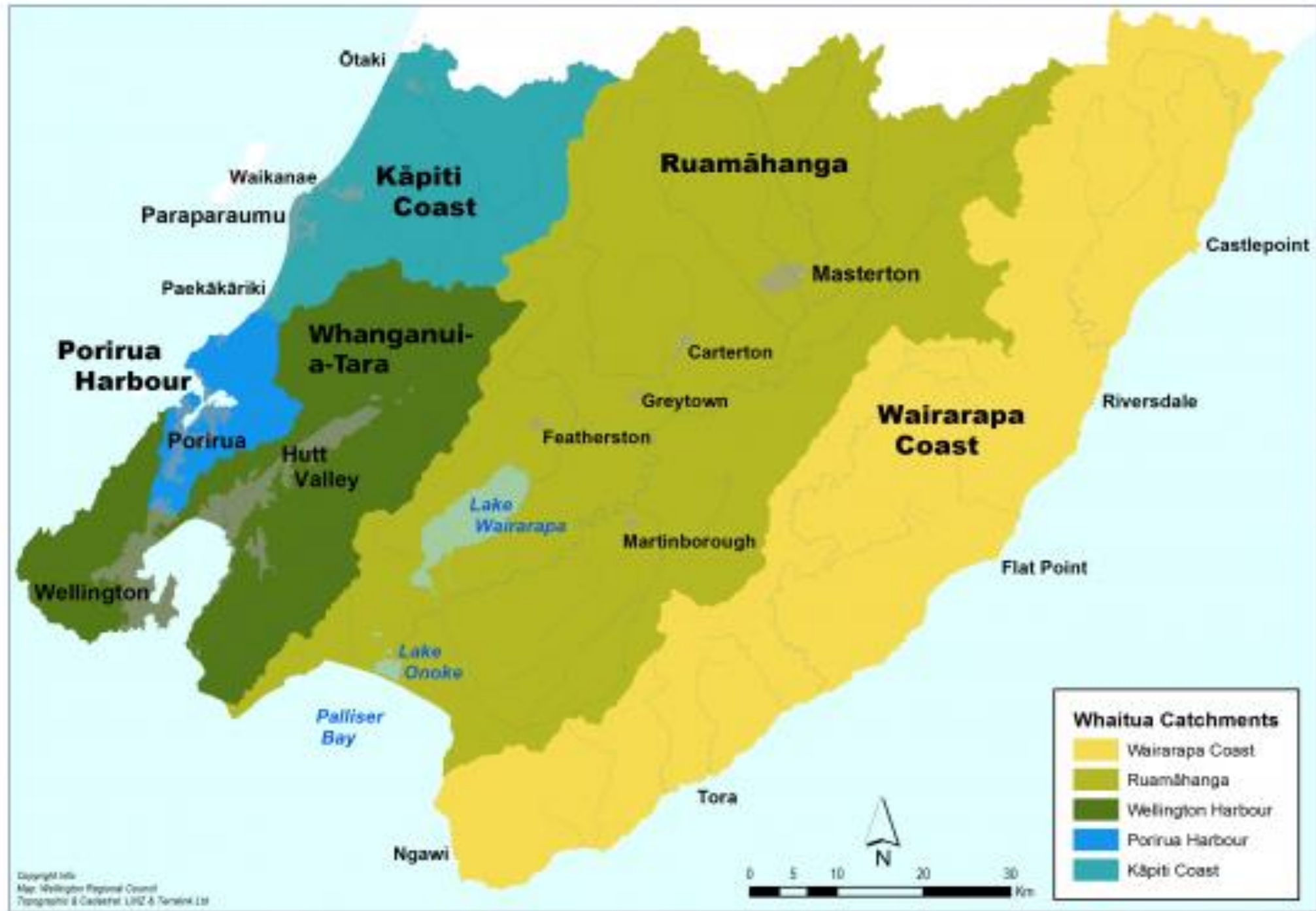
The Whaitua process

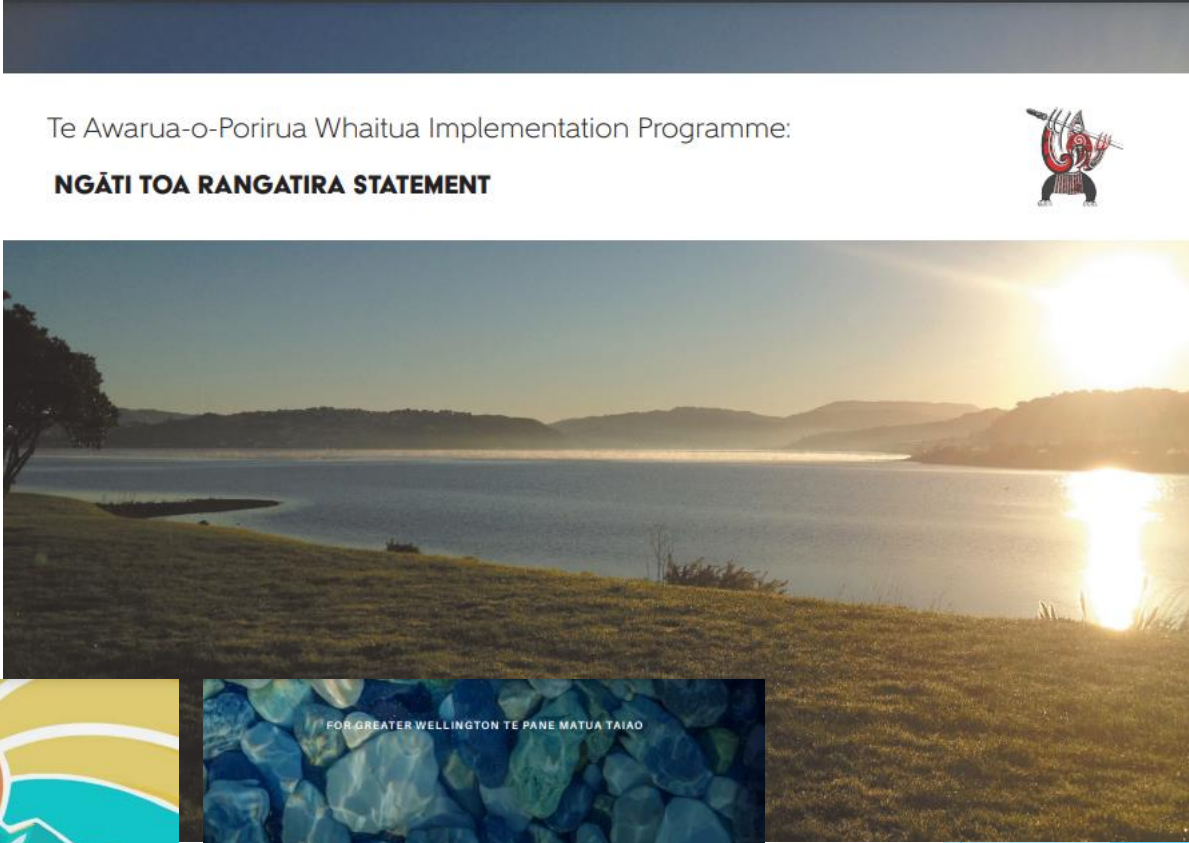
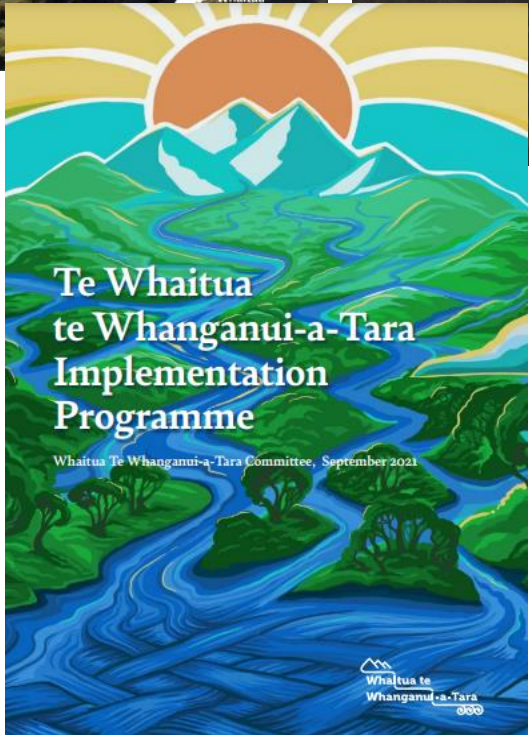
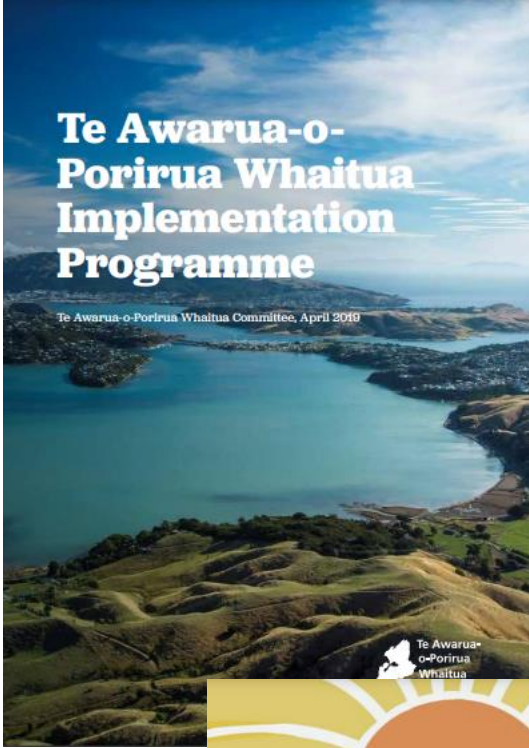
- ▶ Whaitua is a Māori word for space or catchment
- ▶ GWRC's programme to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM)
- ▶ Whaitua committees recommend ways to improve fresh water quality
 - ▶ Includes local community members, iwi representatives, council representatives
- ▶ Whaitua committees develop a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) together with their communities
 - ▶ WIP is implemented through new regulations and actions on the ground

Principles of the Whaitua process

- Ki uta ki tai (connectedness)
- Wairua (identity)
- Kaitiaki (guardianship)
- Tō mātou whakapono (judgement based on knowledge)
- Mahitahi (partnership)







Advantages for policymaking & s32

- ▶ Multiple options are discussed
 - ▶ Recommendations include a preferred policy package
- ▶ Feasibility and acceptability can be determined
 - ▶ Especially political and social acceptability
- ▶ Costs and benefits can be assessed throughout the process
- ▶ Impacts are assessed in an integrated way across specialties
- ▶ Participation of stakeholders is included throughout

Challenges for policymaking & s32

- ▶ Changing national direction can undermine recommendations
- ▶ Divergence between accompanying WIPs
- ▶ Compromises to get consensus on policy packages
 - ▶ Can undermine efficiency/effectiveness of policy packages in delivering NPS outcomes

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Questions?