

Sustainable Water Programme of Action

-Water principles and outcomes from Cabinet paper

Outcomes:

- Improve the quality and efficient use of freshwater by building and enhancing partnerships with local government, industry, Māori, science agencies and providers, and rural and urban communities.
- Improve the management of the undesirable effects of land-use on water quality through increased national direction and partnerships with communities and resource users.
- Provide for increasing demands on water resources and encourage efficient water management through national direction, working with local government on options for supporting and enhancing local decision making, and developing best practice.

The following **principles** have been used to guide the development of the package:

- water will continue to be managed as a public resource;
- freshwater management will be improved under the Resource Management Act;
- regional councils will continue to have primary responsibility for managing freshwater;
- clear environmental limits will be set for water quality and the quantity available for allocation;
- enhancements to existing mechanisms and the provision of incentives will improve efficiency of water use;
- resource users will be encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and will be given the flexibility to develop appropriate solutions;
- nationally outstanding natural water bodies will be identified and better protected;
- the best available information will be used for decision-making processes; and
- community involvement and confidence in decision-making processes will be maximised, building on the opportunities for participation in the regional planning process.