THREE WATERS MANAGEMENT PRACTICE NOTE

HCC 10: Integrated Catchment Management Plans:

1. INTRODUCTION

If you need to prepare an Integrated Catchment Management Plan ("ICMP"), then you will need to discuss this in detail with Hamilton City Council ("Council") staff. In the first instance, please contact Council's Duty Planner (phone (07) 838 6699) who will connect you with the relevant technical staff in Council who can help you.

This practice note[1] provides general guidance on ICMPs required in Hamilton City. It identifies:

- The purpose of ICMPs;
- Different types of ICMP;
- When an ICMP is required;
- Information required to be included in an ICMP;
- Information sources;
- Consultation required when preparing an ICMP;
- Requirements for certification or acceptance of ICMPs;
- Costs and benefits of ICMPs; and
- How to obtain further information about ICMPs.

2. THE PURPOSE OF ICMPS

The purpose of an ICMP is to integrate land use and three waters development so as to promote sustainable management of the City's natural and physical resources.

An ICMP is a planning tool. It aids decision-making about Three Waters infrastructure and management in relation to large-scale land use changes or intensification of land use, which have the potential to affect adversely the receiving environment or existing infrastructure.

Developers have always had the responsibility under the Resource Management Act to show how they are avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects of their developments. An ICMP fulfils this requirement with respect to effects on the Three Waters, while also addressing the requirements of the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

2.1 Some specific, practical purposes

ICMPs will consider the following:

- Stormwater management to meet the needs of Council's comprehensive stormwater discharge consent;
- The availability of water and the effects of the proposed development on water pressure and fire-fighting flow; and
- The capacity of the wastewater network and the need to avoid or minimise wastewater overflows, taking into account the future needs of existing development.
- Minimising the whole of life costs of stormwater infrastructure, for example, by avoiding multiple wetlands/stormwater ponds being constructed within close proximity of each other, when a single larger one would be more efficient and cost effective.

2.2 Determining how to manage the three waters

In accordance with the District Plan[2], ICMPs shall be developed for structure plan areas to determine how to manage Three Waters in an effective and integrated manner including by:

i. Minimising the effects of urban development on downstream receiving waters.
ii. Managing the runoff from the different relief and soil types in an integrated manner.
iii. Sustaining groundwater levels in peat soils as far as practicable.
iv. Safeguarding and enhancing the natural functioning and ecological health of freshwater bodies and areas of indigenous vegetation, water features and habitats.
v. Retaining a hydrological cycle close to the pre-development hydrological cycle as far as practicable.
vi. Maintaining stormwater discharge from the catchment to at or below pre-development levels.
vii. Incorporating Low Impact Urban Design and Development (LIUDD) principles.
viii. Identifying and incorporating appropriate water sensitive techniques.
ix. Recognising social, economic, environmental and cultural objectives for the catchment.

3. TYPES OF ICMP

There are three different types of ICMP:

- Full catchment ICMPs ("full ICMPs");
- Sub-catchment ICMPs for greenfield areas; and
- Sub-catchment ICMPs for areas other than greenfield areas.

3.1 Full ICMPs

A full ICMP will address Three Waters management within an entire hydrological catchment. Council will be responsible for preparing full ICMPs, unless the full ICMP is required to support a private Plan Change, in which case the party promoting the Plan Change will be responsible for preparing the full ICMP. Council has a programme for preparing full ICMPs that will eventually cover the entire City. Any new Structure Plan must be supported by one or more full ICMPs; a full ICMP will be needed for each catchment a Structure Plan Area spans. Any relevant existing sub-catchment ICMPs[3] or Water Impact Assessments[4] will inform development of a full ICMP.

3.2 Sub-catchment ICMPs

Sub-catchment ICMPs will usually be prepared by developers to support applications for subdivision or land use consents for development of sites or areas that are not covered by a full ICMP. The District Plan specifies when a sub-catchment ICMP[5] is required. Sub-catchment ICMPs for Greenfield Areas[6] have fewer information requirements and will generally be of a smaller scale and scope than a full ICMP[7]. The information requirements for sub-catchment ICMPs for developments outside of Greenfield Areas are significantly less again[8].

If you are preparing a sub-catchment ICMP, it will be necessary to work with Council to define a sub-catchment boundary for, and the scope of, your study. ICMPs will need to assess the effects of the proposed development on a wider catchment than just your development site. This may include considering the effects of expected developments upstream of your site. The extent of the study area and the scope of the ICMP are determined by a range of matters including topography, the extent of actual or potential effects on the stormwater receiving environments and existing water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Furthermore, some sites may fall within more than one hydrological catchment.

If you are preparing a sub-catchment ICMP, you will be required to develop Three Waters infrastructure proposals that are integrated with those for other development areas within the catchment. This may include providing additional stormwater detention and treatment capacity, and wastewater pump station capacity within your proposed development site to service other development areas within the catchment.

4. WHEN AN ICMP IS REQUIRED

An ICMP is required to be prepared at the Structure Plan stage in accordance with Chapter 3.3 of the Proposed District Plan[9].

If there is already an approved ICMP in place for the area within which you are proposing to develop, then you will need to comply with it; you won't need to prepare a new ICMP[10].

If an ICMP does not exist for the area you will be developing, you will need to prepare a sub-catchment ICMP if your development or subdivision involves[11]:

i. Creating more than 40 additional residential units on any site.
ii. Creating more than 40 additional allotments.
iii. Of any land involving more than 3 hectares.
iv. For any development of Stage 1 of the Rotokauri Structure Plan beyond the area identified in Figure 25.13.4a of the District Plan[12].

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[1] Three Waters Management Practice Notes are Hamilton City Council controlled documents and will be subject to ongoing review. The latest version can be downloaded from the Hamilton City Council Website: http://www.hamilton.govt.nz/our-council/council-publications/manuals/Pages/Three-Waters-Management-Practice-Notes.aspx

[2] Proposed District Plan (Appeals Version, September 2014), Policy 3.3.3b
[3] See section 3.2 below.
[4] See Proposed District Plan (Appeals Version, September 2014), Appendix 1.2.2.5.

[5] See section 4 below.
[6] "Greenfield Areas" are defined in Note 1 below Table 1 below.
[7] See section 5 below.
[8] See Table 3 below.
[9] Proposed District Plan (Appeals Version, September 2014), Rule 25.13.4.1 a)
[10] Ibid, Rule 25.13.4.1 b)
[11] Ibid, Rule 25.13.4.1 c)

Except that a separate ICMP is not required when all the information that it would otherwise include is incorporated into an approved Concept Plan for a Major Facility prepared under Rule 17.4 and the Concept Plan is accepted as satisfying the requirements of this rule.

5. INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

ICMPs shall be developed in consultation with Council[13] and completed in accordance with the requirements set out below. The different types of ICMPs have different information requirements – see Table 1.

Table 1: Types of ICMPs and where to find their Information requirements

Type of ICMP	Where to find the information requirements
Full ICMP	Table 2 – including all rows
Sub-catchment ICMP for Greenfield Areas [See Note 1]	Table 2 – non-shaded rows only
Sub-catchment ICMP for areas other than Greenfield Areas	Table 3

Note

1. Greenfield Areas include the Future Urban Zone, Temple View Zone, Te Rapa North Industrial Zone, Large Lot Residential Zone and all Structure Plan Areas identified in Appendix 2 of the Proposed District Plan.

Table 2: Information requirements for Sub-catchment ICMPs for Greenfield Areas and Full ICMPs

a)	Plan/s identifying for the relevant hydrological catchment (or sub-catchment): i. The catchment boundary; Note: In the case of a full ICMP, this will be used in relation to determining future compliance with Rule 25.13.4.1(b)) of the Proposed District Plan; ii. Natural features, surface water bodies, existing drainage systems and infrastructure; iii. Existing development and land uses; iv. Proposed future development and land uses (see d) below); and v. The extent of the infrastructure networks that have been assessed and the location of any network constraints (see f) vi below).
b)	Classification of the surface water bodies within the catchment (or sub-catchment) as detailed in the Waikato Regional Plan;
c)	The social, economic, ecological, amenity and cultural objectives being sought for the catchment (likely to stem from a structure planning process).
d)	A description of proposed urban growth, development and land use intensification within the catchment (or sub-catchment).
e)	A list of the key stakeholders within the catchment (or sub-catchment), and details of their respective views on providing for new stormwater diversion and discharge activities within the catchment.
f)	An assessment of the current state of the catchment (or sub-catchment) and stormwater receiving environment/s, and the provision of catchment baseline information (including plans) on: i. Topography; ii. Soil; iii. Receiving environment - a. Classification/s b. Erosion c. Ecology, including any ecological sensitivity d. Water quality (including contaminant load) e. Sediment quality f. Hydrology; iv. Hydrogeology; v. Flooding (including overland flow paths); vi. Existing three waters infrastructure, including its capacity to appropriately service the proposed urban growth, development and landuse intensification within the catchment (or sub-catchment); and vii. All relevant existing resource consents (including, for example, consents issued by the Waikato Regional Council for water take, wastewater and stormwater diversion and discharge activities).
g)	An assessment of the environmental effects, including cumulative effects over time, of all proposed water take, wastewater management and stormwater diversion and discharge activities on the catchment (or sub-catchment) and stormwater receiving environment/s, in such detail as corresponds with the scale and significance of the effects on the catchment (or sub-catchment) including, but not limited to, effects on: i. Natural features, surface water bodies and aquifers; ii. Sites of cultural and/or historical significance; iii. Public health; iv. Flooding hazards, including overland flow paths and the effects of climate change; v. Receiving water hydrology, including base flows and peak flows in rivers and streams and long-term aquifer levels; vi. Receiving water sediment and water quality; vii. Receiving water habitat, ecology and ecosystem health, including an explanation of how they will be maintained and enhanced; viii. Receiving water riparian vegetation; ix. The extent and quality of open stream channels; x. Fish passage for indigenous and trout fisheries (refer to the Waikato Regional Plan Water Management Classes for applicability); xi. The natural and amenity values of stormwater receiving waters, including the management of litter that becomes entrained in stormwater; xii. Existing infrastructure[14]; and xiii. Existing authorised resource use activities.
h)	In response to the environmental effects assessment, a description and assessment of the available options for managing the effects of all proposed water take, wastewater management and stormwater diversion and discharge activities within the catchment (or sub-catchment).
i)	Identification of a recommended integrated catchment management approach that is based on the Best Practicable Option to avoid as far as practicable and otherwise minimise or offset actual and potential adverse effects of all proposed water take, wastewater management and stormwater diversion and discharge activities on the catchment (or sub-catchment) and its infrastructure.
j)	Education initiatives to support the integrated catchment management approach recommended in the ICMP.
k)	Plan/s, a description, and a prioritised schedule of the works to be carried out to implement the integrated catchment management approach recommended in the ICMP.
l)	A list of performance measures by which the implementation of the integrated catchment management approach recommended in the ICMP will be gauged.
m)	The need for any changes (including designations) or variations to the relevant District Plan, as a result of the findings and approach of the ICMP.
n)	Identification of the water sensitive techniques that are appropriate, and those that are unsuitable, within the catchment or any sub-catchment.
o)	All ICMPs shall be of sufficient scope and detail to inform development of Water Impact Assessments.

Table 3: Information requirements for Sub-catchment ICMPs for areas other than Greenfield Areas

A Water Impact Assessment in accordance with Appendix 1.2.2.5 of the Proposed District Plan that also includes details of how adverse effects arising from the following will be avoided, remedied or mitigated: i) Flood hazards; ii) Stormwater disposal; iii) Discharges of contaminants; and iv) Identified network constraints.

6. INFORMATION SOURCES

As part of the pre-application process, developers can obtain from Council any available information that could help with the development of a sub-catchment ICMP. This could include, for example, aerial photographs and LIDAR data, catchment mapping information, and Three Waters modelling and flood hazard data. If Council

[12] Ibid

[13] See section 7 below.

[14] Sub-catchment ICMPs will need to demonstrate that the development proposal will not adversely affect Council's Levels of Service for Three Waters infrastructure. Refer to Council's Infrastructure Technical Specifications for details of the Levels of Service.

would incur substantive costs in supplying this information, Council may charge the developer for this service.

If Council doesn't hold the required information, it may be necessary for further hydraulic modelling to be undertaken at the developer's expense to inform the sub-catchment ICMP. The following process will be followed:

1. As part of the consent pre-application meeting, work with Council's Duty Engineer or Duty Planner to ascertain what information is available and whether any additional information is required.
2. Confirm with Council the scope of any additional information required and the required modelling methodology.
3. Council approves the brief of work.
4. Developer engages an approved consultant to undertake the modelling.
5. The approved consultant provides the developer and Council the model outputs.

Information developers provide Council will inform Council's Three Waters model and inform future updates.

7. CONSULTATION

All ICMPs shall be developed in consultation with Council and other affected parties. Council encourages developers to undertake this consultation early in the ICMP development process, and to continue liaising with the parties as necessary throughout the process; this will help ensure that necessary prerequisite information is available on which to base the ICMP.

Consultation will help identify known issues, objectives for the catchment, the potential effects of a proposal, potential opportunities for integration of three waters infrastructure and, accordingly, the nature and level of detail of the information and assessment to be included in the full or sub-catchment ICMP. During consultation with Council, Council will identify for a developer the appropriate methodologies and deliverables for the technical components of an ICMP and how the information and assessments are to be presented.

The Waikato Regional Council is a key stakeholder in relation to the preparation of full and sub-catchment ICMPs and should be consulted as well.

8. ICMP APPROVAL OR ACCEPTANCE

Upon completion, an ICMP shall be lodged with Council for review.

Council will assess all full ICMPs and, if appropriate, technically certify that they satisfy the relevant information requirements in accordance with Council's ICMP Standard Operating Procedure. This certification is a separate process that lies outside of the District Plan.

A full ICMP will identify whether any changes (including designations) or variations to the relevant District Plan are needed as a result of the findings and approach of the ICMP. If necessary, Council staff will promote a variation to the Proposed District Plan, or a change to the Operative District Plan, in order to update any structure plan. Any decision to change or vary the District Plan would be made by the Council.

Any change or variation to the District Plan will be through the process prescribed in Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991. This process provides everyone the opportunity to make submissions on the proposed changes to the Plan, and, subsequently, to appeal to the Environment Court against the Council's decisions on those changes.

No formal approval or certification of sub-catchment ICMPs is required. However, sub-catchment ICMPs submitted in support of a subdivision or land use consent application will need to satisfy the relevant information requirements set out in the District Plan before the application is accepted. In addition, the application would need to demonstrate that any stormwater infrastructure would be able to achieve certification from Waikato Regional Council.

In addition, the components of any full ICMP relating to the management of stormwater will be subject to technical certification by the Waikato Regional Council that these components comply with the relevant conditions of Council's Comprehensive Stormwater Discharge Consent.

ICMP's do not remove the requirement for any consent to be obtained from the Waikato Regional Council under the Regional Plan, or from Council under the District Plan or Building Act.

9. REVIEW OF ICMPS

Council will formally review ICMPs every five to seven years. In some cases these reviews will be simply an update to reflect development over the intervening period.

An earlier review may be undertaken in the event of the following:

1. Monitoring identifies development has relevant adverse environmental effects that are more than minor; or
2. Relevant new or amended legislation or national, regional or local policies or plans.

Any significant changes to an ICMP will be subject to stakeholder consultation and Council's internal ICMP approval process, the same as for preparation of an original ICMP[15]. When necessary, certification of the changes will be sought from Waikato Regional Council.

10. COSTS AND BENEFITS

10.1 Costs

Council has a programme for the preparation of full ICMPs, which is funded via the 10 Year Plan. If you are required to prepare a sub-catchment ICMP[16], or a full ICMP in relation to a private plan change[17], you will need to undertake this work at your own expense.

Council cannot provide an indication of the likely cost of developing a sub-catchment ICMP, as there are too many variables at play; one sub-catchment ICMP may cost significantly more to develop than another.

10.2 Benefits

The benefits of preparing and implementing an ICMP include putting in place the best practicable infrastructure, water sensitive techniques and initiatives to:

1. Improve the quality of the receiving environment;
2. Coordinate development in a manner that recognises and provides for natural hydrological processes;
3. Provide greater certainty about the appropriateness of proposed developments within a catchment;
4. Ensure compliance with Council's Three Waters resource consents;
5. Achieve stormwater management objectives regarding the quality, volume and rate of discharge to the Waikato River;
6. Achieve the social, cultural, economic and ecological objectives identified for the catchment;
7. Encourage the reuse of water resources where appropriate; and
8. Optimise vested assets, which in turn will minimise their whole of life cost to the community.

11. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ICMPS

If you have any further questions about ICMPs, these may be directed via email to: icmp@hcc.govt.nz

[15] See 7 and 8 above.
[16] See 4 above.
[17] See 3.1 above.