

Criteria for assessing Freshwater Champions nominations

Values and objectives

- Clearly defined catchment values and objectives representing the wider community.
- Alignment with Te Mana o te Wai, Te Mana o te Taiao.
- Who's involved, partnerships, connections, collaboration/collective action.
- Involvement of mana whenua.
- Short and long-term priorities.
- Understanding of the scale of action needed to achieve objectives.
- Knowledge sharing – types of mechanisms, within group and external to the group, scale of sharing (national vs local).

On-the-ground actions

- Innovation and creativity.
- Who's involved, partnerships, connections.
- What are the on-the-ground actions being applied e.g. farm plans, wastewater treatment, wetland protection, riparian planting, chemical or irrigation management, stock management, fish passage enhancement.
- Are they recording their actions?

Making a difference and encouraging others

- Who's involved, partnerships, connections.
- Evidence of what has changed e.g. stocking rates, land use, plants planted, fences built.
- Effective monitoring and mechanisms for measuring change e.g. using NEMS-endorsed methods or cultural monitoring.
- Scientific evidence of improvements e.g. published on LAWA or elsewhere.
- Knowledge sharing – types of mechanisms, within group and external to the group, scale of sharing (national vs local).

Future-proofing the efforts

- Reflecting on challenges/problems and how they are being tackled.
- Continuous improvement.
- Leadership, succession, intergenerational involvement.