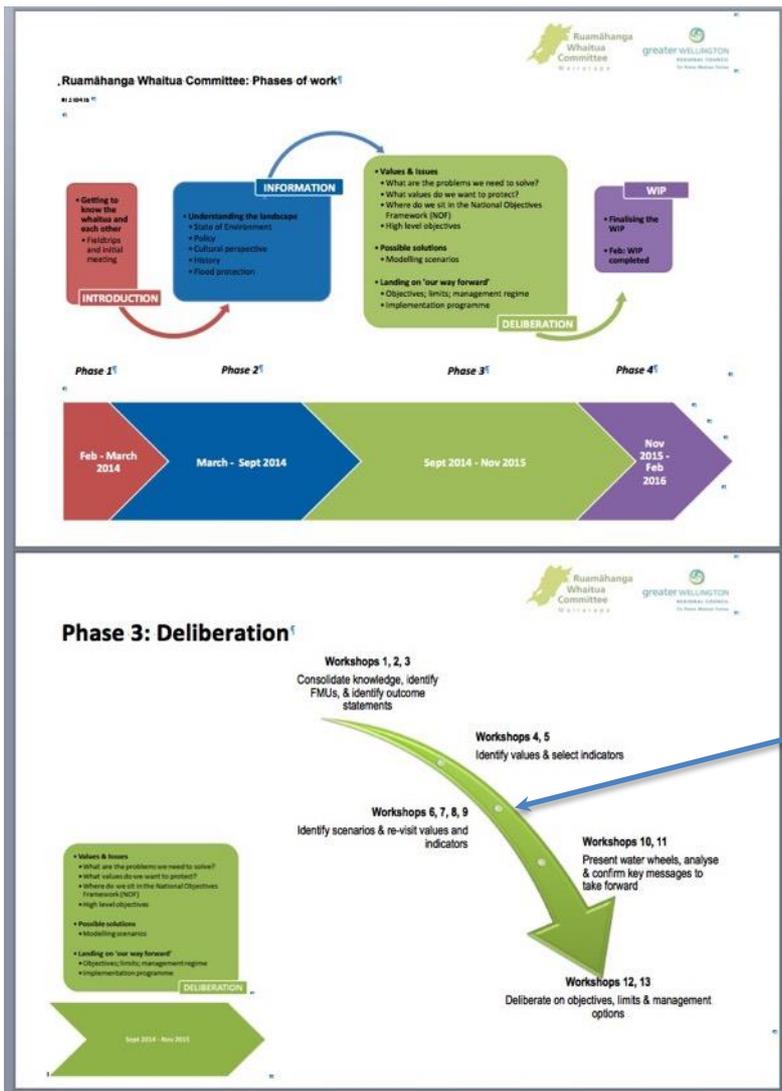


# Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

## Deliberations Phase 3 - Workshop 23

### June 7 2016 Carterton Events Centre



Workshop 23

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**Summary** This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga  
Whaitua Committee held June 7 2016 at Carterton Events Centre

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**Contents** These notes contain the following:

- A Workshop Attendees
  - B Workshop Purpose and Agenda
  - C Follow Up Actions to Previous Meetings
  - D River Management Discussion
  - E Community Engagement
  - F Review of Outcomes
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## **A Workshop Attendees**

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**Workshop Attendees** Aidan Bichan, Mike Birch, Peter Gawith, David Holmes, Mike Ashby, Russell Kawana, Ra Smith, Philip Palmer, Andy Duncan, Esther Dijkstra, Vanessa Tipoki

Alastair Smaill, Kat Banyard, Michelle Rush, Natasha Tomic, Hayley Vujcich, Murray McLea, Horipo Rimene, Brigitte De Barletta

John Bright, Mike Thompson, Jon Gabites, Mark Hooker, Isabella Cawthorn

**Apologies:** Colin Olds, Chris Laidlaw, Rebecca Fox

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## **B Workshop Purpose**

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**Workshop Purpose** The workshop purposes were:

### ***River Management***

- To build an understanding of Flood Management Plans and where they sit and what they can offer as a catchment management tool.
- To explore synergies and opportunities between FMP reviews and the work of the Whaitua committee; and
- To understand the proposed objectives for, and status of the TK Upper Ruamahanga FMP and Waiohine FMP.

### ***Water Allocation***

- Build an understanding of the mechanics of setting minimum flows and confirm understanding of this with allocation limit and reliability of supply
- Build an understanding of what decisions RWC will need to make in

- regards to water allocation in the Whaitua; and
- Clarify what information needs and/or questions RWC members would like answers to, to equip them for this decision making; and, if relevant
- Confirm any additional questions about water allocation RWC wants to put to the community to inform this.

### ***Community Engagement***

- Confirm the questions to guide the next round of community engagement.

### **Workshop Agenda**

The agenda is below.

**Welcome** (Peter Gawith) **and Karakia** (Ra Smith) (1:30-1:40PM)

**Outline of purpose and confirming agenda** (Michelle Rush) (1:40-2:00PM)

**River management** (Mark Hooker & Alistair Allan, Flood Protection, GWRC) (2:00-3:00PM)

**Water allocation** (Murray McLea, Mike Thompson & Alastair Smail) (3:00-3:30PM)

**Afternoon Tea** (3:30-4:00PM)

**Water allocation continued** (Murray McLea, Mike Thompson & Alastair Smail) (4:00-4:30PM)

**Community engagement – community questions** (Jon Gabites) (4:30-5:15PM)

**Outcomes** (5:15-5:50PM)

**Communications from tonight** (5:50-6:00PM)

## **C Follow Up Actions to Previous Meetings**

### **Follow Up Actions**

There were none.

## **D River Management Discussion**

## Overview

Mark Hooker from the GWRC flood protection department gave a presentation on floodplain management plans (FMP's), and the approach GWRC are taking to their development. This included the FMP's for Te Kauru Upper Ruamahānga and the Waiohine.



Mark + Alistair  
Whaitua committee pi

Following his presentation, RWC members took part in a structured discussion. This identified, amongst other things, what was reassuring; what was concerning; what the opportunities for synergies between the work of the flood protection department and RWC were, and proposed next steps. Key points from this discussion are set out below.

A paper on river management was also circulated to the Committee. River management in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua.



Report - River  
management in the R

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## Clarification Questions following River Management Presentation

What is a “Global” Consent? GWRC is applying for 35 year consents for river interventions on the rivers and streams it manages, including the Ruamahanga River. This includes provisions for regular reviews and monitoring.

Are floodplain management plans about more than just flooding and erosion?

Yes, they are an attempt to change the approach to look at more than just flooding and consider other values.

Is river management a subset of floodplain management planning?

The RWC are looking at habitat, water allocation etc.

The FMPs are moving towards integrated catchment management (ICM). ICM would require many parties to be involved e.g. DOC, NZTA, district councils.

What are or will be the conditions of consent?

When do the current consents run out and when do new applications get decided?

- Further information in the associated paper.
- Lower valley barrage gates haven't expired.
- Schemes under Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act? There is already a scheme in place. GWRC could withdraw but it would be following consultation with the community.

Comment from committee: There has been an integrated approach within flood protection but not within river management. The

Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee’s view of river management is wider than the way in which the flood protection department uses the term.

Pictures in the presentation show mostly exotic plants. How is this meeting sustainability and biodiversity outcomes?

This is a major issue identified by the FMP. There is a risk in using a single type of tree and it doesn’t help biodiversity. There is a biodiversity review in progress looking at how best to incorporate natives into buffer zones. At the moment, willows are the best trees to deliver edge protection outcomes.

Review conditions on the consent will dictate whether it can be reviewed. FMPs – has a review clause in it, as does the PNRP. There is a 5 year review and annual monitoring programme proposed in the applications. A review of a consent can’t make it inoperable so there are constraints.

If the PNRP changes because of the RWC WIP and this means the consent is no longer legal, then this can trigger a review – although there are some constraints on this.

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**What was reassuring to hear?**

- Community consultation
- The stated aim to improve biodiversity
- Sustainable management focus
- The integrated approach
- That someone is looking after/managing the flood risk

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**What was concerning?**

- Don’t have the capacity in GW to answer “who actually manages rivers?”
- Council not set up to talk on good management – beyond just flood management – implementation in general.
- ‘Narrow’ holistic approach – channelled!
- Concern about focus on FMPs not river management, e.g. sediment mitigation needs attention – ensuring the river is able to improve its own water quality.
- Concern for what rivers need to look like in the future – how much, if any input can the Whaitua have into this, especially when we have consents already granted? What does that mean?
- Flood management the “default” whereas shouldn’t we be defaulting to integrated catchment management? A risk we will go down a set path that ignores potential catchment scale innovation.

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**What Synergies / Opportunities can you see between FMP work and the**

- RWC Look at whole issue – integrated catchment.
- Processes are inseparable – keep working together.
- Need to bring the environment and practical side together – by consultation – talking things through – suggesting things to

## RWC process?

community.

- FMP process does mirror what we're doing – well attended meetings/field days.
  - Design in all parties to improve natural character – solution requires 'whole of GW approach' and 'whole of community approach' opportunity for RWC to say how things could potentially be managed – how to implement the recommendations.
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## What should be our next steps regarding RWC and Flood Management?

- See the Waiohine proposals first.
  - See/hear what the community feedback was – community aspirations in relation to the aims articulated in the flood plans.
  - Meeting with Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga floodplain management committee and the Waiohine Advisory Board.
  - What are other options for flood management?
  - Tools in tool box – what else could be done?
  - Hear what other OPTIONS are – what other Councils are using that is different to what has been done in the past – that bring together flood management outcomes with other outcomes e.g. natural character
  - Talk to Chris re signalling the 'gap' we see in the river management approach vs taking an integrated catchment management approach.
  - Where did the Te Kauru vision come from and how aligned is it with the RWC vision?
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## Water Allocation

Mike Thompson and Murray McLea gave a presentation to explain the relationship between minimum flow and allocation limit and reliability of supply; the allocation system and its components; and the dimensions of this for which RWC will have to make decisions.



Allocation concepts -  
2nd presentation - to

The questions asked and discussed are summarised below.

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## Allocation Discussion Questions

*How have MALF default limits been derived?*

Default limit is 50% of Mean Annual Law Flow (MALF) and 30% of smaller rivers

- used nationally
- 'rule of thumb'
- used when council doesn't have anything more specific

What are examples of what Canterbury zone committees have done?  
Rakia or Hurunui would be fair examples.

Can the river go below minimum flows?

Minimum flows won't be met at all times because of over allocation. If you over allocate then it becomes less reliable and the river stays at minimum flow for longer.

How will the committee get a feel for the environmental impacts of minimum flows?

From the modelling and the conditions that will be created. The modelling will show the consequences of the existing conditions and then any changes through the scenario testing.

Are their limits on a bore for individuals?

Yes. Its 10 m<sup>3</sup> per day for a property less than 20ha in size or 20 m<sup>3</sup>/day for a property greater than 20ha It is permitted and not monitored e.g. for those with a lifestyle block watering their garden.

On the Kopuaranga the minimum flow is 270l/s and there was previously a rule that when it hit 300l/s irrigation was restricted to 50%. Why did this occur?

Not sure but step down allocations are something the committee could look at.

The feedback the committee has had from stakeholders is that reliability is poor. Around 20%. Conversation that reliability is getting worse but consents are still being granted. Water could have been allocated years ago but is only being utilised now.

What are the current permitted activities that provide a water allocation?

- farm dairies (at existing herd size)
- 10 cubic metres /day for a property <20ha (e.g. will see lifestylers irrigating a garden)
- 20 cubic metres /day for a property >20ha
- In addition water for stock and domestic use is permitted by the RMA.

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## E Community Engagement

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### Community Engagement Overview

The purpose of this session was twofold:

- Firstly to check and confirm the list of questions, which had been edited for sense and to remove overlaps from the set brainstormed last time; and
- Secondly, to select three 'big' questions to go on the Community Engagement brochure, and to be used as a starting point for the Community Engagement meetings, and also in Bang the Table.

To do this, RWC members discussed the questions, checking them

against the following criteria: Is the question...

1. Open?
2. Understandable?
3. One question?

The three 'big' questions and confirmed detail questions are set out below.

### **Issues Paper**

In the course of the discussion, RWC members were asked what they wished to do with the Issues Paper they had confirmed. It was agreed it should be made available on the Web page and available as required during the community engagement.

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#### **Final Agreed Questions for Brochure**

- **Water Allocation**  
What's the fairest way of restricting water use during the summer?
- **Water Quality**  
What do we need to do to make our rivers swimmable and how long should it take to get there?
- **River Management**  
How should we manage rivers to improve natural character whilst safeguarding community assets, income and households?

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#### **Detailed Questions - Water quality (Nutrients, pathogens, sediment)**

- Are you willing to accept a different standard of water quality for different water uses? For each use, what water quality are you willing to accept?
- Do we need to be able to swim everywhere all the time? If not, how do we decide where and when?
- How do we allocate water quality?
- What does water quality mean to you? Five senses. How would this be different in: rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, springs, estuaries?
- For ecosystem services, are we willing to incentivise improved water quality? How do we do it?
- If we have to improve water quality, how long can we take to do it?
- How long would it take for us to be able to swim everywhere all of the time?

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#### **Water use and allocation**

- Are you happy with the way water is currently being used in this region?
- How could water be used more efficiently?
- At times of lower flow in summer, are the restrictions put on water supply enough to ensure there is healthy aquatic life in

- our rivers/streams?
  - At times of lower flow in summer are the restrictions put on water supply fair?
  - Is your water supply reliable enough for you?
  - If spare water became available who should get it?
- 

**River management**

- Are you happy with the way our rivers are being managed?
  - How should we manage rivers to increase flow?
  - How should we manage water in the rivers to maximise water quality?
  - How should we manage to safeguard community assets, income and households?
  - How should the river bed be managed including gravel extraction?
- 

**Other Questions** How will the proposed changes affect you?

How much is one household prepared to pay (in ones rates/reduced services to the community) to achieve each level of outcome?

- 100% swimmable;
- mostly swimmable;
- specific sites swimmable all the time etc.

Is the community prepared to look at hard engineering solutions to quality and quantity e.g. dams, 2<sup>nd</sup> barrage for more flow to lake (restore old entrance)?

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## F Review of Outcomes

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**Narrative around the outcomes**

RWC concluded that the best approach to the questions asked about the outcomes was to spend some time developing a narrative to accompany each of them that helped explain the thinking behind the outcome. It was agreed this was best done through a workshop activity at a later session, after which the ideas could be further tidied by an editing group.

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**What is the purpose of our outcome statements?**

Vanessa shared some feedback she had had from a planning firm in the Wairarapa who had some questions about the RWC outcome statements.

The comments made were that the RWC set:

- Have both process and goal outcomes
- Had sustainable management used in respect of both economic and biological sustainability – and that this was different to the

- scope of sustainable management as defined in the RMA
- Outcomes ideally should be measurable – a description of the state of environment and value to be achieved

In reflecting on these comments, RWC members confirmed that the purpose of the outcome statements as they saw them was:

- To articulate our vision.
- To set a direction of travel – a high level direction we could agree on
- To provide guidance for the Committee to achieve the vision of *Where Water Glistens* – to get everyone on the same page
- To guide identifying the values / attributes / indicators.

ENDS