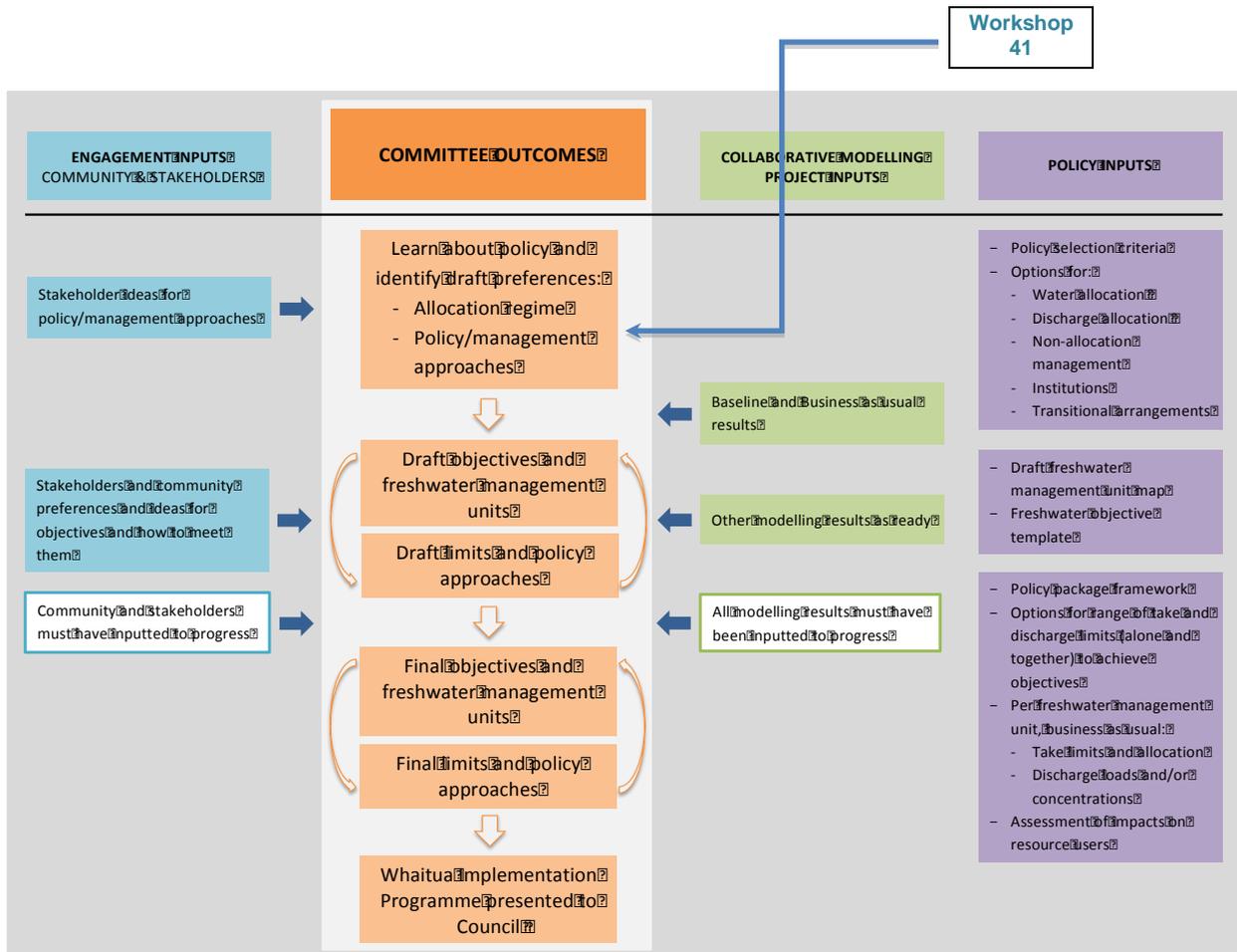


Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

Deliberations Phase 3 – Workshop 41

Monday 1 May 2017, 12:30-6PM

South Wairarapa Working Men’s Club, Greytown



Summary This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held 1 May 2017 at the South Wairarapa Working Men’s Club, Greytown.

Contents These notes contain the following:

- A** Workshop Attendees
- B** Workshop Purpose and Agenda
- C** Workshop Decisions
- D** Workshop Actions
- E** Farm Planning Policy Approaches
- F** RWC Policy Approach to Managing Discharges
- G** Water Allocation Policy Refresh
- H** FMUs for Water Quantity
- I** General Business Items

Appendix 1: Photos of Flipcharts

A Workshop Attendees

Workshop Attendees

RW Committee:

Esther Dijkstra, Philip Palmer, David Holmes, Colin Olds, Peter Gawith, Russell Kawana, Vanessa Tipoki, Chris Laidlaw
Andy Duncan (late arrival), Ra Smith (late arrival), Aidan Bichan (late arrival).

Greater Wellington Project Team:

Alastair Smaill, Murray McLea, Grace Leung (minutes).

Modellers: John Bright.

Independent Facilitator: Michelle Rush.

Apologies: Mike Ashby, Mike Birch, Rebecca Fox.

B Workshop Purpose and Agenda

Purpose

1. Refresh understanding of what makes for effective farm plans and in tandem with this, build an understanding of the policy settings and institutional arrangements that best

provide signals and incentives for effective farm plans and their implementation. Reach consensus on one or two options to take out and test with the community.

2. Confirm the RWC’s overall policy approach to managing discharges.
3. Refresh understanding of policy options for water allocation.
4. Understand the process from here (including the stakeholder / community engagement step) from which to arrive at:
 - Minimum flows and allocation limits for each freshwater management unit
 - Preferred allocation mechanism(s)
5. Confirm the proposed interim freshwater management units for water quantity

The purposes were achieved.

Agenda

The agenda is detailed in the table below.

Time	Topic
(12:30 - 1:00PM)	Lunch
(1:00 - 1:15PM)	Welcome (Peter Gawith) and Karakia (Ra Smith), Purposes (Michelle Rush)
(1:15 – 2:45PM)	Farm scale planning
(2:45 - 3:15PM)	Afternoon tea
(3:15 – 4:15PM)	Articulating the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee’s approach to managing contaminants
(4:15 – 5:30PM)	Water allocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Refresh of where we’re at ● Process from here ● Freshwater management units
(5:30 – 6:00PM)	Committee only meeting
(6PM)	Meeting Close

C Workshop Decisions

Workshop decisions

E Farm Planning Policy Approaches

Decision:

- Committee prefers to test two different approaches with the community around farm scale planning.
 - Incentivised farm plans but not required. Compulsion if goals not achieved in 10 years – and targeted rates to pay for it.
 - Will be required where there are freshwater quality problems.

H FMUs for Water Quantity

Decision:

- RWC members agreed to the FMUs proposed for water quantity.

D Workshop Actions

Actions Arising

E Farm Planning Policy Approaches

Action: Project team to draft up the Committee's approach based on the discussions. To then be checked with the Committee.

F Policy Approach to Managing Discharges

Action:

- Combine the statements on how to manage discharges into a single statement.
- It was suggested and agreed, that at a later time, once the final decisions have been made regarding policy directions for discharges, a set of more specific policy directions could be identified to accompany these more generic statements.

H FMU's for Water Quantity

Action: If RWC members have further questions on the FMUs for water quantity, please send them to Kat Banyard for forwarding to Mike Thompson.

I General Business Items

Action:

- Put together a template for those events, which not all committee members can attend. E.g. Field days content, Team Ag events.
- Aidan to distribute the handout from the dairy effluent field day on 20 April.

E Workshop Notes – Farm Planning Policy Approaches

Overview

The session began with a discussion on the key messages that came out of Richard Parkes's presentation on farm plans at an earlier workshop. The key points traversed were:

- Plans should cover things that farmers deal with on a daily basis i.e. family commitments, climate, dealing with the vet, debt, weather, number of people on and off-farm that the farmer has to deal with especially in context of silos in councils.
- New South Wales Councils creating a 'one-stop shop' approach in dealing with farmers.
- Whether farm plans are an effective approach and how farm and business plans should include good environmental practice, health and safety etc.
- Take an integrated approach to be effective, e.g. recognise relationships and cooperation between farms.
- Consider the factors to incentivise and motivate farmers to take on farm planning based on a behaviour change model e.g. those who are ready for change and will adapt and those who are not (those on the other end of the spectrum).
- Participants discussed what they saw as the dominant factor behind resistance to farm planning – a sense that this was the average age of many farmers.
- Recognition - resistance to change in older age groups.
- Cultural norms may be easier to adopt by next generation of farmers who tend to have access to more information, technology and discussion forums.

Context for Farm Plan Policy

Alastair Smaill then gave a brief introduction to what needed to be considered when identifying policies to incentivise farm planning as a means of improving environmental performance. Key points were:

- Consider 'stickability' – what's going to achieve uptake, and ongoing implementation, of farm planning for environmental performance.

- Consider the rate of change required.
 - Consider the connection with (or existence of) industry plans, e.g. both Dairy NZ and Sheep and Beef NZ have environmental farm templates of various kinds, as do other sectors.
 - Consider the role of information, building understanding, education and support.
 - Consider where the mechanism fits on the spectrum from mandatory (compulsory) farm planning requirements, e.g. a system where a plan is required as part of a condition of a resource consent (or to farm as a permitted activity) through to a system where farm plans are entirely voluntary.
-

**Farm Plan
Policy
Frameworks -
Questions**

Is it true that farmers in Selwyn/Waihora will now need a ‘licence to farm’?

- Farm plans will be mandatory under Environment Canterbury’s Land and Water Plan as a condition of consent issued by the council as the regulator. Plans will be audited.
- Other council regimes require a farm plan but have few requirements about the content of the farm plans and how they are implemented.
- Under a regulatory regime, there is significant cost to regulate, administer and enforce farms plans, which is typically passed onto the consent holders. Information and understanding of the benefit of having a plan and having support to carry them out is important to success.
- Canterbury, Waikato and Southland are taking a regulatory approach but Canterbury is reviewing this due to the resources required to administer this approach.

Degrees of commitment/passion will surely vary between farm owners (especially off-farm owners, e.g. corporate farm structures) vs those owner operators, which will mean regulatory and voluntary approaches will have varying levels of success.

- That could be the case, but some corporate farm-owners will be familiar with business plans and the benefits of good environmental performance.

Good environmental performance can often be penalised e.g. if nitrogen leaching is already as low as possible, regulations may require them to be further reduced to a level that is not possible. Environmental planning was successful in the fishing company.

It was successful because the requirements were regulated.

- There is also a cultural aspect as to how palatable a regulatory approach is to businesses, which the committee needs to be mindful of.

**Breakout
Group
Instructions –
Farm Plan
Policy Package**

Following this, RWC members broke into groups to workshop the following:

- What are all of you seeing as part of / all of the ‘farm plan’?
 - *e.g. a plan for nitrogen leaching?*
- How do you ensure it ‘sticks’?
 - *e.g. it’s required for permitted activity status*
 - *e.g. plans are audited and benchmarked*

The findings of each breakout group are below.

**Report Back
Farm Plan
Policy
Approach -
Group 1**

- Creating awareness – what is the problem?
- Farm planning needs to identify where there is flexibility at farm scale to do something, with an emphasis on practice.
- One size does not fit all at catchment, FMU, sub-catchment, and then property scale – look at where the responsibility lies.
- Focus on practical actions, e.g. contaminant management.
- Use GMP; industry rules are useful tools.
- Regulate at FMU scale – set limits at FMU scale and administer at FMU scale.
- Use an integrated planning approach and focus on voluntary approaches but have a set consequences of not meeting targets e.g. if voluntary approaches are not reaching targets within plan life cycle (or otherwise specified timeframe), then regulatory approaches will be put into place.
- Also determine whether there is a minimum property size for requiring a farm plan. Or where farm is run as a business, then farm plan is required or where properties are smaller, look at alternatives.

- Need to recognise any existing actions related to farm planning.
-

**Report Back
Farm Plan
Policy
Approach -
Group 2**

- Catchments in band D will be required to have a farm plan as condition of consent.
 - Those in higher bands will need to show improvement targets below which farm plans will be required.
 - Nutrient discharge to be estimated at farm level but monitored by GWRC at sub-catchment level.
 - Discussion groups to include farmers, sector groups and council staff to support farm plans.
 - Incentives to be put in place e.g. rates rebates, costs of consent to be staggered.
-

**Discussion of
results**

- Group 2 did not discuss timeframe while Group 1 did. Timeframes do not account for seasonal and market differences which influence whether changes within timeframe are achievable and allow farmers to stay in business.
 - Group 1 needs to be clear that if voluntary approach makes not progress then regulation will be required.
 - Group 2 emphasised setting of FMU level targets for water quality grades i.e. objectives.
 - Group 1 wanted to incentivise, but not require. Wanted to set time frame within which targets need to be met or regulation will be established.
 - Group 2 wanted regulation to be required immediately where there are problems.
-

Farm Plan Policy Recommendations – Agreed summary of key similarities and differences

The following similarities and differences in the two farm plan policy approaches were distilled.

Farm Plan Policy Recommendations – Similarities and Differences

Similarities

- Monitoring should be done at both FMU / catchment level.
- Regulation - limits should be set at FMU scale.
- One size doesn't fit all, e.g. need to consider land use, soil types.
- Good management practice should be emphasised as part of every farm plan, e.g. CoP, industry rules etc.
- Plans must be focused on actions.

Differences

Group 1

- Incentivised farm plans but not required.
- Compulsion if goals not achieved in 10 years – and targeted rates to pay for it.

Group 2

- Will be required where there are freshwater quality problems.

Other Policy Considerations for Farm Planning Provisions

Is there a more appealing term than farm plan?

FMUs are a useful tool for managing cumulative effects and putting pressure on non-compliant land-users.

- It will be critical to establish a timeframe to achieve voluntary improvements in FMU's.
- Eastern Hills in band D for periphyton; Kopuaranga for E.coli; and multiple contaminants for the Lakes.
- Issue with using bands is that they are specific to particular contaminants so we will need to decide whether a farm plan only targets that contaminant, or if a farm plan needs to take a broader approach.

How are the cumulative effects from upstream estimated so that downstream impacts are not penalising downstream land users unfairly?

- FMUs take this into account.

What about farm plans that are already in place and tools that are already being used?

- There are other mechanisms beyond just consent conditions, e.g. such as a rule in a Plan.

What if contaminants like sediments do not necessarily come from agricultural land use i.e. Forestry?

- Consenting covers all land uses, including forestry. It is not only agricultural uses that would be managed.

Ensuring we consider the full policy context:

We need to consider that we are operating under a sustainable management framework, not just economic sustainability.

Also need to explain the tools other than farm plans that we are envisaging, e.g. when engaging with community especially where mitigation tools are limited e.g. stock exclusion is the only effective method.

Need to be mindful of whether quantitative targets will end up being like an allocation regime, which the committee did not want to establish.

Planning approach, especially at sub-catchment scale, gives more flexibility and allows ability to calculate where gains are best made.

Self-regulation is often observed via peer pressure at FMU level through communities.

Decision: Committee prefers to test approaches of both groups (with respect to mandatory vs voluntary dimensions of farm plan policy) with the community (i.e. level of compulsion).

Will need to articulate the discussion and justifications for each approach.

Avoid using term 'land use consent' but use requirement to have farm plan where there is a problem.

Action: Project team to draft up for committee, and bring back to confirm that it reflects the discussion had.

Action: Bring a few hard copies of previous meeting summaries to next committee meeting.

F RWC Policy Approach to Managing Discharges

Articulating RWC approach to managing contaminants

Working in breakout groups, RWC members were asked to develop a statement that summarises the RWC policy approach to managing contaminants in exactly 32 words.

The statements from each group are given below.

Breakout Group Statements

Group A

We are all connected by water; therefore we are responsible for its quality. Together we will be a powerful driver for improving water quality, sustainable economic future with recreational and cultural opportunities.

Group B

The need for improvement in Wairarapa's valley drives the journey of our community on our lands being managed sustainably with the environment we share to arrive at the goal of glistening water.

Discussion and Next Steps

The statements were discussed following the report back, and the following common elements identified:

- collective responsibility
- sustainability

Decision:

RWC agreed to ask the Policy Team to amalgamate the two statements. There was also a sense that it may also be appropriate to use one or other of the statements at any particular point, depending on the context.

Missing: It was felt that elements that were missing were having the contaminants specified in relation to their sources.

Reflection: It was observed that the statements weren't really policy direction statements, but rather good introductory statements for setting the tone.

It was agreed that this exercise, in limiting the number of words, fosters emphasis on what is most important i.e. active rather than passive management and being all-inclusive.

Action: Combine the statements into a single statement. It was suggested and agreed that at a later time once the final decisions have been made regarding policy directions for discharges, a set of more specific policy directions could be identified to accompany these more generic statements.

G Water Allocation Policy Refresh

Overview

This session began with a brainstorm exercise identifying the components of a water allocation system.

RWC members then chose which of these they wanted to further clarify or discuss, and people teamed up to do this in pairs.

Following the exercise, there was a general discussion to hear key messages from this. These are detailed below.

Components of a Water Allocation System

The following components were identified, initially through a RWC brainstorm, and then some additions included from Murray McLea.

Components:

- Demand – environment; recreation; cultural; economic; drinking water
 - Allocation limits
 - Allocation time frame
 - Length of consents
 - Transferring / sharing allocation
 - Supplementary allocation - [on farm] storage
 - Supply – run of river, storage
 - Minimum flows
 - Groundwater depletion of small streams
 - Aquifer recharge
 - Metering
 - MALF
 - \$ Valuing water
 - Water taken for community supply at low flow
 - Ecological flow
 - User groups
 - Permitted activities
 - Grandparenting
 - Available water on expiry of consents
 - Equity – people and environment
 - Reliability
 - Efficiency
 - Needs Based
-

Water Allocation system questions

Questions and comments made during a round of RWC members discussion to check in the extent to which their question/query on the components of a water allocation system had been answered:

- Increasing flow may boost trout population which may deplete native fish.
 - How will grandparenting regimes take into account economic trade-offs?
 - Small streams – we are currently using pump tests, which aren't very effective. Would like to explore whether impacts of cumulative groundwater takes on small streams can be modelled. Existing groundwater modelling indicates the likely cumulative depletion effect on some high use streams but not all. The CMP modelling will further help characterise this effect but conclusions will continue to be hampered by lack of fine scale stream flow data to verify model outputs.
 - Further questions on groundwater recharge.
 - Is reducing cultural flows & velocity possible?
 - Reducing velocity increases the rate of aquifer recharge which will be explored further in the aquifer recharge conversation. Some mechanisms to achieve this may also sit outside of an allocation regime e.g. investment, integrated planning.
 - Sharing. Users may want to transfer allocations within different irrigation conditions e.g. wind.
 - Need to explore mechanisms around grandparenting further.
 - How is ecological flow determined?
 - Supplementary allocations – needs a further discussion with the whole committee on exactly what this is and how it is dealt with.
-

H FMUs for Water Quantity

Overview

Mike Thompson gave a presentation explaining the refined Freshwater Management Units proposed for dealing with water quantity (allocation).

[Presentation from Mike Thompson on FMUs for water quantity - 1 May 2017](#)

Key points from his presentation are set out below.

RWC members agreed with the boundaries proposed for the FMU (quantity) areas.

FMUs for Water Quantity presentation – Mike Thompson

- Recap of initial 2014 preliminary FMUs, followed by Land and Water People (LWP) management zones for quantity management presented to committee in 2016.
- Final FMUs proposed require approval from committee. Two types proposed:
 - FMUs that group common river types e.g. gravel vs valley floor (7 FMUs proposed).
 - 3-tier system of nested FMUs defined largely by hydrological boundaries.
- Turanganui River to be separated from Eastern Hills due to difference in climate. Yes, limits could be set separately but may have same objective as current proposed FMU.
- In 3-tiers approach, tier 2 will show cumulative effects of ground and surface water interactions and therefore accounting for flows.

Does this system allow for monitoring points?

It is not explicitly shown but accounting points for quantity will be at the bottom of each FMU (administration points) but this is not necessarily the case for monitoring water quality, which needs to be representative. More work is required in this space by the project team.

Current monitoring network may not correspond with FMUs proposed and is a requirement of NPS-FM to have monitoring points, which account for FMU administration points. Because

limits that are currently being set are based on monitoring points, limits set are likely to be ‘wrong’.

How can the WIP be flexible in order to adapt limits to new information once new monitoring points are established?

There is not too much adaptability around statutory plan change process. However, limits may be adjusted when reviewed within the timeframe of a plan change/review.

Gravel extraction in blue FMU (wet climate, hill-fed, hard rock catchments) expected to increase as an example.... How can the plan anticipate such land use changes and consequent limit setting?

Need to look at objectives set for each FMU before testing against values implicit in the two statements.

Need to keep in mind that the quantity FMU definition is simpler than the quality definition, which has more complexities. Also need to consider that physical catchment boundaries and communities of interest are not the same. Therefore there is a real question about how to best reconcile this.

Next Steps:

Please keep in mind any questions to send to Mike Thompson or project team to be tested.

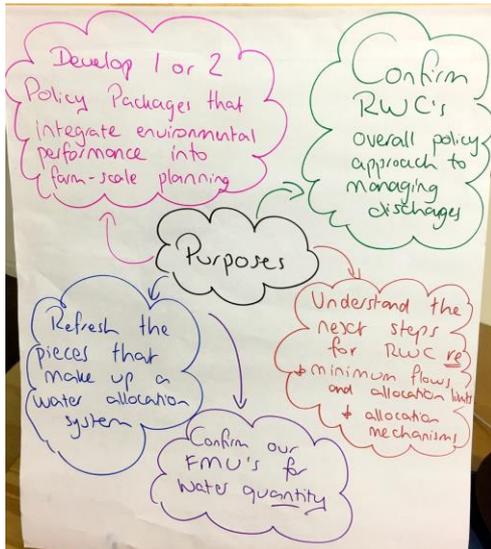
I General Business

General Business

Reminder about Next Meeting

- May 22nd – meeting will start at 2:30 for presentation from Water Users Group. Followed by 4-8pm committee meeting. Please let Peter know if you cannot make it.
 - Suggest putting together a template for those events, which not all committee members can attend. E.g. Field days content, Team Ag.
 - **Aidan:** has suggested to Kat what should be in template i.e. how many attended, what was discussed.
 - Aidan to distribute the handout from the dairy effluent field day on 20 April.
 - May 4th Ballance Farm Awards at Nathan Williams' property.
 - David – field day presentation for water storage on farm was very successful.
 - Successful kaitiaki meeting held, & will have noho marae training for kaitiaki in mid-May.
 - Need to look at minimum flows, allocation & new water together to change the way we look at allocation.
 - There are some issues in terms of the timing of modelling results which mean we need to discuss things in sections.
-

Appendix 1: Photos of flip charts



Articulating RWC approach to managing contaminants

- Develop a statement that summarises the RWC policy approach to managing contaminants in exactly 32 words...

We are all connected by water, therefore we are responsible for its quality.

Together we will be a powerful driver for improving:

- water quality,
- sustainable economic future with recreational and cultural opportunities (32)!

take that / granny

The need for improvement in ^{Wairarapa's} ~~the~~ valley drives the journey of our community on our lands being managed sustainably with the environment we share to arrive at the goal of Glistening Waters.

Your Policy Package

⑤ What are you seeking as part of the "farm plan?"

all of

E.g... a plan for nitrogen leaching

⑥ How do you ensure it "sticks?"

E.g. It's required for permitted activity status

E.g. Plans are audited and benchmarked

Stickability?

Plans in industry.

Rate of Change too

Think about: \$ cost to land user/business

Admin cost to RC.

Role of Info / Understanding / Education / Support

