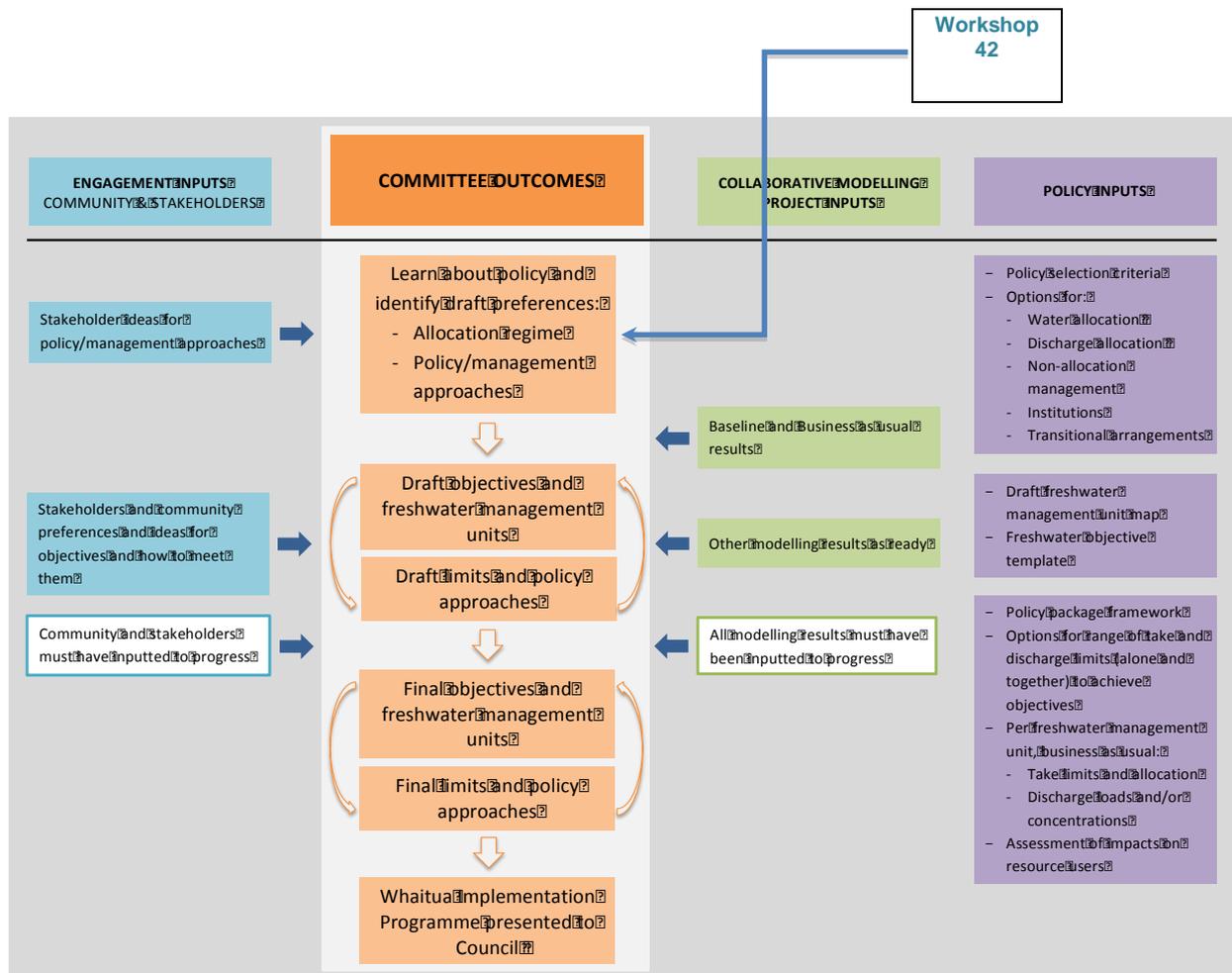


Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

Deliberations Phase 3 – Workshop 42

Monday 22 May 2017, 4-8PM

Carterton Events Centre



Summary This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held 22 May 2017 at the Carterton Events Centre.

Contents These notes contain the following:

- A** Workshop Attendees
- B** Workshop Purpose and Agenda
- C** Workshop Decisions
- D** Workshop Actions
- E** Workshop Notes – Flow Dependent Values
- F** General Business
- G** Permitted Activities – Water Allocation

Appendix 1: Photos of Flipcharts

A Workshop Attendees

Workshop Attendees

RW Committee:

Aidan Bichan, Mike Birch, Esther Dijkstra, Andy Duncan, David Holmes, Peter Gawith, Russell Kawana, Chris Laidlaw, Phillip Palmer, Ra Smith, Vanessa Tipoki, Mike Ashby.

Greater Wellington and Project Team:

Kat Banyard, Murray McLea, Alton Perrie, Mike Thompson, Natasha Tomic, Jon Gabites, Mike Grace, Horipo Rimene.

Modellers: John Bright.

Independent Facilitator: Michelle Rush.

Apologies: Colin Olds, Rebecca Fox, Alastair Smaill.

B Workshop Purpose and Agenda

Purpose To refresh the purpose of the flow regime modelling, and what additional information this can provide RWC over the flow modelling that is being done within CMP project.

To understand the scope and limitations of this additional flow regime modelling.

- 1) To refresh understanding about fish sensitivity to flow, and where the fish are, in the whitua.
- 2) To refresh understanding about the minimum flows and allocation levels specified in the PNRP and what these mean for fish habitat.
- 3) To identify what it is RWC wish to see flow regimes protect in regards to:
 - Recreation (uses where flow / depth is a key factor)
 - Culture (rites, traditions, Mahinga kai etc. **where flow / depth is a key factor**) and
 - Ecology (fish habitat)
- 4) And from this, to confirm:
 - What fish species to model under different flow regimes? and
 - Where in the Ruamahanga Whitua to do this modelling?
- 5) To discuss and confirm RWC policy approach to water allocation with regards to permitted activities.

Purposes 1, 2, 3 were achieved in part. Purpose 4 was achieved. Purpose 5 was not achieved.

Agenda

The agenda is detailed in the table below.

TIME	TASK	WHO
4:00	Karakia, Welcome, Purposes, Agenda, Scope	Peter, Ra, Michelle
4:10	Flows modelling assumptions and fit with other allocation work	Mike
4:20	Flow dependant values – what and where <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation • Culture • Ecology 	Jon G Mike T Alton
4:35	Flow dependant values – identifying what the management regime needs to protect	All
5:15	Surrogates for values that can't be modelled – confirm	Mike
5:30	Current Flow Regime – PNRP	Mike
5:40	Protection levels to be modelled (PNRP and others)	All
6:00	Dinner	
6:30	Confirmation of species and protection levels to be modelled	All
7:00	Allocation Policy Determination – Permitted Activities	Murray, All
8:00	Close	

C Workshop Decisions

Workshop Decisions

No policy decisions were made at this workshop.

With respect to the water allocation modelling being completed by Mike Thompson:

Mana whenua values – Caleb Royal’s minimum flows for cultural values will be modelled.

Ecological and recreational values – it was agreed to model torrent fish as a surrogate for these values and to >90% habitat retention.

D Workshop Actions

Workshop Actions

Flow dependent values

Mike Thompson to complete first iteration of EFSAP modelling based on Committee’s preferences noted in flow dependent values section of these notes.

Project team to schedule session to discuss river management.

General business

Esther Dijkstra to reply to Andrew Stewart’s (Sustainable Wairarapa) email regarding the RWC preference to not allocate nitrogen.

Esther Dijkstra to present at the Beef and Lamb water quality field day the RWC has been invited to on 14 June.

Kat Banyard to circulate the link and hard copy versions for RWC members to record stakeholder and public feedback to them.

E Workshop Notes – Flow Dependent Values

Overview

Two background papers were circulated in advance of the workshop – a glossary of terms and a paper on the river characteristics the Committee can establish minimum flows for:

[Modelling river flows - to RWC 22.05.2017](#)

[Glossary for water quantity allocation - to RWC 22.05.2017](#)

At the workshop Mike Thompson gave a presentation about the modelling work he will be completing for the Committee, the scope and limitations of this work and the information needed from the Committee for the modelling to occur.

[Water quantity limits - presentation to RWC 22.05.2017](#)

Alton Perrie then provided information on fish distribution across the whaitua. He also described which types of fish were more vulnerable to changes in flow than others (from the full list of fish on the presentation slide – ‘Fish – where have they been found?’).

Workshop Activity

RWC members then mapped what they wanted to see modelled in regards the impacts of different flow regimes, in relation to three dimensions:

1. Ecology (fish habitat - the fish species they wanted to see modelled, and where these were)
2. Recreation (flow-dependant values, and fish that could provide a ‘surrogate’ for these and where.)
3. Mana whenua (fish species they wished to see Caleb’s suggested cultural flows modelled in respect of and where)

Photographs of each annotated map are included in Appendix 1.

Key points from the report back discussion are included below.

Mana whenua values

The flows in Caleb Royal’s report (Cultural Values for Wairarapa Waterways, 2011) will be used for the modelling. We shouldn’t try and interpret mana whenua values through the modelling.

Concerns were raised by some Committee members about how the flows were calculated in Caleb’s report. His flow calculations look after the cultural values specified in the report.

Mike’s modelling will provide information about the effects of

these flows on reliability of supply – what the consequences are.

Ecological values

The Committee indicated a number of fish on the maps they were interested in being modelled. After discussion it was agreed to model torrent fish as the target species across the whole catchment as it has the highest flow needs of all the fish identified and it is widespread across the catchment. Torrent fish will act as a surrogate for these values.

Concern about the effects of climate change – flows can drop very quickly below minimum flows. Do we need a buffer, so have the results of the modelling and then add a buffer? What would that mean for resilience?

Rivers are channelled primarily for flood protection reasons. If we slowed the flow rate, then the flow rate would be different and water would be kept in the river for longer. Change the hydrograph so it's less peaky. Would like to see evidence around different ways of managing the rivers – attenuation, flow management, land use change etc. This is an issue the Committee will discuss in more detail at another time. Project team to schedule this discussion.

Committee agreed to >90% habitat retention to maintain existing fish populations. This will then need to be looked at alongside the other factors and trade-offs made in areas where this is hard to achieve e.g. against reliability of supply. If we go too high this could affect town water supplies and irrigation. Ecosystem health is a compulsory national value in the NPS-FM.

The >90% habitat retention provides a start for the modelling and the Committee will then iterate.

Recreational values

Committee agreed to model torrent fish across the whole catchment and model for >90% habitat retention to maintain existing fish populations (same as for ecological values).

It was noted that we don't have good information on flow dependent recreational values e.g. where people swim, what they value about swimming holes, and therefore what flows would cater for that.

Overall, participants confirmed that they wished to see fish habitat measured in respect of both an 'improved' and a 'high level of protection' flow regime.

F General Business

General Business

The following items were discussed during general business:

Email from Andy Stewart concerning RWC preference not to allocate nitrogen

This was discussed, and the following agreed: Esther to prepare an email in reply that clarifies that this is a proposal for discussion, and that RWC will be seeking opportunities to discuss this, along with other policy proposals, with stakeholders and the community as part of their upcoming community engagement round. Discussed there is a misconception in the community that this is the final decision.

Action: Esther to reply.

Beef and Lamb Water Quality Field Day 1:00 -5:00pm 14 June.

Esther, Mike A, David and Peter are planning to attend. The RWC has been invited to present. Esther will base a presentation on that she gave at the dairy effluent field day, in consultation with other RWC members. Will talk about whether the whaitua are up to.

Action: Esther to present.

Community Engagement – capturing feedback so that it can be shared and analysed. Jon Gabites took RWC members through the form designed for capturing RWC interactions with stakeholders and/or the public, in anticipation of the upcoming consultation round, and also the meetings RWC members are currently attending. There are two versions: an on-line version and a paper version for those who prefer to handwrite.

Action: Kat Banyard to circulate the link and printable version.

Kaitiaki noho marae – 17/18 May

This meeting went well, and focused on explaining to Kaitiaki the purpose, role and process for the RWC. A consultation opportunity is planned for 5/6 August for RWC members to meet with Kaitiaki. All RWC members are urged to keep these dates clear so that they can attend.

Action: All to diary August 5-6 2017.

MPI Staff Group

RWC members reported back on their talk to this group last month. The group's focus was water storage.

G Permitted Activities – Water Allocation

Overview

A two page background paper on permitted activities was circulated ahead of the workshop.

[Background information on permitted activities - to RWC 22.05.2017](#)

Murray McLea reminded the Committee what a permitted activity is and briefly talked through the background paper. He also explained the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) anticipates permitted activities being accounted for within limits. This is currently not done.

Murray talked about how other Councils manage permitted activities following the introduction of the NPS-FM.

The matters the committee will need to decide on to come up with a draft package on permitted activities were outlined, but there was insufficient time to workshop these. It was agreed the workshop questions would be emailed to the Committee so they could come prepared to continue the discussion at the next workshop.

The questions were:

General permitted activity – Water Takes

- 1) Is this category justifiable?
- 2) If yes, how much? Answer in l/s.
- 3) What should happen at ‘cease take’ or minimum flow?
- 4) How will this be accounted for and by whom? E.g. metering, ‘guestimation’ modelling?

General permitted activity – Stock and domestic use

- 1) Should this be restricted in fully allocated catchments?
- 2) What should happen at ‘cease take’ or minimum flow?

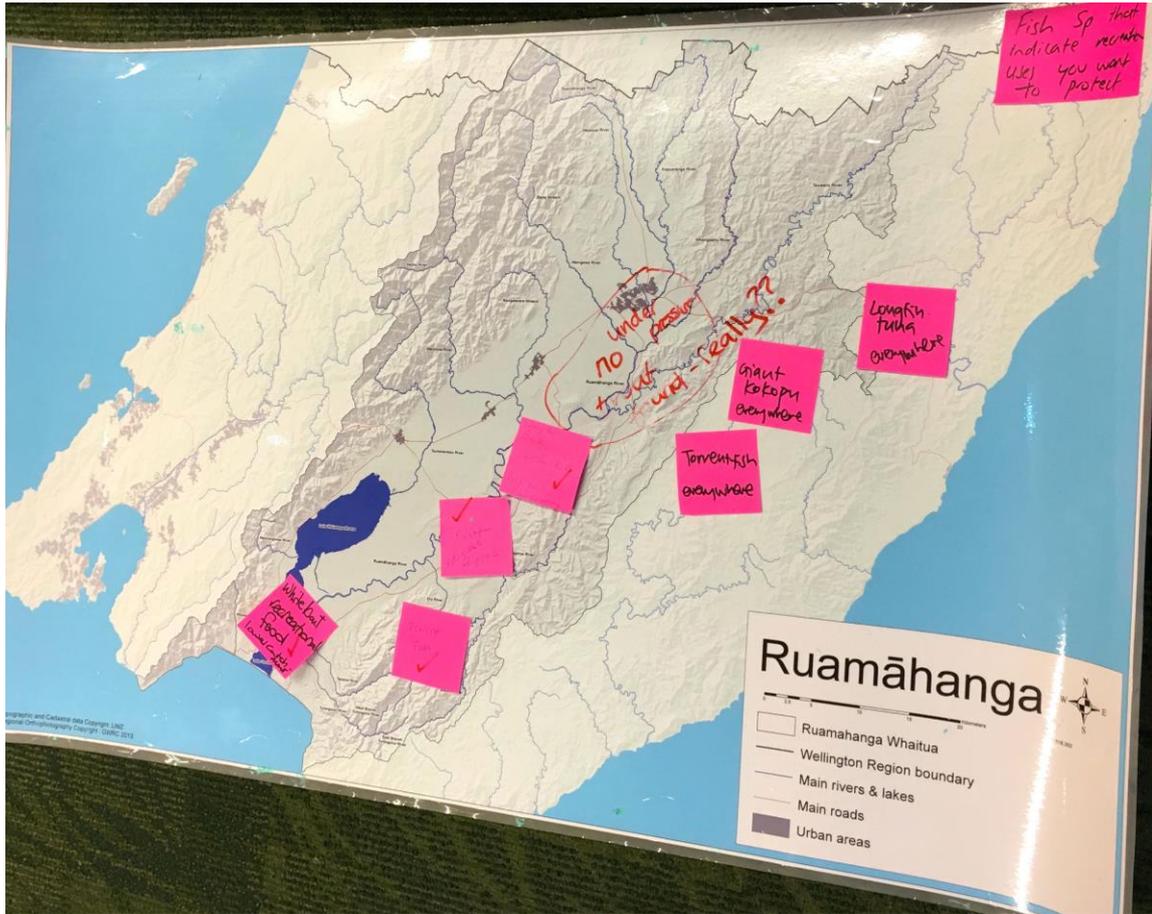
General permitted activity – Dairy washdown and cooling

- 1) Is this category justifiable?
- 2) If yes, how much? Answer in l/s.
- 3) What should happen at ‘cease take’ or minimum flow?

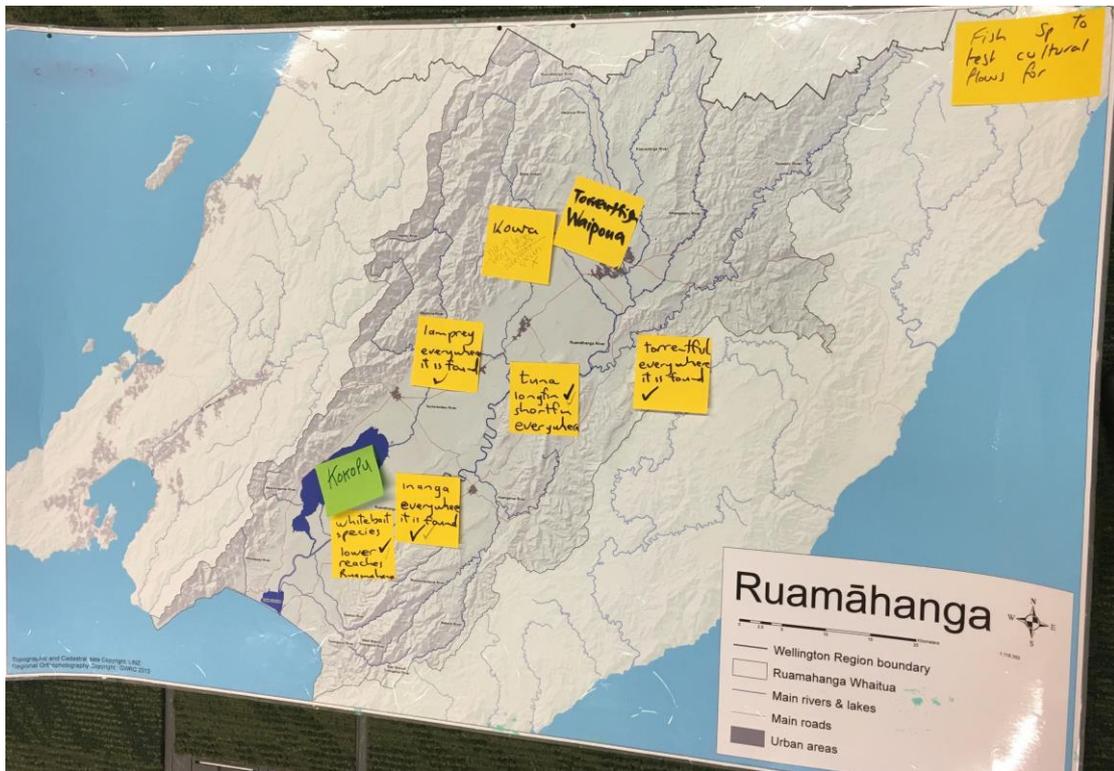
Action: Kat and Murray to circulate these questions, along with relevant background information so that RWC members can consider and discuss this ahead of the workshop at the next meeting.

Appendix 1: Photos of flip charts

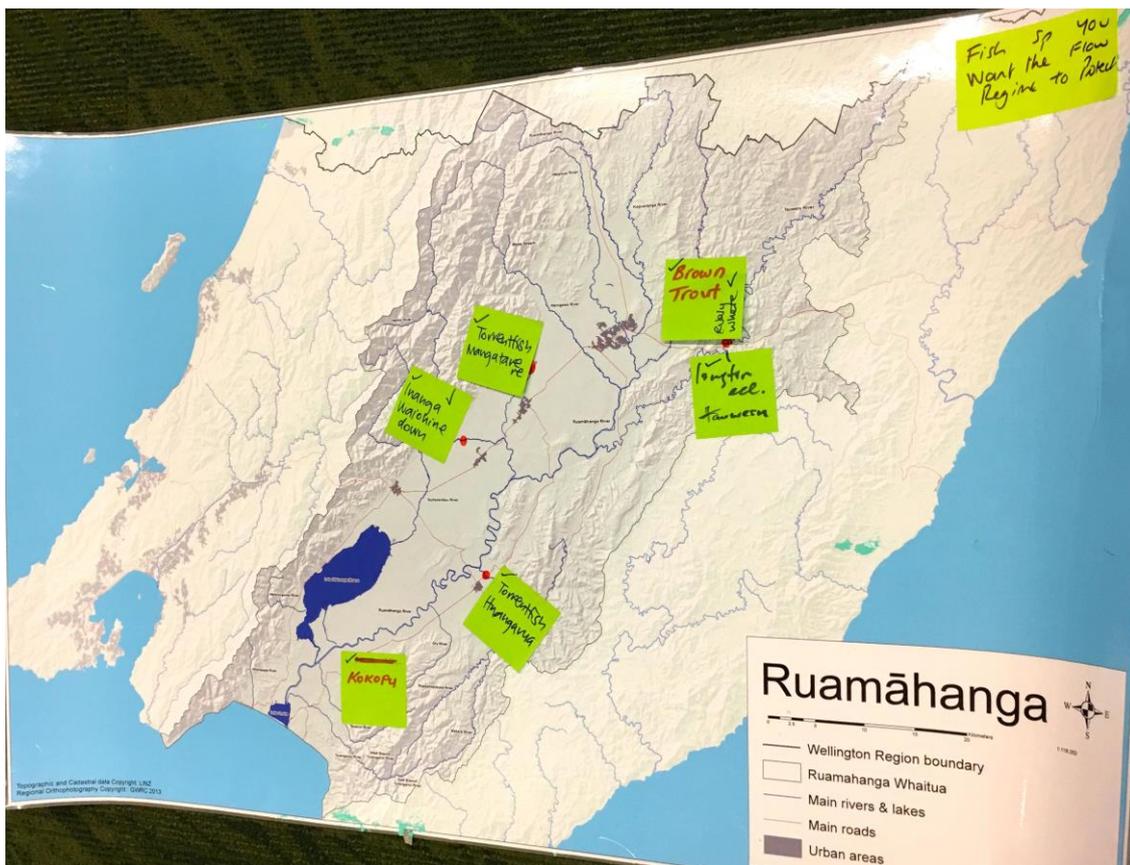
Recreation



Ecology



Mana whenua



- ① Andy Stewart Email
 - ② Bal Speech - ^{Water Quality} Field Day
 - ③ C.E. John
 - ④ Report Back on Kaitiaki
 - 5-6 Aug consultation opp with Kaitiaki on policy packages
 - ⑤ MPI group were talked to - their focus was water storage
- Proposal for discussion - email to clarify and see what response is.
14 June 1 - Spr Te Awanga.
Estler, Mike A, David, Peter