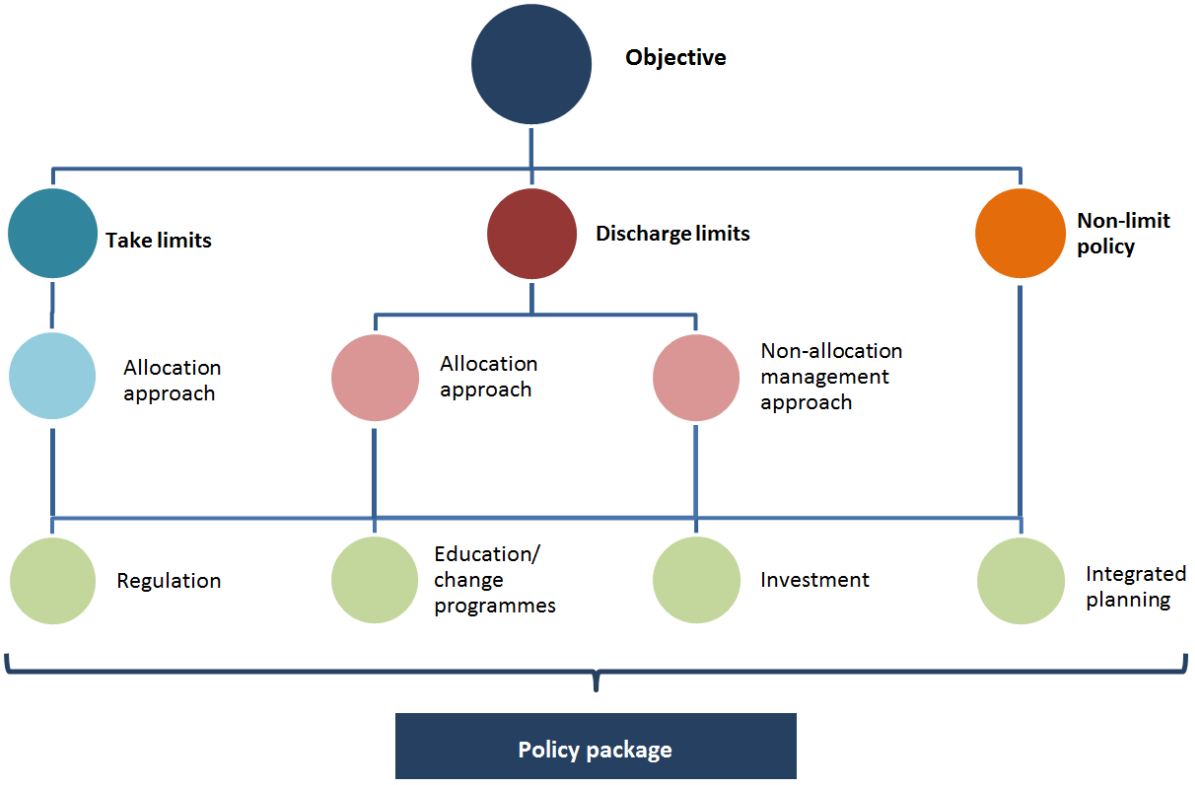
Potential direction for management of discharges

The basic premise for managing discharges and either maintaining or improving water quality (achieving freshwater objectives) is by all resource users operating at good management practice (GMP). Continually improving levels of GMP, and potentially changing land use, allows resource uses to reduce their "environmental footprint" to either meet a catchment contaminant target or to create headroom to grow their economic wellbeing. This is necessary in a changing economy where everyone must operate within resource use limits.



It should be noted that take limits and discharge limits are regulations i.e. they are rules in a regional plan. For discharges these rules "cap" the maximum amount of contaminant that can be discharged in an FMU. Where an allocation regime is contemplated, an allocation policy in the regional plan is required. The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee is interested in taking a non-allocation management approach to managing diffuse discharges. This will still require some further regulation to ensure land uses stay within the catchment limit. This may be in the form of a consenting assessment of significant land use changes ("low leaching land uses to higher leaching land uses"). Where contemplated land uses changes breach the catchment limit they would be rejected.

Below this level (the green dots in the framework above) management initiatives and implementation decision making can be divided into the following categories; regulation, education, investment and integrated planning. These operate at a range of scales; Whaitua, sub-catchment and property scale. A successful management regime will have all these components.

Regulation	Education	Investment	Integrated planning and implementation
Point source Stock exclusion Dairy effluent Earthworks Other land use and input controls Regulatory incentives	Required for all programmes Industry Good Practice guidance and programmes Farm advisory services Banking advice	Infrastructure Incentives/programmes: • riparian • erosion control • nutrient management Community programmes Re-plumbing Lake Wairarapa and in-lake mitigations Integrated catchment mitigations and solutions Other incentives e.g. rates breaks Research and development	Sub-catchment planning and implementation Farm or property scale planning and implementation

In addition, decisions regarding investment funding need to be considered. Funding will come from four main areas; government grants, general rates, targeted rates and user pays.

Questions?

- **What should be regulated, and how should it be regulated?**
- **What decisions on implementations can be made at a sub-catchment vs property scale?**
- **What are the institutional arrangements and accountability of sub-catchment planning and implementation systems?**
- **What are the nature and accountability of property scale planning and implementation?**
- **How should investments be funded? General rates, targeted rates, user pays?**