

Water user workshops

February 2018

Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee



Purpose of this meeting

- Background to the Ruamāhanga Whaitua process
- Understand what we have been thinking about water allocation
- Seek your feedback on water allocation proposals
 - Changes in hands-off flows in two rivers
 - Changes to Category A restrictions
 - Implementation over time

What are we trying to achieve and why?

VISION

- Wairarapa – Where Water Glistens

OVERALL OUTCOME

- The future is engaged communities, proactive in the long term sustainability of the catchment as a whole

Plan review process

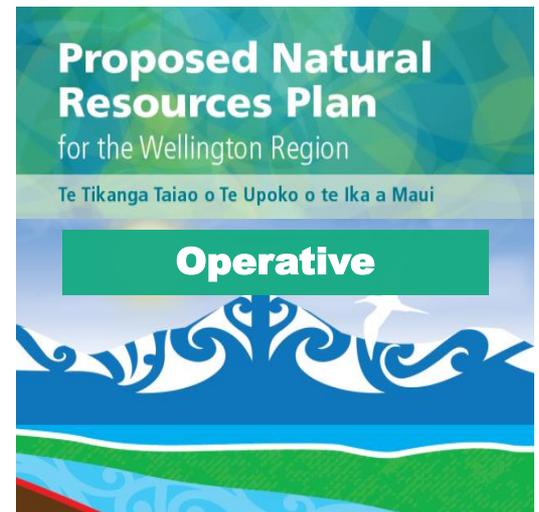
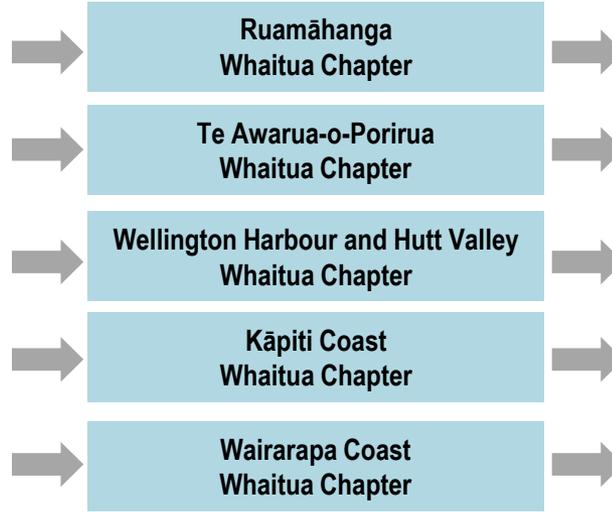
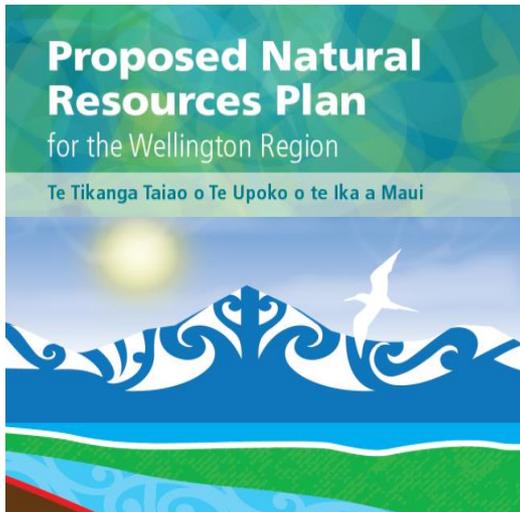
Process 1

Give effect to RPS air, soil, hazards, heritage, coastal, land and water

Process 2

Implement the NPS-FM (catchment-based) Whaitua Chapters

Second generation regional plan



Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP)

- Objectives for each water body
 - Each freshwater management unit (FMU)
 - To maintain or improve water quality
- Limits on taking water
- Limits on discharges of contaminants
- Methods that mean objectives and limits will be met

Example only!

Altogether, this might look like for the Waipoua River

Objective: the river has good algae cover

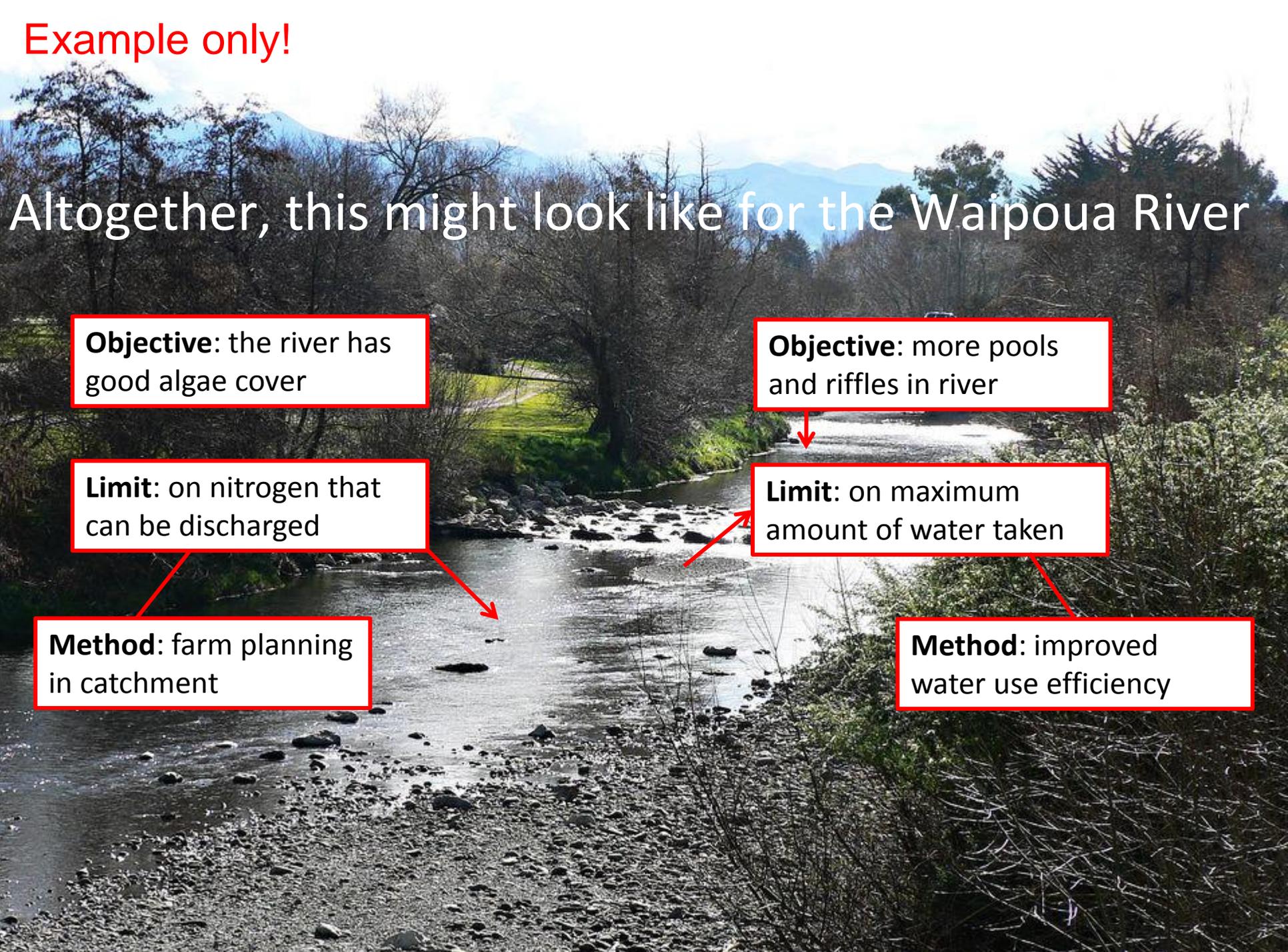
Limit: on nitrogen that can be discharged

Method: farm planning in catchment

Objective: more pools and riffles in river

Limit: on maximum amount of water taken

Method: improved water use efficiency



Committee's approach

- Identifying river values, knowledge from community and mana whenua engagement, information gathering
- Technical work (e.g. modelling)
- Identification of at risk areas
- Options to improve
- Consideration of impacts

Key considerations for water allocation

- Summer water shortfalls will become frequent reality – new thinking needed
- Drying climate – need for resilience
- Instream values are of primary importance – conservatism needed
- Equity and fairness across the community
- Efficient use of water
- Cultural and community values

Assessing flow requirements

- Focus on fish – why?
- Fish habitat and hydrology modelling helped set direction
- Catchment objectives informed by wider perceptions and experiences
- Better support for cultural values
- What changes are needed?

What have we concluded so far

- Hands-off flows and allocation limits likely to be OK for most sub-catchments
- Upper Ruamāhanga and Waipoua stand out as vulnerable
- Full effectiveness of hands-off flows being undermined by under-regulated Category A takes

Our proposals

- Raise hands-off flow in the Waipoua River from 250 L/sec to 340 L/sec
- Raise hands-off flow in the Upper Ruamāhanga from 2,400 L/sec to 3,250 L/sec
- Full cease take of Category A takes at hands-off flows
- Implement these changes over time

Impacts of the proposals

- Decrease in reliability (in the absence of any mitigation)
- Reliability varies depending individual circumstances e.g. location, farm system, time of year water is required

Committee's next steps

- Consider feedback on water allocation proposals and transition timeframes
- Finalise freshwater objectives and policy package for discussion with community
- Talk with the community and stakeholders
- Finalise the Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP)