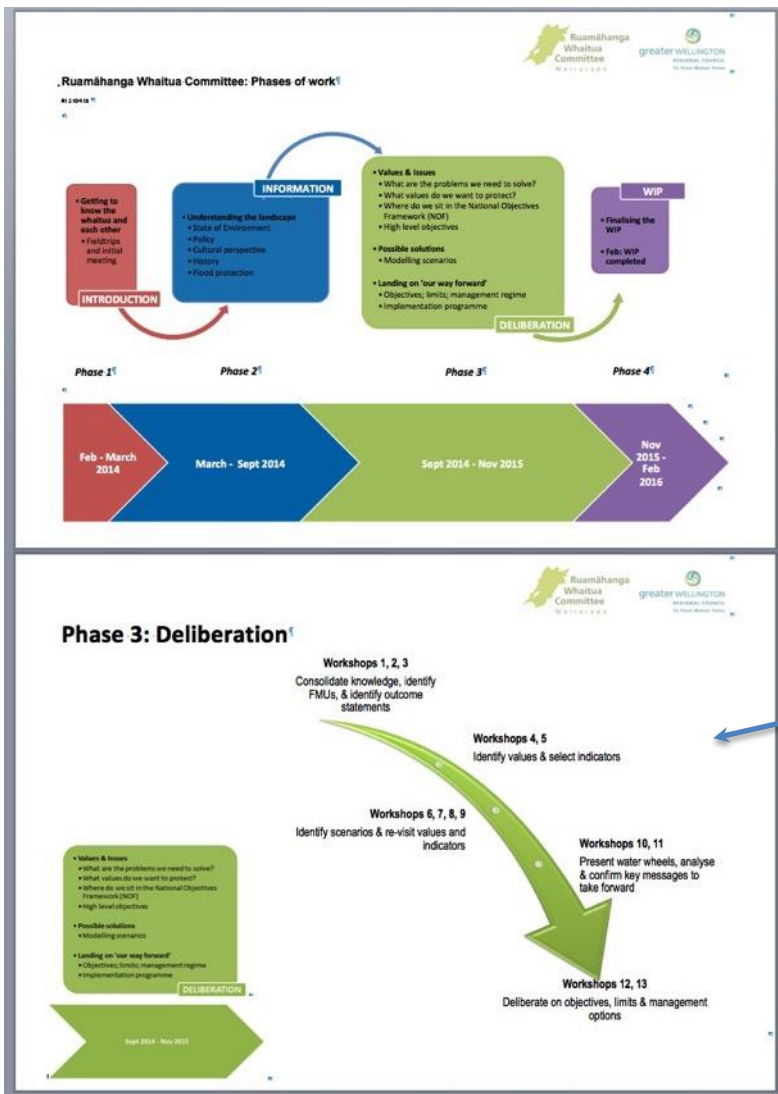


# Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

## Deliberations Phase 3 - Workshop 15

February 9 2016 12:30pm – 6:00pm

Carterton Events Centre



Workshop 15

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**Summary** This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held February 9 2016 at the Carterton Events Centre.

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**Contents** These notes contain the following:

**A Workshop Attendees**

**B Workshop Purpose**

**C Workshop Actions**

**D Workshop Notes**

- 1) Wairarapa Culture Attribute Review
  - 2) Review of Allocation Issues Paper
  - 3) Sediment (P) and Nitrogen management policy issues
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## **A Workshop Attendees**

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**Workshop Attendees**

Aidan Bichan, Mike Birch, Rebecca Fox, Peter Gawith, David Holmes, Mike Ashby, Russell Kawana, Ra Smith, Chris Laidlaw, Andy Duncan, Colin Olds

Kat Banyard, Michelle Rush, Andrew Stewart, Natasha Tomic, Hayley Vujcich, Murray McLea, Horipo Rimene, Mike Grace, Shane Parata, Brigitte De Barletta

John Bright

**Apologies:** Vanessa Tipoki, Esther Dijkstra, Philip Palmer, Alastair Smaill

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## **B Workshop Purpose**

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**Workshop Purpose**

The workshop purposes were:

- Review and confirm attributes for the Ruamahanga Culture value set.
- Provide feedback on the Water allocation and Use policy issues paper developed out of the last workshop.
- Build an understanding of how nitrogen and sediment/phosphorous is currently managed in the Ruamahanga Whaitua
  - Identify, discuss, and build a shared understanding of the issues with the management regime
  - Identify options for managing nitrogen and sediment/phosphorous in the future

Identify the options the Committee would like to know more about. All three purposes were achieved.

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## Workshop Agenda

The workshop agenda was:

### Agenda Outline

12:30 Lunch

1:00 Welcome, Overview and Introductions

1:10 Confirm Attributes for Ruamahanga Culture value set

2:10 Confirm Allocation Issues paper

2:40 Sediment/Phosphorous and Nitrogen

- the current policy regime - presentation from Murray McLea and Andrew Stewart

3:10 Afternoon Tea

3:30 Sediment/Phosphorous and Nitrogen continued

- the policy regime issues

- options for future management

5:00 General Business

6:00 Close

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## C Actions

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### Actions

#### General Business

- **22 February workshop** - RWC members were reminded that this will include the first round of baseline information from the Collaborative Modelling Project
- **Facebook page** – request for committee members to keep up to date with the comments being made; Mike B to keep an eye and provide RWC input to page, and also feedback to comments
- **Committee remuneration** – request to follow up ACC charges, and also to schedule time for a discussion on this once Alastair has returned.  
**Action:** Kat to send out information on ACC  
**Action:** Kat to raise remuneration matter with Alastair and organise for discussion
- **RWC Process Overview** - Some members expressed concern about narrowing options too soon; from this it was apparent members are unclear where RWC is at in the process. It was agreed it was time for a session to clarify for members where/when matters will be discussed.  
**Action:** PT to discuss and Michelle to incorporate in March workshop agenda.

## D.1 Workshop Notes – Wairarapa Culture Attributes Review

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### Overview

There were three parts to this session to confirm the attributes for the Ruamahanga Culture value set:

- 1) Gap analysis – check of brainstormed list of attributes against value description
  - 2) Identify additional attributes
  - 3) Review attributes against criteria for a good attribute.
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### Gaps Identified

Working in two groups, RWC members identified the following gaps in the list of brainstormed attributes for the Ruamahanga Culture value set:

Family traditions

Healing/Wellbeing

- Spiritual
- Physical
- Rongoa

Adaptiveness

- Resource management

Ruamahanga aspect

- Unique
- Differences

Wairarapa Connection

Ruamahanga

- Visibility – low
- Tributaries – some more visible

Inland Identity –v- Coastal Identity

Disconnected urban

What it sounds like, what it smells like?

During the discussion, it was noted that there was a perceived gap regarding attributes to reflect mana whenua aspects of this value set. It was agreed to defer this conversation to the one to be had at a later date on the Maori Use and Mahinga kai value group

Also discussed was the mechanics of how to measure expectations. It was emphasised there needed to be a comparison of current expectations to historical expectations, which took into account how the river had been used in the past and changes in how the river is used now.

Finally, the need to ensure that ‘Our’ is read as all inclusive was noted:

- Passing on knowledge and information.
- Parents – Children

- Sense of belonging. Connection to river
- Reconnect to the water
- Social activities e.g. picnic areas

**Additional Attributes**

The following additional attributes were identified, although it was acknowledged these might be covered elsewhere in attributes for other values:

A measure of Promotion of/passing on of knowledge and sense of belonging

Expectations met?

River confidence – e.g. as measured by a survey of River Committees to hear their anecdotal evidence

Cultural Health Index

- aggregate of other attributes.

**Review Session Instructions**

Working in two break-out groups, committee and project team members review the draft set of Wairarapa Culture attributes (including the new ones documented above), using the following as guidance:

- Check how well each attribute measures up against the characteristics of a good attribute;
- Revise as necessary to improve the attribute;
- If unsure of technical aspects, write down what is needed to get it to the point where it is a good quality attribute.

**Confirmed Attributes**

The set of attributes identified are set out in the table below.

<b>Ruamahanga Culture Attribute Set</b>	<b>Suggested method:</b>
<b>Group A: John, Kat, Mike, Colin, Mike, Hayley, Peter, Chris, Andy, David</b>	
Change of use of river - What is driving this?	Number of permits issued
Availability and suitability of weaving products (raranga)	
Visual appreciation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form of the river</li> <li>• Clarity</li> <li>• Riparian area</li> <li>• dimensions of people's thoughts</li> <li>• more/less vegetation</li> <li>• what type of vegetation</li> </ul>	Survey – good/average/poor
Community, Sense of belonging, peace, informal traditions	Annual Survey of School

<b>Ruamahanga Culture Attribute Set</b>	<b>Suggested method:</b>
Quality of connection Sense of belonging (who you are etc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In theory and in practice</li> <li>• Can you access them?</li> <li>• Can you use them?</li> <li>• Meet your expectations?</li> </ul> <i>NB: Group A thought this the same / similar attribute to 'Change in the use-ability of the river attribute being considered by the other group...</i>	Children - Contact with the river; Understanding; Awareness; and Survey of adults: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sense of connection</li> <li>• number of river related groups</li> <li>• number of hours/people, progress e.g. restoration groups</li> </ul>
How does the river sound?	
<b>Group B:</b> Andrew, Ra, Rebecca, Aidan, Russell, Mike B, Natasha, Horipo	
Number of people who have/use pepeha/ whakapapa	
Intergenerational Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Different age groups use the river</li> <li>○ Generations within a family</li> </ul>	Site specific survey of people and use of sites - ticks boxes for five/six criteria – that are tough/expensive to measure
Pride in waterways	
Connection	
Awareness	
Confidence to use waterways	
Social changes going on relevant to waterway use	
Oral histories are passed on	River Narrative
Stories are passed on	
Change in number of sites able to be used for cultural purposes and recreation	
Number of educational programmes operating covering river ecosystems, including Maori perspectives	
Change in the use-ability of the river and knowledge of (and confidence in) it's use-ability {A perception that social changes have made it more difficult to use rivers and streams the way we used to} <i>N.B: See Group A's suggested combination with Community, Sense of Belonging attribute here.</i>	
Access / Accessibility (legal, non-legal) including number of legal campsites	

**Examples of River Groups**

- SW biodiversity group
- Wairarapa Moana – co-ordinating committee and management committee
- Mangatere restoration society
- Papawai – Michael Roera
- Makoura Restoration
- Carters Reserve
- Fensham Reserve
- Water race committees
- FMP Committees
- Kopuaranga

## D.2 Workshop Notes - Review of Allocation Issues Paper

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**Water allocation and use** RWC members were asked for any feedback on the Allocations Issues paper summarising the issues identified for water allocation at the December workshop. The feedback given and additional matters identified to include are described below.

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**Additions to Allocation Issues and Paper** RWC members suggested the following additions to the issues paper:

- Issue of economic transition e.g. where changes in plant required
- Issue with MALF (Mean Annual Low Flow) as a tool in setting allocation limits - is it OK or not?

### **MALF concerns**

In addition, there was a request for more information on MALF, in part to follow up a request made some time ago for information on the assumptions that underpin MALF, out of concern that MALF may not be the best tool to be used.

**Action:** Discuss assumptions that underpin MALF, and the possible alternatives.

Andy, Rebecca, David, Murray/Mike to discuss; results of that discussion to be put on the shared workplace.

### **Committee Scope**

RWC members also asked to what extent it was possible for RWC to veer away from the Regional Plan direction, e.g. its use of MALF. Hayley and Murray explained that the Committee did have scope, if the committee determined another approach was more appropriate for the Ruamahanga. The only area the committee doesn't have scope is where there is a specified national standard for limits etc: in these cases they cannot go below those, but they can set limits above the minimums.

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Consents**

- Get definite answer on consents for wastewater – reviews and ability that the whitua committee has to affect consented activities.
  - What stage is each wastewater consent at? Status of review and timeframes.
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## D.3 Workshop Notes – Sediment / P and Nitrogen Management Policy Issues

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### Overview

Murray McLea and Andrew Stewart gave presentations summarising the current resource management regime for managing sediment (P) and Nitrogen in the Ruamahanga catchment, explaining how they are dealt with in the plan and in the non-regulatory regime.

The committee discussed their presentations and worked to identify where improvements in the management regime are needed; where there are gaps; and (for those groups that got to it), the management options that they would like to see explored further as a means to dealing with these matters.

Circulating from topic to topic, RWC members circulated around and discussed each of the following topics:

**Group 1: Sediment / Phosphorous** – what the GWRC plans say (relevant objectives, policies, rules)

**Group 2: Sediment / Phosphorous** – what the GWRC programmes are to help implement the plan (the education, the grants, the advisory support)

**Group 3: Nutrients / Nitrogen** – what the GWRC plans say (relevant objectives, policies, rules)

**Group 4: Nutrients / Nitrogen**– what the GWRC programmes are to help implement the plan (the education, the grants, the advisory support)

At each station, RWC members and project team reps discussed and noted the following in respect of the resource management regime for their allocated topic:

- 1) What needs to be done differently?
- 2) What are the gaps in the regime?
- 3) What Management Options are there?

The results are detailed in the pages below.

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# Group 1 - Sediment/P – what the plan says – relevant objectives, policies, rules

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Sediment/P – what the plan says – relevant objectives, policies, rules

## Group 1

### 1. What needs to be done differently

- Effects based rather than activity based for both sediments and phosphorus
- Discharges need to be addressed in farm plans
- Farm plans must be simple to prepare and use – use LUC
- Control sediment from vineyards? Pollutants from pesticides
- Cultivation and break feeding could be bundled (less than 5m setback)

### 2. What are the Gaps in the regime?

- Storm water running off roads in urban areas and highways where they cross rivers
- How is phosphorus controlled in the resource consent for community discharge?
- How do you deal with phosphorus in the sediment on the bottom of rivers and lakes?
- Farm drainage (nitrate) – wetlands

### 3. What Management Options Are There?

- More funding for farm advisors would benefit outcomes
  - More soil for the cake tin
  - Productive wetlands
  - Broader options for ownership and funding of stability works
  - Facilitate subdivision of erosion prone land for uses such as beehives
  - Require a licence to farm erosion prone land – (licence in sensitive areas is done elsewhere)
  - More education tools (e.g. field day)
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## **Group 2 - Sediment/P – the non-regulatory regime: the programmes; education, grants, advice**

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**Sediment/P – the non-regulatory regime: the programmes; education, grants, advice**

### **Group 2**

#### **What needs to be done differently or better? What Gaps are There?**

- 80/20 People Rule – how to tackle 20%.
- Perhaps a license to farm based on management? Make what 80% are doing equal to good management, therefore the 20% have to adopt.

#### **What Management options are there?**

- More flexibility with who to work with, within regional council and outside regional – buy/lease erosion prone land and re-vegetate. (Note: Doesn't work on bottom 20%)
  - Peer pressure field days to raise awareness – facilitate change in land use between landowner and new enterprise in sale and purchase
  - Thinking about lease arrangements – need a plan prior to leasing covenant work done
  - More tools e.g. sediment traps – upper catchments – sediment traps in main water ways
  - Raise awareness of other benefits
  - Carbon – should be promoted as another advantage
  - Working with farmers organisations – GMP and BMP
  - Increasing funding for more R.C. advisors and iwi advisors longer term – committing to long term funding
  - Succession planning knowledge transfer
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## Group 3 - Nitrogen – what’s currently in the plan? (Relevant objectives, policies, rules)

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**Nitrogen – what’s currently in the plan? (Relevant objectives, policies, rules)**

### Group 3

The table below sets out the gaps identified; what RWC members felt should be done differently or better; and possible management options associated with these.

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What are the Gaps in the regime? What needs to be done differently or better?	What management options are there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of limits on water quality affecting point source discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimising the discharge-regime so that <b>effects</b> on the environment are minimised (e.g. timing)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of integrated framework to manage water quality in respect to effects of discharges on water quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep water in river instead of improving discharge</li> <li>• For rural discharge of non-point source N, be responsive to difference in risk of run-off at different times of year (e.g. autumn rains) thus, better respond to effects</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good management practice approach requires more emphasis and support and effort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Good Management Practices in policy framework</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives for water quality do not respond to catchment cumulative effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A water quality limits framework that divides sub-catchment into loads to retain good water quality down the catchment.</li> <li>• Good Management practice that responds to differences in farming systems.</li> <li>• Promote good management practices</li> <li>• rule framework that responds differently to irrigated vs non –irrigated farming (focuses on water as the transporter)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NB: take care when lumping/splitting farm types as there is a range of effects</li> </ul> </li> <li>• respond to differences in increased loads (e.g. fertiliser)</li> <li>• Management options should respond to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ areas where high ground/surface water interactions (= sensitivity)</li> <li>○ land use capability</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of nitrogen in fertiliser doesn’t address potential contamination from heavy metals also in the fertilisers.</li> </ul>	

<b>What are the Gaps in the regime? What needs to be done differently or better?</b>	<b>What management options are there?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying Water quality issues at the Whaitua - scale that need investigation....</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of lever to control river management (e.g. geomorphology) to help in management of nutrients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River management to respond to other (e.g. water quality) objectives – application of natural character index.</li> </ul>

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## Group 4 - Nitrogen – the non-regulatory regime – the programmes (education, grants, advice)

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Nitrogen – the non-regulatory regime – the programmes (education, grants, advice)

### Group 4:

1. What needs to be done differently or better?
2. What are the gaps?
3. What other management options are there?

### POINT SOURCE

**A. M.I5 (Proposed Natural Resources Plan)** supports TAs to reduce impact of storm water by implementing Consent Programme.

- Links to Waitua Programme

### Gaps

- No Non-regulatory method for point discharge of Waste Water.

### **B. General Good Management Method M28 (Proposed Natural Resources Plan)**

### Gaps

- Innovation for managing Point Source Waste Water.
- Requiring trained and qualified Waste Water Plant operators

### Management Option

- De-regulate storage/containment, make this easier as ‘best practice’ - Link to “deficit irrigation”

### NON POINT SOURCE:

**C. M.12 (Proposed Natural Resources Plan)** Sustainable land management support for fencing and riparian management (Alura Consent) – Mike what does this mean?

**M.28 (Proposed Natural Resources Plan)** Good management

**M.20 (Proposed Natural Resources Plan)** Support wetlands

**M.10 (Proposed Natural Resources Plan)** Recognition where doesn't meet Plan

### POINT SOURCE:

**Management Options:** Community Storm water program; tanks, soakage

- Encourage deficit irrigation (Plant and Harvest)
- Reduce regulatory barrier – (easier consent)
- Explore other applications for Nitrogen/Commercial
- More farm advisory

### NON POINT:

- Nitrogen Management Education Programme (good time - bad times)

- Subsidise Wetland creation (below tile drains)
- Agreed Nitrate industrial sub catchment number in good management practice.
- Innovation for best management practice-funded. Future good management practice.

**Group 4 Summary of Key Points to Feed Back**

- Trained/qualified Waste Water operators
  - De regulate/incentivise Storm water/Waste Water containment and Link to deficit irrigation
  - Community Stormwater information programme tanks and soakage.
  - More farm advisors facilitating Nitrogen addiction management (Managing use)
  - Subsidise Wetland creation below drains
  - Sub catchment Nitrate Number agreed as good management standard
  - Fund-reward best practice/innovate for future good management practice.
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ENDS