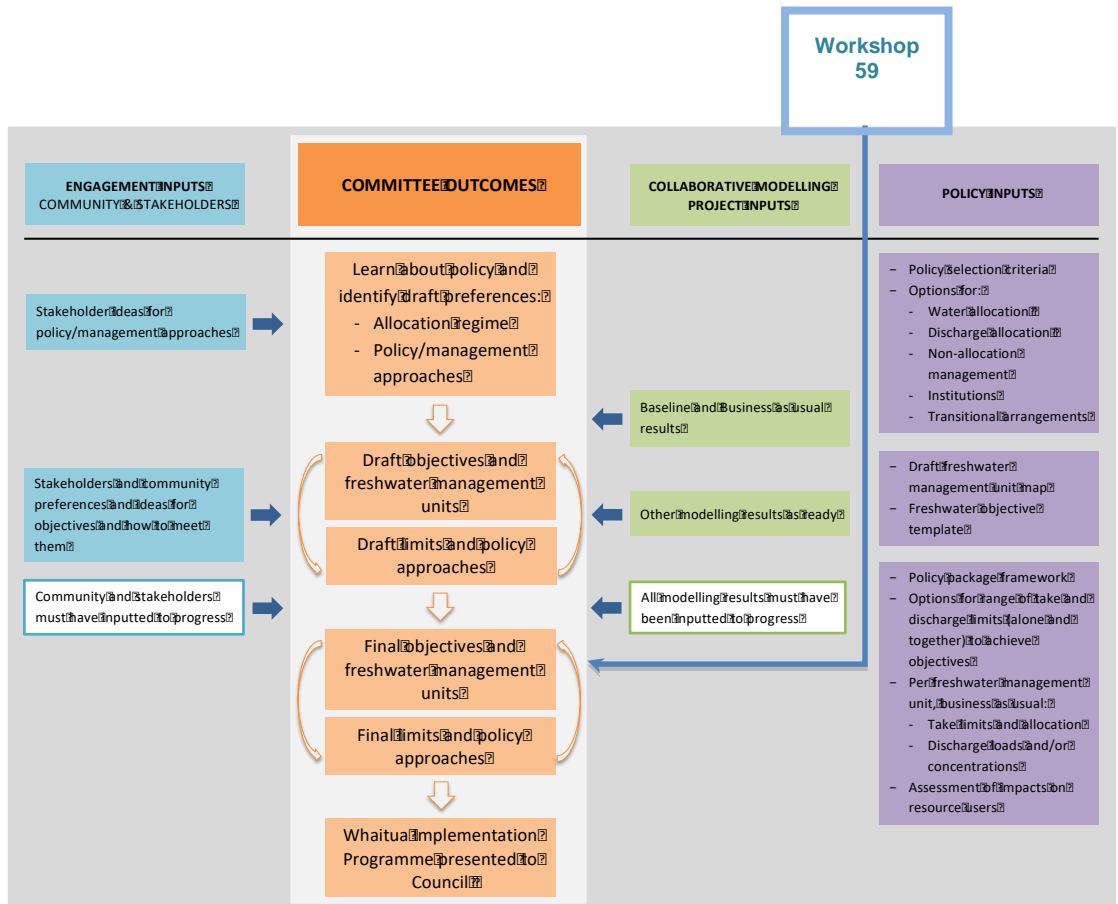


Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

Deliberations Phase 3 – Workshop 59

Monday 26 March 2018, 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Featherston Community Centre



Summary This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held 12:00pm to 5:00pm Monday 26 March 2018 at the Featherston Community Centre in Featherston.

Contents These notes contain the following:

- A** Workshop Attendees
- B** Workshop Purpose and Agenda
- C** Actions from the workshop
- D** Workshop Decisions
- E** Workshop Notes – Minimum flow and allocation transitions
- F** Workshop Notes – Category A groundwater
- G** Workshop Notes – Water allocation policy for small streams
- H** Workshop Notes – Developing the WIP and engagement planning
- I** Workshop Notes – Sediment results from technical modelling

Appendix One: Photos of Flipcharts

A Workshop Attendees

Workshop Attendees

RW Committee:

Mike Ashby, Aidan Bichan, Andy Duncan, Peter Gawith, Chris Laidlaw, Colin Olds, Phil Palmer, Ra Smith, Vanessa Tipoki, Mike Birch, Esther Dijkstra.

Greater Wellington Project Team:

Alastair Smaill, Natasha Tomic, Kat Banyard, Mike Grace, Hayley Vujcich, Caroline Watson, Kent Barrett.

Independent Facilitator: Michelle Rush.

Apologises:

David Holmes, Rebecca Fox, Russell Kawana.

B Workshop Purpose and Agenda

Purposes

The purposes were:

- 1) Confirm decisions on water allocation transitions for Category A changes, including timeframes and related policy measures.

- 2) Receive verbal report from sub-committee on small stream discussions. Discuss and confirm decisions on water allocation in small streams.
- 3) Community engagement: Discuss and confirm community engagement methods, including where and when meetings will be held.
- 4) Receive proposed WIP outline, hear any initial feedback and identify extent to which Committee is involved in writing. Confirm arrangements for WIP sign off.

All four purposes were achieved.

Agenda

The agenda is detailed in the table below.

Time	Task
12:00 – 12:10PM	Welcome, Karakia, Purposes
12:10 – 12:30PM	Confirmation of minimum flow transitions for the Waipoua and Upper Ruamāhanga Rivers, and for the Waingawa River
12:30 – 1:15PM	Category A groundwater restriction transitions
1:15 – 1:45PM	Lunch
1:45 – 2:15PM	Report back from small streams meeting - Small group of Whaitua Committee
2:15 – 3:00PM	Introduction to WIP outline Al Smaill
3:00 – 3:45PM	Community engagement
3:45 – 4:00PM	Afternoon tea
4:00 – 5:00PM	Understanding the draft sediment modelling results
5PM	Meeting Close

C Actions from the workshop

Actions from the workshop

Small streams – a report will be put together outlining the Committee’s approach to water allocation in small streams based on the discussions.

D Committee Decisions

Committee Decisions

The Committee agreed to the following:

The minimum flow and allocation regimes and transition arrangements for the:

- Waipoua River
- Upper Ruamahanga; and
- Waingawa (in respect of cease take provisions)

And

Provisions for the phasing in of Category A groundwater 100% cease take at minimum flow.

E Workshop Notes – Minimum flow and allocation transitions

Minimum flow and allocation transitions

Upper Ruamahanga and Waipoua Rivers

Al presented a paper detailing in full the Committee's decisions in respect of the minimum flow and allocation transitions for the Waipoua and Upper Ruamahanga rivers. This was confirmed.

[Committee recommendations to date to transition to higher minimum flows](#)

[Note: the decision around transition timeframes for the Upper Ruamāhanga River was changed later on in this workshop due to discussions around Category A groundwater cease take transitions. See section F of these notes for the final agreement on the transition timeframes.]

Waingawa River

Also presented for a final check on intent, was a paper detailing the Waingawa cease take provisions. The levels were agreed to, and the need for a transition was also agreed.

[Raising the minimum flow in the Waingawa River](#)

The Committee determined that this should be for:

- Benchmark level at 5 years; and
- Fully in at 10 years.

Discussion around the transition:

- Discussed the implications for Masterton District Council – thinking about how many of these days where they will be restricted to the health needs of people are concurrent? Linked to conversation with MDC in early March about their investment plans for storage. What about a focus on improving efficiencies?
- Equity discussion – what other timeframes for transitions are the Committee recommending? The transition agreed is relatively consistent with that of the Waipoua.
- Want to try and encourage a transition early on – hence the step at 5 years and then 10 years. There are measures that could be undertaken at low cost to support meeting this change e.g. education on using less water.
- Concern about the efficiency of water races – being dealt with in other recommendations.

F Workshop Notes – Category A Groundwater

Introduction

At previous workshops, agreement had been reached that for Category A groundwater users:

- there would be no change to the 50% cease take rule for 10 years post plan change notification.
- that there would be a transition to 100% cease take for Category A groundwater users.
- a suite of policy measures would be implemented to improve attenuation.

The task for this workshop was to determine what happened after 10 years in respect of cease take at minimum flow.

Matters to consider in deciding what happens post 10 years

Participant's workshopped the matters that needed to be taken into account in reaching a consensus on what would happen for transitions around Category A groundwater from 10 years.

These were:

- Will ecosystem health worsen over 20 years?
- To what extent can groundwater users transition and shift?
 - And investment cycles – where does this sit?

- Also investors had made these decisions on the basis of very reliable water supply. What is a reasonable timeframe for people to transition their businesses?
- Remember the impacts on surface water users
- Consider those who have both surface and Category A takes
- Category A consents - we need to consider which minimum flow they are controlled by.

Alastair Smail provided an update on the review of Category A groundwater takes (to ensure those Category A takes have a direct connection with surface water) being undertaken by GWRC as a result of the engagement meetings in February 2018 with users. This work is ongoing.

Groups reviewed their initial decisions on timing for lifting the minimum flows in the Upper Ruamāhanga at the same time as the Category A groundwater takes.

Outcome from initial break out groups

Group 1

Remove the increase of 150l/s at 5 years for the Upper Ruamāhanga River to standardise the changes across the Upper Ruamāhanga and Category A.

All Category A takes should cease at 10 years.

The Upper Ruamāhanga River increase in minimum flow should be stepped at 10 years, 15 and then 20 years.

Group 2

100% cease take for Category A groundwater on small streams at 10 years due to the effects on the waterbodies.

For larger rivers there should be a staged approach to 100% cease over 20 years.

Plenary discussion

Could you assess trends at 5 years and provide information to users at that point about changes to cease take to provide certainty? At 10 years is the policy review. Catchment community groups will be undertaking ongoing reviews of information in their catchments.

Could have 100% cease take at 10 years but if it was economically not viable at that point then could push out the date for cease take by 5 years.

Investment cycles – some discussion about a longer time period than 10 years to allow for more return on investment. There has been no new water in the Wairarapa for a while now so people are already in investment cycles.

Would providing a longer period for change provide more certainty?

Could a review be done at 10 years based on effects? Section 5 of the RMA talks about effects which are more than just the environment so it could include the economic effects.

The costs and benefits of implementing the 100% cease take at 10 years will have to be considered through the section 32 as part of the plan change.

Final agreement

After the break out groups reported back and the discussion was held on the suggestions, consensus was reached on the following:

Category A everywhere:

- At 10 years go to full 100% cease take at minimum flow

Upper Ruamāhanga minimum flow:

- 0-10 years do not change minimum flow
 - 10-15-20 years phase in transition to new minimum flow
-

G Workshop Notes – Water Allocation Policy for Small Streams

Small streams water allocation policy

Alastair Smaill outlined the discussion held by an agreed small sub-group of committee members following the last workshop to consider outstanding issues related to water allocation for small streams. It was agreed that these would be written up and circulated to the wider Committee for confirmation and ‘sign-off.’

Small Group Recommendations for Small Streams

- Implementation of consent regime
- All consents must have appropriate flow conditions (up to date)
- All consents tied to appropriate flow recorder and site for that small stream
- S128 - consent reviews should be used where adverse effects are occurring immediately. S330 too. Recommendation to GWRC to use the tools available.
- Any consents not reviewed in current five year review round

must be reviewed

- Default minimum flow level OK. Some streams that flow into the main stem Ruamahanga that are not named in the PNRP and are related to the main stem should be carved off and the default apply.
- Agreed priorities for investigation of flows. Have a list of priority streams.
- Potential to recommend review of defaults by GWRC on some streams facing pressure if discovered by the investigations – use three step process investigation – engagement – change flows in plan change – update consent conditions.

Discussion at the workshop by the full Committee:

- Do we need a wider group to identify priority streams? Identified all streams with at least one consent on them. Even if they are not mentioned in the PNRP they will have a minimum flow attached.
- Establish monitoring regime on small streams – review – do they need different regimes
- Values: cultural values with small streams are significant – Mahinga Kai, recreational use. A small amount of water use can impact a small stream quickly.
- Biodiversity values
- Small streams @ bottom of catchment closer to lake mouth
- Review period of 5 data only, 10 plan policy, 15 years (hard data @ 5 years)
- Small streams 10 years cease take
- Staged education over 20 years for larger rivers much like minimum flow educators

Feedback

- Include encouragement of small stream restoration
- Check PNRP provisions with respect to urban streams and degree to which the provisions on stream piping are in line with RWC principles.
- Recommend further investigation of state and pressures on small streams.

Action

A report on the approach will be prepared for Committee sign off at the next workshop.

H Workshop Notes – Developing the WIP and engagement planning

Introduction to WIP outline

Alastair Smaill presented briefly on the structure of the Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP).

[WIP structure presentation](#)

A very rough outline of the WIP was provided to the Committee for them to consider and provide feedback.

Some of the points discussed generally were:

- The role for review will be different from the role for detailed wordsmithing
- Will need to find a way to have the Whaitua slant on language
- Foreword – must tell the whole story – community audience – make available using google docs and then all the Committee can update it.
- The whole WIP audience is a council planner and stakeholders and the community with interest.
- Will need to recognise that communities' stories also start before the WIP – i.e. people are already doing things
- Need a picture of how catchment works
 - hydro cycle, land uses
 - what it's like now and in WIP future
- Packages – how will these be delivered? Ensuring the “how” is expressed alongside the policy levers
- Ensuring integrated stories are told and clear e.g. MAR for integrated water management, not just for water allocation
- Making Wairarapa lens visible
- What about things that are missing? Tell project team plus content review in workshop
- Asked if there were any design options for the WIP the Committee is keen on to give it a Wairarapa flavour. Suggested Jen Olsen or Jeff Francis. Any other ideas to Kat.

Community engagement planning

A discussion was had on some key points to aid planning of community engagement on the WIP.

Community meetings:

- What is the purpose of the community meetings?
- Need to share where we have arrived and why
- Communicate the story of the WIP
- Provide information to help people understand ‘how does this

affect us?’

Stakeholder meeting:

- Purpose of stakeholder day? Same as community meetings
- Want to support the type of session Terry Parminster has done previously. Host the stakeholder meeting before the community meetings
- Also, separate target issues

Other engagement:

- Need to loop back with Category A users who participated previously
- Talk with hill country farmers

ACTION: Check TA and GWRC LTP consultation dates with councillors so we don't clash with community meeting dates.

I Workshop Notes – Sediment results from technical modelling

Sediment – technical results

Hayley Vujcich briefly presented the sediment results from the technical modelling. There will be a more detailed discussion at the next Committee workshop.

[Draft Ruamāhanga sediment load data](#)

[What mitigations are driving the modelled reductions in sediment?](#)

Key points:

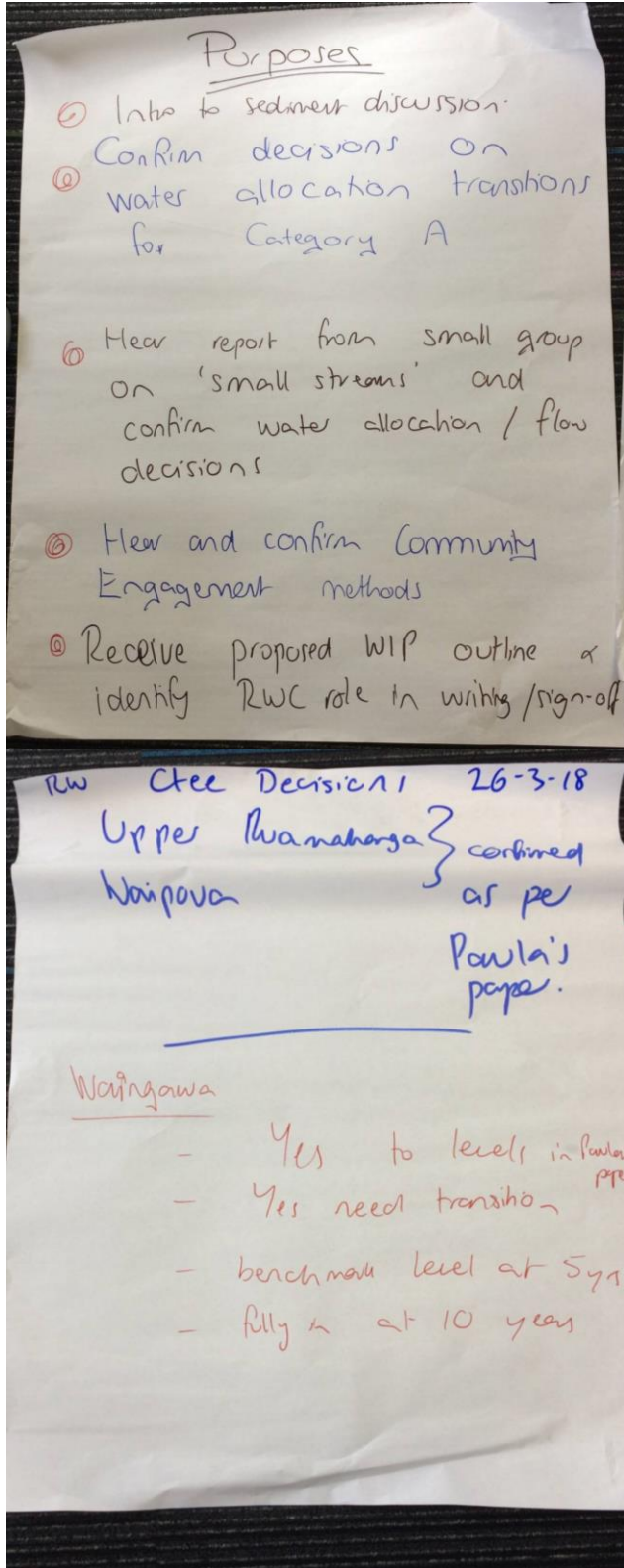
- With the valley floor streams there is delineation between those that drain to the Ruamāhanga River and those that drain to Lake Wairarapa.
- There are five different types of erosion contributing to the load.
- 68% of the total load is coming from non-native land use.
- The top five streams are contributing 65% of the total non-native load.
- The sixth highest stream contribution comes from valley floor streams where river bank erosion is the cause (not hill country erosion).
- The mitigations document shows what mitigations are driving the biggest reductions.
- Sediment is a big driver of ecosystem health and enhancements will have multiple benefits.

Questions:

- Why do the ‘non-native’ loads per FMU decrease over the scenarios?
- What size scale are the wetlands? Included in Richard Muir’s work on the mitigation bundles.
- Can we include someone from GW land management in the next workshop conversation? Consider how much faster can we move? What are the mitigating factors? We’re already doing farm plans, forestry plans – what more can we do?
- Acknowledgement that riparian planting will provide other benefits on top of sediment control.
- Can RWC comment on funding mechanisms? Yes.
- Farm environment plans are currently linked to funding. Could require compulsory farm plans e.g. when requiring consent for land use change.

Send any questions about the results to Hayley or Natasha ahead of the next workshop.

Appendix One: Flipchart Photos



Category A transition

* No change to 50% cut off
for 10 years

Think About

* Will ecosystem health worsen
over 20 years?

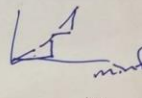
* To what extent can groundwater
uses transition and shift -
+ investment cycles - where does this
- also need decisions on basis of very relaxed sit-
- impact on surface water use


* What other values are we
needing to manage for?

* Those who have both
surface / Cat A take,
Cat A contents need to significantly
which min flow they are controlled by

Cat A 50% cut off 0-10 yrs
everywhere
at 10 yrs go to full cut off.

In U. Ruamahanga min flows.

0-10 yrs min flow no change 

10-20 yrs transition in 5yr steps. 

for surface and Cat A.

Review of min flows etc every 10 yrs.
and regime.

Small Streams ✓✓
 10 yr 100% stop take

CATA

Large Rivers ✓✓
 20 yr 100% cease take

✓✓
 Review: Data 5yrs
 Policy 10yrs - cease take?
 -15
 -20

URUAMĀHANGA
 Review minimum flow - Phased in
 0-10 yrs - No change
 10-15-20 yrs Minimum flow

Small Streams Regime
 Network conditions

Implementation of consent regime

- all consents must have appropriate flow conditions
- all tied to appropriate flow recorder and site for that small stream
- ss128 consent review should be used where adverse effects are occurring immediately
- ss330 too

Any consents not renewed in current 5 yr review round must be reviewed

Default level OK; Min flows on un-named streams flowing into main stem Ruamahanga should have default applied to them

Recommend review of defaults by GWRC on some streams facing pressure - use 3 step process investigation - engagement - Plan Change - consent

← all rivers
- Establish monitoring regime on small streams - review - do they need different regimes

- Values: cultural values with small streams are significant - mahinga kai, recreational use.

- biodiversity values

- Small streams @ bottom of catchment close to lake mouth ^{high} indigenous species (diadromy).

- Review period of 5, 10, 15 years (hard data @ 5 years). ^{data only plan/policy}

- Small streams 10 years case take.

- Staged reduction over 20 years for larger rivers (much like ^{dependent on information} minimum flow reduction).

Feedback

- include encouragement of small stream restoration

- check PNRP provisions with respect to urban streams and degree to which they provisions are in line with RWC principles

- ^{rel} ~~more~~ further investigation of state and pressures on small streams

WIP writing ①

- role for review diff.
from role for detailed
wordsmithing?
- find way to have whatua
slant on language
- foreword - must tell the
whole story
 - ↳ recognise that communities' stories
also start before the WIP - ie ppl are
already doing things
- picture of how catchment works
 - ↳ hydro cycle, land uses
 - ↳ what it's like now + in WIP future

WIP writing ②

- packages
 - ↳ how will these be delineated?
 - Ensuring the how is expressed
alongside the policy levers
- ensuring integrated stories
are told + clear eg. MAR for
int water ^{management} packages, not just
for water allocation
- making Wairarapa ~~strong~~ lens
visible
- Foreword - onto Google Docs,
2wks for Committee comment
- what about things that are missing?
Tell PT plus content review in workshop
- design options: Jen Olsen, — Francis
 - ↳ ideas to Kat

Community engagement planning

- what is the purpose of the community meetings?
 - sharing ~~where~~ where we have arrived + why
 - communicate the story of the WIP
 - how does this affect us
 - purpose of stakeholder day?
 - same as community meetings
 - support ^{type of} ~~process~~ _{session} Terry Perminster has run
 - ^{previously} ~~before~~ community meetings
 - also, separate target issues
 - loop back w/ Category A users
 - talk w/ hill wintny farmers
- * Check TA LTP dates w/ councillors
GW

ENDS