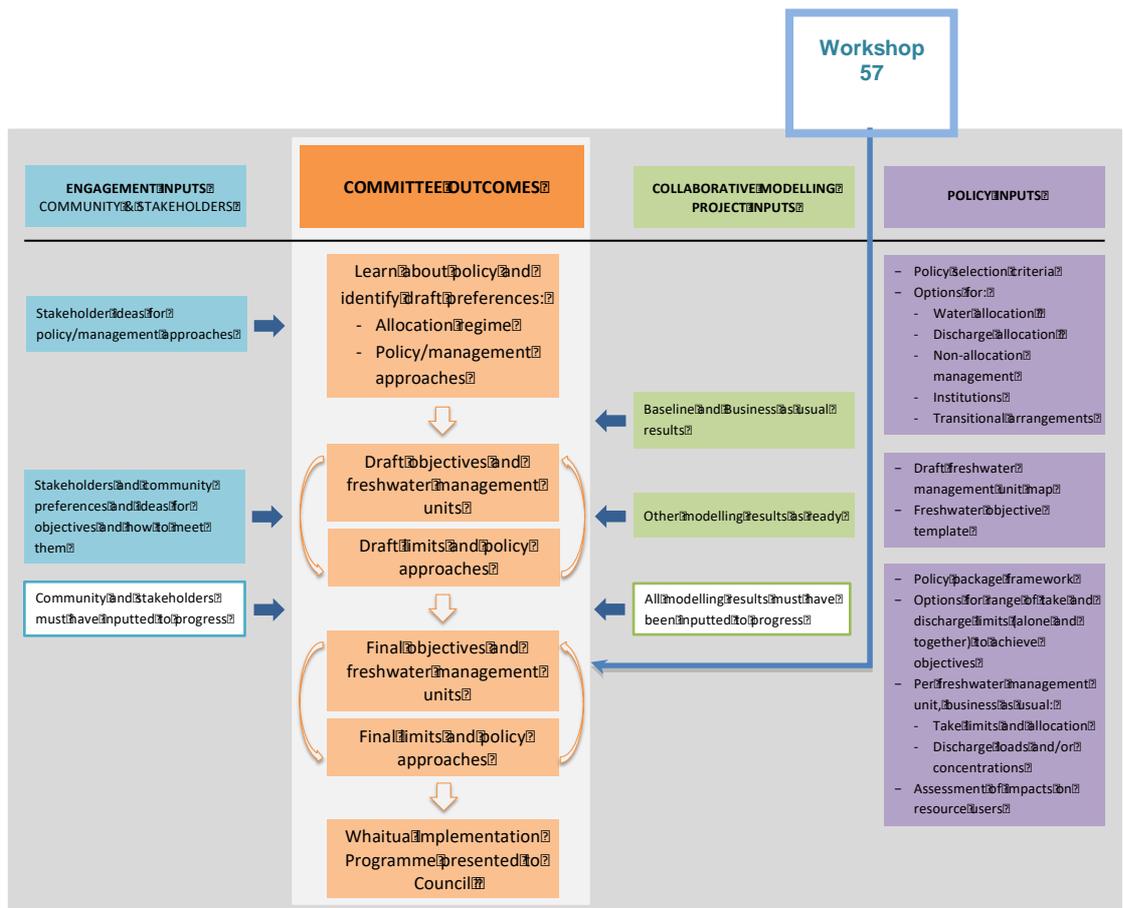


# Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

## Deliberations Phase 3 – Workshop 57

Monday 19 February 12:00pm - 6:00pm

South Wairarapa Workingmen’s Club, Greytown



**Summary** This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held 12:00pm to 6:00pm Monday 19 February 2018 at the South Wairarapa Workingmen’s Club, Greytown.

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**Contents** These notes contain the following:

- A** Workshop Attendees
- B** Workshop Purpose and Agenda
- C** Committee Workshop Decisions
- D** Workshop Notes – Review of water allocation consultation meetings and drop in sessions with water users
- E** Workshop Notes - Transition timeframes for minimum flows
- F** Workshop Notes – Small streams
- G** Any other business

**Appendix 1:** Flipchart photos

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## **A Workshop Attendees**

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**Workshop Attendees**

*RW Committee:*

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

*Greater Wellington Project Team:*

Alastair Smaill, Natasha Tomic, Kat Banyard, Mike Grace, Hayley Vujcich, Paula Hammond, Jon Gabites, Mike Thompson.

*Independent Facilitator:* Michelle Rush.

*Apologises:* Chris Laidlaw, Rebecca Fox, Russell Kawana.

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## **B Workshop Purpose and Agenda**

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**Purposes**

The purposes were:

Using the social and economic impact considerations, RWC values, vision, outcomes, principles, mana whenua and community engagement information:

1. Discuss and confirm:
  - minimum flows and allocation limits for small streams

- timelines for transitioning changes in minimum flows and Category A groundwater restrictions
  - timeframes for consents
2. Prepare for upcoming engagement meeting with district councils
  3. Confirm plans for upcoming mana whenua engagement

Purposes 2 and 3 were achieved. Purpose 1 was achieved in part.

**Agenda**

The agenda is detailed in the table below.

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TASK</b>
12:00 – 12:10PM	Welcome (Peter Gawith) and Karakia (Ra Smith), Purposes (Michelle Rush)
12:10 – 1:30PM	Reflection on water allocation meetings
1:30 – 2:00PM	Lunch
2:00 – 3:00PM	Water allocation for small streams
3:00 – 3:45PM	Transition timing for consents
3:45 – 4:00PM	Afternoon tea
4:00 – 4:30PM	Mana whenua engagement planning
4:30 – 5:00PM	Preparation for meeting with district councils
5:00 – 6:00PM	Committee only session

## **C Committee Workshop Decisions**

**Committee Decisions**

- Monthly Committee newsletter to go out.

Small stream minimum flow and allocation limits:

- Papawai and Otukura – no change to minimum flows and allocation limits.
- Parkvale – 2 pronged approach:
  - Set default and transition in same way as other rivers
  - Complete a river length investigation of values to help recommend minimum flow and allocation limits in the future.
- Other streams and rivers:
  - Keep defaults on all other streams
  - Ensure flow sites are appropriate and clearly identified

- Put together a list of streams where site specific investigations should occur – these will be those most under pressure.

[Following this workshop the Committee requested time to discuss small streams in more detail and consequently decisions were updated at a later date.]

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## **D Workshop Notes – Review of allocation consultation meetings and drop in sessions with water users**

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### **Overview**

A recap and review of the recent water allocation meetings and drop in sessions with potentially affected water users was done. The meetings concerned the potential changes to water allocation policies being proposed by the Committee including raising the minimum flows in the Upper Ruamāhanga and Waipoua Rivers, and restricting Category A groundwater takes more at minimum flow.

The meetings and drop in sessions the Committee reviewed were:

Community meeting – 8 February, 7-9PM, Masterton  
Drop in session – 12 February, 2-4PM, Carterton  
Community meeting – 12 February, 7-9PM, Carterton  
Community meeting – 14 February, 7-9PM, Featherston  
Drop in session – 16 February, 2-4PM, Masterton

It was noted there was good turn out from stakeholders and users.

The Committee discussed what had been reassuring, what was concerning, what the messages were for the Committee, and the next steps.

The Committee referred to a draft summary of the notes from the meetings:

[Draft summary of notes from RWC engagement with water users - February 2018](#)

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### **What was reassuring?**

- Passion for water
- Numbers attending
- Some users and water supply schemes are already thinking about improving efficiency
- People welcomed opportunity for discussion

- People engaged we hadn't seen previously
- Could see it's not a done deal
- Younger farmers more amenable and aware of change and technologies
- Confirmation that whaitua seen as the way forward

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**What was concerning?**

- People coming in with preconceptions or poor knowledge
- Communication poor and not frequent enough – need a monthly newsletter
- Implementation needs to be done well – policy and practice connected
- We didn't put enough emphasis on the economic impacts
- Adversarial position hard to create dialogue from – needed to emphasise the win wins more
- Concerned the feeling was 'this is my water you are taking away'
- Lost sight of whole of package solution opportunities
- Showing equity in choices
- People couldn't see how decisions had been reached – people had no knowledge of the community values and decision making process
- Committee responses to questions on decision making process weren't good enough – needed to focus more on values and why we used them to establish flows.
- Some people (including younger) not thinking about change
- Impacts not articulated fully e.g. economic cost of over allocation
- People wanted to see the whole package together – nutrients and water allocation

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**What were the messages for RWC decision making - flows and limits**

Regarding minimum flows and allocation limits:

- Upper Ruamāhanga – big range of opinions from the current minimum flow is too low to it could be lower.
- River channel impacts reliability – some people had already lost water due to river engineering.
- “Gold plated” proposal – need to better articulate where on value spectrum
- Support for changes in the Upper Ruamāhanga in order to improve Lower Ruamāhanga flows
- Moving from 50% to 100% restrictions at minimum flow for Category A groundwater users was the biggest issue with the biggest impact. Some commentary that the minimum flow changes would be easier to deal with than this change.

- ‘This is my water, you’re taking it away’ – perception of perpetual rights to water
- Would restricting Category A groundwater users help improve reliability for surface water users?
- Surface takes – pressure of ongoing efficiency gains biting into operations

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**Messages for RWC decision making - timeframes**

Regarding timeframes for implementation:

- Catchment initiatives take time to get in place – account for this and link to minimum flow changes and Category A restriction changes
- Concern about the impact of reduced reliability impacting on people’s ability to get a bank loan.
- The recent move to 50% restriction of Category A groundwater at minimum flow was supported but no support for an immediate change to 100% cease take.
- Now is the same as in five years’ time - too soon.
- Some people are saying never
- Any restrictions that reduce reliability need to be on the same timeframe with measures that increase available water.
- Opinion from some users that many things have already been done to adapt – what’s left??
- Some people said they would farm until they no longer could and then sell as a result of these changes.
- Wasn’t a lot of discussion about changing farm systems in the future to deal with change.

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**Messages for RWC decision making - How to transition?**

Regarding transitioning to new water allocation policies:

- Infrastructure and river management to slow water down
- Make incremental changes – link to monitoring and feedback
- Look for impediments that could be dealt with e.g. consent costs
- Recognise public good component – how does this inform who pays? – Central government contribution?
- Facilitate medium size on farm storage e.g. ease up consents – unlikely to be effective in getting the building code changed.
- Need to encourage greater efficiency in urban areas
- Finding “us” and “we” solutions over “me” solutions
- Education – bundle on farm efficiency and farm system change
- Interest in large storage – perception more reliable than on

farm.

- Recognise benefit of large dam to urban takes e.g. Masterton. This would allow more water to be in the river.

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**What are our actions?**

- Regular communication needed – e.g. monthly newsletter
- Send round Vanessa’s values articulation from the Featherston meeting
- Communicate where proposal lays on spectrum of values balancing.

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## **E Workshop Notes – Transition timeframes for minimum flows**

**Introduction**

Alastair Smaill presented the first half of the presentation on water allocation outlining different types of transitions the Committee could think about for raising minimum flows. The storage principles the Committee had agreed on previously were recirculated.

[Presentation - Water allocation wash up](#)

Discussed the issue brought up at the community meetings about whether a user is in fact Category A or not. How connected are they to surface water?

Discussion around whether priority of use would be a good option e.g. some users potentially affected are not irrigators. The law takes no account of priority – it talks about adverse effects.

Committee members workshopped the following questions:

What should the transition timeframe for your changes in water allocation policies be?

- Waipoua River surface water takes?
- Upper Ruamahanga surface water takes?
- Category A groundwater for the whole whaitua?

The Committee were asked to keep in mind the considerations identified in the previous session reviewing the community meetings, and the information they had about the potential economic costs associated with these changes and the community values.

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**Breakout group results**

The material below summarises where each breakout group got to in their thinking. During a plenary session, the suggestions were debated and final consensus decisions reached for Waipoua and Upper Ruamahanga, but consensus was not reached for Category A groundwater. See the ‘Committee Decisions’ section for details.

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**Group 1 - Waipoua****Waipoua River**

- Stepped increases to minimum flows
  - Upper catchment mitigation options
  - Transition period:
    - 0 years - 250l/s (current minimum flow)
    - 5 years - 25% of change
    - 10 years - 50% of change
    - 15 years - 75% of change
    - 20 years - 340l/s (100% of new minimum flow)
  - Different transition period for efficient users:
    - 0 years - 250l/s (current minimum flow)
    - 5 years - No change in minimum flow
    - 10 years – 25 % of change
    - 15 years - 50 % of change
    - 20 years - 340l/s (100% of new minimum flow)
  - Mainly affects mainly Akura Nursery and QE Park
  - If Akura can’t meet efficiency, look at alternatives such as irrigating from MDC wastewater.
  - All Councils to actively pursue efficiency measures e.g. MDC looking at dam but not efficiency. Councils should be leading the way.
- 

**Group 2 - Upper Ruamahanga**

<b>0 – 10</b>	<b>10 - 20</b>
Match step-downs to irrigation efficiency, soil type, land use	2.7 – 3.5 transition of minimum flow implemented to match effectiveness of work on river management (integrated catchment) work
Increase first step down (2.7 – 3.0) to 50%	10 years gives opportunity for business to consider large change like land use change

- Administer through community groups but with outside arbitration.

- Needs longer term consents to provide more certainty.
- River management and keeping more water in the river is a community responsibility.

**Group 3 -  
Category A  
Groundwater**

**Category A Implementation**

**Signals:**

- 1. Try something to help. Start immediately and in 10 years evaluate how people are going?
- 2. Then what's next?

**Suite of solutions:**

- Use of trial period to see what we can get from other measures
- Take care in the connections made between actions (if this, then that...)
- Trial period: focus on water attenuation as early as possible
- High priority = river management replaces flood management. Store water within the water course, capture flood peaks e.g. through use of break out areas, better planning of assets in relation to flood risk, recognise urban = higher protection.
- Urban water efficiency – high priority – including water meters
  - Fix leaks
  - Manage volume of take – water efficiency
  - Water storage
- Agricultural adaption – diversification of production matching reliability in the system (rather than allocation)
- Agricultural efficiency – check administration of efficiency

**Plenary  
Discussion of  
Results**

The notes below summarise the matters traversed during the plenary discussion of transition timeframes for the proposed water allocation and flow regime.

Key points were:

- Keep principles in mind
- Equity between users/values
- Shorter transition (5 years) for laggards with respect to the uptake of efficient practices

<b>Transition Period</b>	<b>0-10 yrs</b>	<b>10-20 yrs</b>	<b>&gt;20yrs</b>
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Upper Ruamāhanga - Surface water takes	- Implement attenuation etc. through community work - 50% stepdown on priority	100% stepdown but recognise gains from attenuation in first stage	
Waipoua Surface water takes	0-5 years no change @ 5 years = 25% Or @ 10 years if efficient	Step downs: 75% way 2015 100% way 2020	
Category A ground water zones	Trial period - water attenuation - river management - Urban planning is important - Urban efficiency - Agricultural adaption - Administrative efficiency	<b>REVIEW</b> Bring in restrictions - Reliability should be improved because of earlier steps. - review \$ investment at 10 years - timeframe - tied to NRP review	10 years
Category A ground water zones Waipoua Upper Ruamahanga	As above	As above	

#### **Other Measures**

- Expect more from T.A.'s – need to lead the way on efficiency measures.
- Upper Ruamāhanga: 0-10 match step-downs to irrigation efficiency/soil type/land use – calculate numbers.
- Upper Ruamāhanga: by 10 years have improved attenuation in catchment e.g. river management – long term consents with step downs build-in.
- Catchment groups develop stepdown numbers – community river management for instream values and reliability.

#### **Annual review of monitoring of progress**

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**Plenary  
Discussion of  
Transition Ideas**

**Priority:**

- Integrated Catchment Management now:
  - River management – keeping water in the river
  - Focus on whole river catchment, not on flood protection assets
  
- Efficiency improvements
  - Must be meaningful and landed in consents
  - Can this be driven by land use, efficiency of system and soils? Or revenue to water ratio? **Action:** PT to advise.  
**Note** PNRP approach already has an efficiency test, LUC how does this match Committee intent?
  - Recognise consent expiry timing overlay
  
- 10 year review. Some mitigation measures will take more than 10 years so should review at this point. Consider:
  - What investment has been made?
  - What are water users doing?
  - Do we need to change trajectory of change?
  
- Principal that stepped path is needed
  
- An option is to move to 100% cease take after 10 years. The values require us to protect ecological health and reduce adverse effects. The NPS-FM allows time to reduce over allocation.
  
- No agreement was reached by the Committee. Principles were agreed for further discussion:
  - Other measures need to happen as a priority
  - Reviews need to occur every 10 years and they need to be meaningful
  - There needs to be a meaningful efficiency test in consents
  - Stepped approach to changes

**Action**

- Notes from session back to Committee

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## **F Workshop Notes - Small Streams**

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**Introduction**

Alastair Smail gave the second half of the water allocation wash up presentation which deals with small streams.

[Presentation - Water allocation wash up](#)

The Committee discussed the minimum flow and allocation numbers for each stream as the presentation was given.

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**Papawai Stream**

- Marae on the stream.
- Wastewater treatment plant at the lower end. Acknowledge Masterton District Council and Carterton District Council are looking to move wastewater discharges to land.
- If get an increase in water temperature what does that mean for dissolved oxygen? Spring-fed - so temperature not such a problem.
- Poor reliability, getting worse?
- Macrophyte issues

Agreed to leave minimum flow and allocation limit as is.

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**Otukura**

- Poor water quality, particularly *E.coli*
- Trout spawning occurs in certain areas so the water quality must be of a certain standard.
- Poor reliability for users.
- Variable land uses in catchment.
- At risk of high temperatures.

Agreed to leave minimum flow and allocation limit as is.

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**Parkvale**

- No analysis of values
- Deteriorating water quality
- Poor reliability
- Receives Waingawa industrial run off and stormwater from the area
- An investigation into this stream is occurring as part of the PNRP
- Feeds the Taratahi water race
- Could an investigation occur along the length of the stream, rather than specific sites? Complex stream along its length
- Options for the Committee – guess using the default and transition over time, complete site specific investigations, or do both.

Two pronged approach:

- Set default and transition in same way as other rivers
- Complete a river length investigation of values to help recommend minimum flow and allocation limits in the future.

Tie together within other measures being introduced in the water quality space

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**Other Streams and Rivers ('Defaults')**

- Keep defaults on all other streams
  - Ensure flow sites are appropriate and clearly identified
  - Put together a list of streams where site specific investigations should occur – these will be those most under pressure
- 

**Action**

- There are consents to take water on these streams that don't have up to date conditions. The Committee will discuss how they want to deal with this at the next workshop.
  - Project team to write up and bring back in 'river by river' format.
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## **G Any other business**

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**How changes in minimum flows impact municipal water takes?**

Paula Hammond talked through the paper 'Summarising how changes in minimum flows affect municipal water takes' so the Committee has a good understanding of what their potential water allocation policy changes mean for municipal water takes.

[Summarising how changes in minimum flows will impact municipal water takes](#)

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**Mana whenua hui**

Date for hui with mana whenua is looking likely to be the first half of April 2018.

The project team will be organising a meeting with kaitiaki prior so they can learn about the whole package in more detail.

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**Meeting with Councils**

Officers from Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council are being invited to speak with the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee. The Committee discussed what they were interested in talking about at the meeting:

- Water efficiency
- Effluent disposal

- Analysis of e-coli levels going through treatment plants, and then what goes into the river
- How are they planning to meet the government swimmability target of 90% swimmable by 2040?
- Bacteria growing in Henley Lake. Are they aware of kaitiaki concerns about water quality?
- How are they providing leadership around Wairarapa development?
- What are they doing at the moment and how are they planning for the future?
- Where is Masterton District Council with their plans on storage?
- More information on Masterton District Council's application for a non-notified consent for disposal of wastewater to land.

A session will be organised for 5 March.

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**Meeting with water users**

The Committee is organising a follow up meeting with water users who put in written comments to the Committee on their potential changes to water allocation policies.

Want to explain in more detail how the Committee arrived at their decisions to date and why. Opportunity to further test ideas with this group of users.

Discussed logistics of organising the meeting.

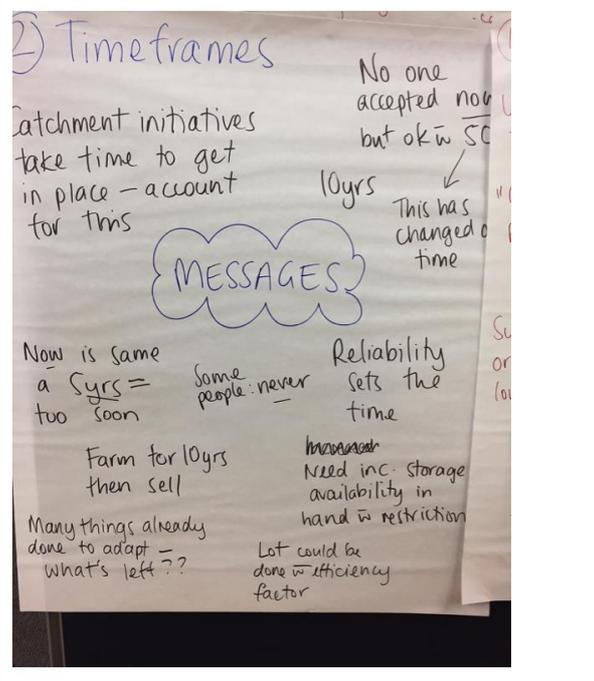
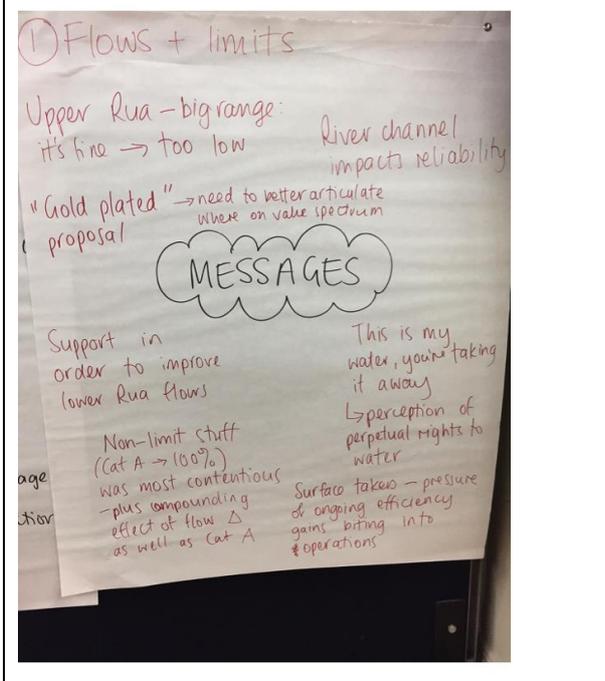
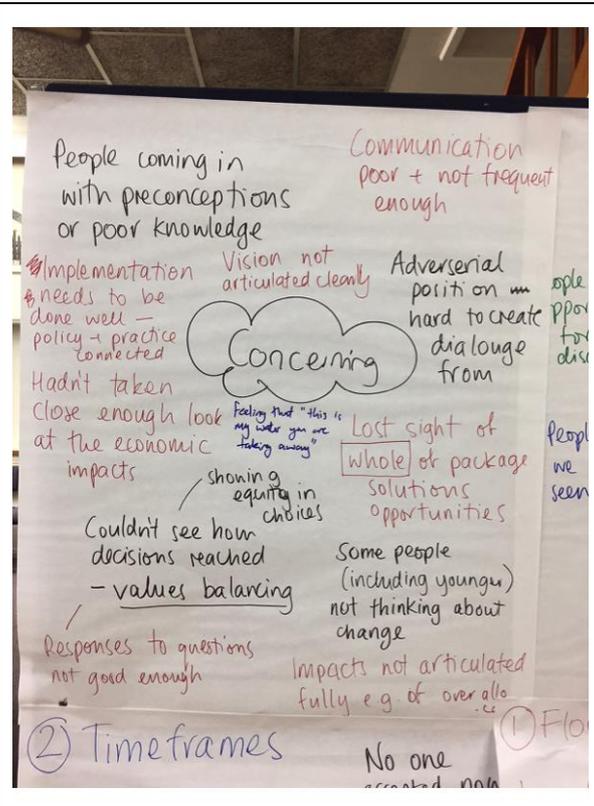
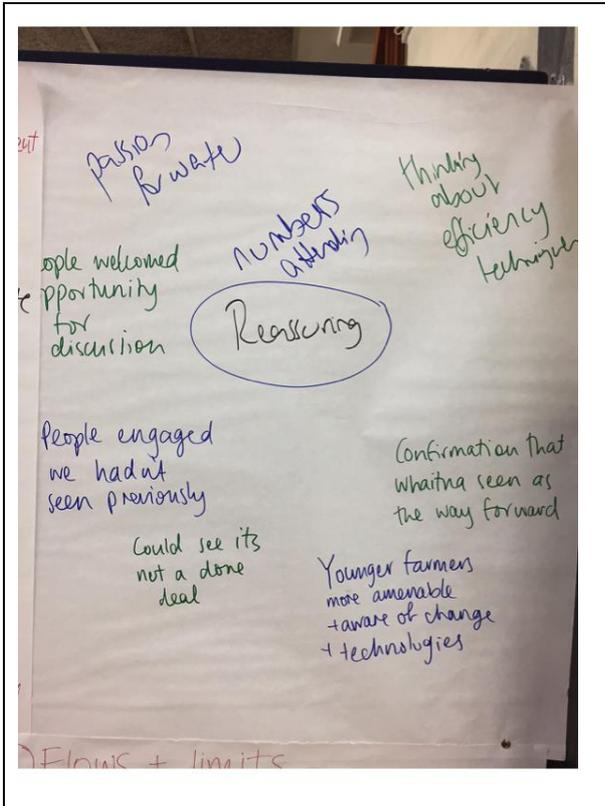
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**Other business**

The Committee would like a monthly newsletter to go out.

Need for members of the Committee to understand farm plans more to have discussions over whether they should be compulsory or not in the future. Include land management officers in discussion. How does it connect to the national land management programme?

# Appendix 1: Flipchart Photos



### ③ How to transition?

Infrastructure <sup>to</sup> + river management  
 Slow water down  
 down

Incremental change → link to monitoring + feedback  
 Look for impediments that could be eased eg. consents

Recognise public good component  
 → how does this inform who pays?  
 → central gov?

**MESSAGES**

Facilitate medium size storage  
 eg. ease up consents

Greater efficiency in urban areas

Interest in large storage - perception more reliable than on farm

Finding 'us' solutions over 'me' solutions

Recognise benefit of large dam to urban takes eg. Masterton

Education bundle - on farm efficiency + farm system changes

CM transition ideal

priority river management - keeping not on

### ACTIONS

Regular communication needed

- e.g. monthly newsletter
- send round Vanessa's issue articulation
- communicate where proposal lays on spectrum of values balancing

### Waipoua

Stepped increases to min flows  
 Upper catchment mitigation options  
 5 years to get organised.

0 - 250	0%	} if meet efficiency criteria
5 - 25%	25%	
10 - 50%	50%	
15 - 75%	100%	
20 - 340 (100%)		

Affects mainly Akura and QE Park  
 If Akura can't meet efficiency, look at alternatives such as irrigating from MDC wastewater.  
 All Councils to actively pursue efficiency measures.  
 e.g. MDC looking at dam but not efficiency.

0 - 10      10 - 20

Match step-downs to irrigation efficiency, soil type, land use

2.7 → 2.5 transition of min-flow (implemented) match with river management (integrated catchment) work

10 years gives opportunity for businesses to consider large change like land use change.

Increase first step down (2.7 → 3.0) + 50%

## Category A implementation

- suite of solutions
- use of trial period to see what we can get
- take care in the ~~next~~ connections made between actions (if this, then that...)
- trial period: focus on water attenuation as early as possible
  - ↳ high priority = river management replaces flood risk management. Store water in the water course; capture flood peaks eg. thru use of break out areas; better planning of assets in relation to flood risk; recognise urban - higher protection
- urban water efficiency - high priority - incl. water meters
  - ↳ fix leaks
  - ↳ water efficiency
  - ↳ @man. vol. of take
  - ↳ @water storage
- agricultural adaption - diversification of production matching reliability to the system (rather than allocation)
  - ↳ check administration of efficiency
- agricultural efficiency

Signals ① Try some things  
10yr → evaluate to help us go on? → then: what next...  
② ...

Priority: ~~water~~ integrated CM <sup>Transition ideas</sup>  
now - River management - keeping water in the river  
- focus on whole river, not on FP assets <sup>catchment</sup>  
• must be meaningful + landed in consent  
• efficiency improvements - can this be driven by LU, efficiency of system - soils? PT to advise. Note PNRP approach, LUCI  
↳ how does this match Committee intent?  
↳ recognise consent expiry timing overlay  
• 10yr review  
- what investment?  
- what are water users doing?  
- do we need to change trajectory of change?  
• principal that stepped path is needed  
**ACTION** Notes from session back to Com. ID principles for timeframes

## Small stream limits ①

### ✓ PAPA WAI

- marae
- WWTP @ lower end
- spring-fed so temp. not such a problem?
- poor reliability, getting worse?
- macrophyte issues

### ✓ OTUKURA

- trout values @ lower end
- poor water quality, particularly E. coli
- poor reliability
- variable land uses in catchment
- at risk of high temperatures

### ✓ PARKVALE

- no analysis on bground values
- poor + worsening water quality
- poor reliability
- receives Waingawa industrial r/off
- 'priority for improvement' in PNRP
- feeds the Tararua water race

Small streams cont ①

### PARKVALE

- receives Waingawa industrial
- 'priority for improvement' in PNRP
- feeds the Tararua water race

Small streams cont ①

### ✓ PARKVALE

- complex stream along its length

### 2 pronged approach

- set default + transition in same way as other rivers
- river length <sup>investigation</sup> analysis of values to recommend min flows + all.
- tie together w other wq. work
- recognise <sup>catchment</sup> community emerging

### ✓ OTHER STREAMS + RIVERS (DEFAULTS)

- ensure flow sites are appropriate + clearly identified
- site specific investigations
- use defaults

**ACTION** Write up + bring back in "by river" form

# What should the transition timeframe be? *Keep principles in mind*

*\* equity between users (rivers)* - 10yr *10yr*

	0-10	10-20	>20
R/C/D/C takes	0-5 no change	Step downs: 75% way 15	100% way 20
② Waipoua Surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∇ min flow 360</li> <li>∅ 5yrs = 25%</li> <li>∅ 10yrs = 50%</li> <li>∅ 15yrs = 75%</li> <li>∅ 20yrs = 100%</li> </ul>	100% stepdown but no eq. gains from attenuation in first stage	
① U. Ruamahanga surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅ imp. attenuation etc. that comm. work</li> <li>∅ 50% stepdown on priority</li> </ul>	Bring in restrictions - reliability improved because of	10yrs
Cat A groundwater zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trial period</li> <li>- water</li> <li>- attenuation</li> <li>- river flows</li> <li>- subsidence</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> </ul>
③ Cat A groundwater zones - Waipoua - U. Ru.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> <li>∅</li> </ul>

*Other measures* - expect more from T.A's - need to lead the way on efficiency measures

U. Ru. 0-10 - match step downs to irrig. eff. / soil type / land use → calculate nos.

U. Ru.: by 10yrs have imp. attenuation in catch. - long term consent in - mont. eg. river management. - long term consent in - mont. eg. river management. - long term consent in

Catchment groups dev. step down nos. - community river man. - mont. eg. river management. - long term consent in

*General Review / Monitoring of progress*