

# Rangitāiki Freshwater Futures Community Group

## Workshop 5 Notes:

### Draft in-river state / water use / modelling

Galatea Hall, 50A Mangamate Road, Galatea

Wednesday 28 June 2017 commencing at 9.00am

---

**Members present:** Larry Wetting (Co-Chair), Alamoti Te Pou (Co-Chair), Alan Law, Atamira Nuku, Beverley Hughes, Cr Bill Clark, Cathy Brown, Christina Bunny, Colin Maunder, Craig Rowe, Daryl Christie, Earl Rewi, Gareth Boyt, George Johnston, John Gibson, Kerry Snowdon, Kirsty Joynt, Linda Conning, Mark Ross, Matt Osborne, Matt Gow, Nick Doney, Tom Lynch

**Apologies:** Bill Kerrison, James Doherty, Ngapera Rangiaho, Robert Pouwhare, Steve Brightwell, Wetini Paul

**BOPRC Staff present:** Simon Stokes (Relationship Manager), Kerry Gosling (Facilitator), Janie Stephenson (Support Facilitator), James Low (Acting Water Policy Team Leader), Santiago Bermeo (Senior Planner – Water Policy), Michelle Lee (Planner – Water Policy), Paul Scholes (Science Team Leader – Water Quality), Raoul Fernandes (Science Team Leader – Water Quantity), Lisa Baty (Planning Coordination Officer – Water Programme)

**Guest speakers:** Nic Conland (Modelling Consultant), Justin Connolly (Masters Researcher)

**Observers:** Maramena Vercoe (Ngāti Manawa, Chairperson of the Rangitāiki River Forum)

---

#### Related documents previously circulated:

1. Workshop Paper – Freshwater futures workshop 5 overview and national update
2. Workshop Paper – Desired in-river state states – have we got it right?
3. Workshop Paper – Issues in the Water Management Area
4. Workshop Paper – Use values

## 1 Welcome / updates / focus of the day

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

New community group member attendees, BOPRC staff, and an observer were introduced:

- Colin Maunder - Timberlands
- Earl Rewi – The Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare
- Beverley Hughes – The Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa
- Staff: James Low (Water Policy Team Leader) and Santiago Bermeo (Senior Planner)
- Observer: Maramena Vercoe – The Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa.

### 1.1 Agenda, purpose and updates

#### Purpose:

Outcomes sought from the workshop are:

- approve desired in-river state statements building towards setting objectives
- understand how the catchment model and scenarios will support the group's work
- early input for management options and assessment.

#### Administration:

There was no opposition to publicly sharing names and photos community group members on the BOPRC website. Members supported making the summarised workshop notes publicly available for transparency reasons. Members also expressed that workshop notes are expected to:

- qualify the content as the discussion communication as a process of discovery
- be clear where the discussion that are NOT recommendations or conclusions

- not to contain details that will not reflect on the individual or company representative
- all notes to be sent to, and agreed by, the Co-Chairs before being published.

### **Updates:**

National updates: Resource Legislation Amendment Act; Clean Water Consultation  
 Regional Updates: [Proposed change to Regional Policy Statement \(Change 3 Rangitāiki\)](#); [Proposed Plan Change 9](#) Region-Wide Water Quantity; [Proposed Plan Change 10](#) Lake Rotorua nutrient management.

**Key message:** Freshwater management continues to be an active policy and reform topic nationally. Staff informed that since the November workshop, Council had extended the timeframe by 12 months to enable engaging iwi stakeholders.

## **1.2 Questions / comments**

### **Central Government update**

**Q:** Does the election cause any change in the water space? **A:** [As in the last election, water management issues are expected to be highly debated nationally in the lead up to the election. In terms of the Clean Water consultation, the government intends to make decisions before the election.] In terms of the proposed swimmability target, the Bay of Plenty already meets the 2030 target (i.e. more than 80% of large lakes and rivers are suitable for swimming according to Ministry for the Environment data).

**Q:** What is the status of stock exclusion regulations? **A:** The Clean Water consultation paper indicated these were due to come into force on 1 July 2017. However, this will not be the case. [Ministry for the Environment has indicated likely commencement date will be 1 December 2017].

### **Attribute based on invertebrate**

**Q:** Concerns about using invertebrates as a freshwater attribute.

**A:** the key is to select the right indicator for the right value. Invertebrate is a suitable indicator for ecosystem health, but it is not the only one we would use.

### **The OVERSEER model**

**Q:** Is OVERSEER a suitable model, given its use has been controversial? **A:** [Like all models, OVERSEER is subject to several limitations. It has been used by several other regional councils and there are few, if any, alternatives. We need to ensure that any use of OVERSEER in our planning framework is cognisant of its purpose and limitations. For more information please see: <https://www.overseer.org.nz/use-of-overseer-by-regional-councils>].

### **Science work and uncertainty**

**Q:** Members asked Council to better understanding in the Rangitāiki groundwater space, including groundwater quality, contamination, flow and interconnectivity. **A:** The science and monitoring work has started and in progress (eg. the springs survey). However, some results would not become available in the next six months or a year, we need more time to learn and understand the groundwater aquifers. We are aware what is missing, but in the meantime we still need to manage water without the full picture.

**Q:** How did the flood events impact on monitoring datasets that we maintain and soil loss?

**A:** It is too early to tell what impact the flood events will have on long term monitoring datasets.

It is acknowledged that we information about aspects of freshwater management is not completed. Some risk and uncertainty will be inevitable. [It is recommended members read this document in their own time for more information, a guide for regional councils to manage risk & uncertainty in freshwater management: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/fresh-water/draft-guide-communicating-and-managing-uncertainty-when-implementing>].

## 2 Progress to date

A brief summary of previous workshop topics and progress (including values, Freshwater Management Units, and acceptability of current state) was given as a reminder and to illustrate where we are up to in the process. See briefing notes and slides. The process of developing objectives was outlined.

## 3 Desired in-river state

Draft desired in-river state statements were collated from community group member feedback worksheets and notes taken at Workshop 4. Feedback is now being sought from the group.

Following feedback from two Kaituna WMA community group workshops, both sought consistent wording statements clearly state whether to maintain and/or improve; staff provided a set of streamlined statements.

The 'Gradients of Agreement' tool was introduced as a decision-making tool to help the group to agree on the in-river state statements. Members were asked to consider all of the statements for each FMU and to state where they sat:

- 1= whole hearted support
- 2= agreement with minor point of contention
- 3= support with reservations
- 4= abstain
- 5= more discussion needed
- 6= don't like but will support
- 7= serious disagreement
- 8= veto

Discussion focussed on reasons for high/low scores and how these could be amended by changes to the draft statement wordings. The results and its scoring are summarised in this note. Note the 'use values' will be considered before setting freshwater objectives, and revisiting the preferred in-river states. Further inputs resulted from iwi engagement will also be incorporated when available.

### 3.1 Overall feedback

#### **Water use and future use values**

Members were concerned that without considering the water uses and future uses, the group's upcoming discussions could be constrained by confirming the possibly ambitious in-river values. Members considered these statements need to be considered in the wider context rather than just in-river, like the causal loop discussion. So the socio-economic needs (eg. jobs) are also considered and provided for.

#### **Draft "natural state" FMU**

It was noted that the FMU title "Rangitāiki Natural State" may not be suitable for a number of reasons. Members expressed reasons including:

- it does not reflect the current conditions that is affected by possums and other animals
- this label could constrain the future management of the land that only recently returned
- this draft FMU includes vast Tūhoe land, so Tūhoe input is crucial.

Member also pointed out this draft FMU also includes the Whirinaki area, and it is valuable to have this conversation in this group. One member suggested it is suitable to apply no decline status on the draft natural state FMU, another suggest improved is needed at some places.

#### **Expectations for drinking water**

A member pointed out drinking water supply tributaries in Whirinaki may not be suitable for swimming. Fisherman and hunters drink the water from these tributaries, and the desired state could be 'drinkable'.

New Zealand Drinking Water Standards requires a maximum level of 1 *E. Coli*, which is a very high standard to maintain in an open untreated environment.

Member further expressed that the current tributaries conditions are good and people do drink from them. Members raised questions and comments about whether the NZ standard is appropriate for this purpose, and how these tributaries can be identified. The idea of having access to drinking water for present and future generations is supported by a couple members. Members asked this point to be picked up in considering freshwater objective.

### **Water use and quantity**

Members expressed the group needs better understanding about “water quantity”. Members suggest the group need to set aside time to have conversation on water use, abstraction, over-allocation, the context of current Region-wide Water Quantity Plan Change (Plan Change 9) and what does it mean to co-management and the Rangitāiki Water Management (Plan Change 12).

### **Administration**

The group had run out of time for the discussion about the indicative desired in-river state. Members expressed the group conversation has been valuable, and supports the conversation to continue face to face.

Score	No. of members who selected this score	
	draft Rangitāiki Natural State FMU	
	Initial wording	Final wording
1= whole hearted support	-	-
2= agreement with minor point of contention	15	14
3= support with reservations	2	7
4= abstain	-	-
5= more discussion needed	4	5
6= don't like but will support	-	-
7= serious disagreement	-	1
8= veto	-	-

## 3.2 Rangitāiki Natural State

Desired in-river state statement collated by BOPRC staff (streamlined versions)	Desired in-river state statement reached by Community Group in Workshop 5	Notes/comments
RN1. Water quality and quantity continues to be suitable for swimming.	RN1. Water quality and quantity continues to be suitable for swimming. Add statement 1A “Current water quality in terms of pathogens and bacteria will be maintained or improved in every surface waterbody”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments about drinking water from tributaries as noted above.</li> </ul>
RN2. The natural form and character of the river will be maintained.	RN2. The maintenance of the form, character and mauri of rivers and streams will be a priority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments about draft ‘natural state’ FMU as noted above.</li> </ul>
RN3. Water quality and quantity continues to provide for significant indigenous species, and mahinga kai and species that are important for fishing which are safe to eat.	RN3. Water quality and quantity will provide for native species, species that are important for fishing and mahinga kai, and their habitats/ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valuable introduced species to be included.</li> </ul>
RN4. Water quality and quantity will continue to be suitable for wai tapu, sites of cultural significance, and customary cultural and ceremonial activities.	RN4. Water quality and quantity will be suitable for wai tapu, sites of cultural significance, and customary cultural and ceremonial activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is ceremonial use in the Eastern Land area Tūwharetoa rohe.</li> <li>This value is not limited to Māori only, but all cultural use, such as baptism.</li> </ul>

### Points of contention;

- RM3 needs stronger mention of other important species and valued introduced species.
- Need more discussion about management options.
- Suggested different drinking water standard that is more appropriate for drinking water from streams in remote pristine bush/forest areas. However new statement 1A should address this.
- Implications of PC9 and how it affects objectives.
- In the “natural state” space, is the group making decisions that affect Tūhoe?
- Make sure we consider points of contention when we come back to this.

### 3.3 Middle – Upper Rangitāiki

Desired in-river state statement collated by BOPRC staff	Desired in-river state statement reached by Community Group in Workshop 5	Notes/comments
RM1. Water quality and quantity will be maintained and/or improved to be suitable for swimming.	RM1. Water quality will be maintained and/or improved to be suitable for swimming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water is over-allocated</li> <li>• Allocation does not necessarily equate to use</li> <li>• Comments on ‘water use and future use values’ and ‘water use and quantity’ as noted above</li> </ul>
RM2. Natural form and character will be maintained and/or improved.	RM2. The maintenance of the form, character and mauri of rivers and streams will be a priority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consented ramping of river flows impact on the river’s natural form and character</li> </ul>
RM3. Water quality and quantity continue to provide for significant indigenous species, and mahinga kai are safe to eat.	RM3. Water quality and quantity supports the river ecosystem to provide for native species, mahinga kai, valued introduced species and their habitats.	- -
RM4. Water quality and quantity continues to provide for wai tapu, springs, sites of cultural significance and customary cultural ceremonial activities.	RM4. Water quality and quantity will be suitable for wai tapu, sites of cultural significance, and customary cultural and ceremonial activities.	- -
RM5. The water quality and quantity continues to provide for transport/Tauranga waka, and recreational uses.	- -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerned about use the word “recreation” such as carp in Waikato are now used for reservation, although it is highly destructible.</li> </ul>

It was agreed a separate workshop will be held to cover off the last of the Desired In-River State discussion, as well as the lower Rangitāiki FMU. Details will be sent for the extra workshop to be held in the coming weeks.

## 4 Use values

Consented water takes and discharges were presented in maps and tables, along with a high level summary of economic value and employment of land and water-dependent industries in the catchment. Refer to briefing notes.

### 4.1 Key questions / comments

- Industries (e.g. processing and packaging Fonterra plant in Edgecumbe and Eastpak) must be included in economic estimates.
- The economic information provided is still basic. Community group member feedback are welcomed, particularly on what additional socio-economic information they would like to see at this stage, noting that detailed economic analysis would only be possible once the catchment model is completed.

## 5 Catchment modelling

Nic Conland gave an outline of the catchment modelling being progressed. See the information sheet circulated with the briefing notes.

A key input into catchment modelling is land use. A land use map developed for this purpose was presented to members and feedback on its accuracy is requested through the following website

<http://boprc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=53e38e0f72b94ed582e5a50e57756b66>

### 5.1 Key question / comments

Key clarifications about catchment model

- In November, the project team will seek group feedback on the first model run projection of the future state.
- Soil type variable is already incorporated. The model also covers nutrient generation, between Overseer and APSIM (Agricultural productivity simulator model).
- The new metering new data can be incorporate when it becomes available.
- There is great uncertainty around choosing particular places for monitoring.
- Groundwater system is different and difficult modelling at the moment.

Feedback

- Ngāti Awa interested in modelling and potential scenario as land developers. A member encourages connection of models, particularly with the maatauranga model.
- A member noted that industries can also take initiative to monitor water, not necessarily replying on Council's monitoring programme.

## 6 Causal loop

Justin Connolly gave an overview of the exercise completed with some members of the Group. The Causal loop is looking into the interrelationship, especially the 'causality' and the connections. Justin explained the resulting diagram (see workshop briefing paper).

The feedback from the interview is that the causal loop provides a refreshing process that is group model the conversation and insights.

## 7 Management options

Large 'Management Options' (for quantity, sediment, bacteria/pathogens and nutrients) and 'Principles' posters were available (in the foyer) for members to include their ideas.

## **8 What's next**

An extra workshop will be set to finish covering the desired in-river state statements. The first part of that workshop will include a refresher of the process to date for new members, although existing members are welcome to attend that part also.

Workshop ended at 2.30pm with a karakia.