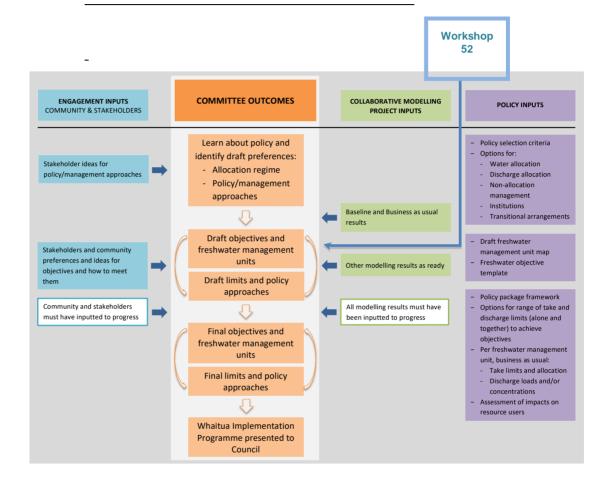
Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

**Deliberations Phase 3 – Workshop 52** 

# Monday 6 November 2017, 1:30PM - 6:00PM

## **Carterton Events Centre**



Summary	This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held from 1:30PM to 6:00PM on Monday 6 November 2017 at the Carterton Events Centre.
Contents	These notes contain the following:
	<ul> <li>A Workshop Attendees</li> <li>B Workshop Purpose and Agenda</li> <li>C Workshop Decisions</li> <li>D Workshop Actions</li> <li>E Workshop Notes – Lakes – Human health</li> <li>F Workshop Notes – MCI and Periphyton</li> </ul>
	Appendix 1: Freshwater objective decisions for ecological health attributes (MCI and periphyton) Appendix 2: Photos of Flipcharts
	A Workshop Attendees
Workshop Attendees	<i>RW Committee:</i> Aidan Bichan, Mike Birch, Esther Dijkstra, Andy Duncan, David Holmes, Peter Gawith, Russell Kawana, Chris Laidlaw, Colin Olds, Phil Palmer, Vanessa Tipoki, Mike Ashby.
	<i>Greater Wellington Project Team:</i> Mike Grace, Horipo Rimene, Alastair Smaill, Natasha Tomic, Hayley Vujcich, Kat Banyard, Richard Parkes.
	Modellers: John Bright, Mat Allen, Nick Taylor, Richard Storey.
	Independent Facilitator: Michelle Rush.
	Apologies: Rebecca Fox, Ra Smith.
	B Workshop Purpose and Agenda
Purposes	The purposes were:

1. Build an understanding of the modelling results for *E.coli* for the Lakes, and *periphyton, MCI and fish* in respect of the other Whaitua FMUs in relation to the future under each of the Business as Usual, Silver and Gold scenarios. Determine what these results have added to existing committee knowledge of the issues and

potential solutions.

- 2. Refresh aspects of RWC vision, long term outcomes and values to which ecological health (all FMU's) and *E.coli* (for the Lakes) is relevant.
- 3. Refresh understanding of the knowledge and perspectives relevant to ecological health in all FMU's, and *E.coli* (Lakes only) gained through:
  - a. mana whenua engagement; and
  - b. other community and stakeholder engagement
  - c. NPS-FM compulsory requirements under the NOF and relevant provisions of the PNRP; and
  - 4. Taking all of this knowledge, develop freshwater objectives for each Freshwater Management Unit in the Ruamahanga Whaitua in respect of periphyton, MCI, fish and objectives for *E.coli* for the lakes.

Purposes 1-3 were achieved. Purpose 4 was achieved in part. Consensus was not reached for the Eastern Hill Rivers, Eastern Hill Streams and Aorangi River FMUs due to time constraints. Fish narrative objectives were also not developed for the same reason. Both of these matters were deferred to the next workshop.

#### Agenda

The agenda is detailed in the table below.

Time	Task
(1:30 –	Welcome (Peter Gawith), Karakia (Ra Smith) and Purposes
1:40PM)	and Agenda (Michelle Rush)
(1:40 -	Presentation: Modelling Results for E coli in the Wairarapa
2:00)	Lakes (Matt Allen)
(2:00 -	Workshop: Developing freshwater objectives for human health
3:00PM)	for the Lakes (All)
(3:00 -	Afternoon tea
3:30PM)	
(3:30 -	Presentation: Modelling Results for ecological attributes -
3:45PM)	MCI, fish, periphyton (Richard Storey)
(3:45 -	Workshop: Developing freshwater objectives for ecological
5:50PM)	attributes (All)
(5:50 –	Reflection on process and looking forward to the next
6:00PM)	workshop

Time	Task
(6:00PM)	Meeting Close

## **C** Committee Decisions

Committee Decisions	<ul> <li>The Committee reached a consensus on proposed freshwater objectives for MCI and periphyton for rivers in the following FMUs:         <ul> <li>Northern Rivers, Ruamāhanga Main Stem, Valley Floor Streams, South Coast Streams, Western Hill Rivers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	• The Committee reached a consensus on proposed freshwater objectives for <i>E.coli</i> for Lake Wairarapa and Lake Onoke.
	D Workshop Actions
Workshop Actions	The following actions were agreed to:

Action: Carry over reaching of consensus on MCI and periphyton for the Eastern Hill Rivers, Eastern Hill Streams and Aorangi River FMUs, and narrative objectives for fish in all FMUs to the following workshop.

## E Workshop Notes – Lakes - Human Health

Overview - Setting human health objectives for the lakes	Mat Allen (University of Waikato) gave a presentation on the modelling done for <i>E.coli</i> in respect of Lakes Onoke and Lake Wairarapa. A summary report was also provided in advance of the workshop.
	Presentation on modelling E. coli in Lakes Onoke and Wairarapa
	Summary report on E.coli modelling results in Lakes Onoke and Wairarapa

Table summary of E. coli baseline and modelling results

Some key questions asked were:

Q: What monitoring information did we have about the barrage inflow?

A: We only had between 18 months and 2 years of data so we didn't have a lot of information.

Q: Does the model take into account the wind effect on LakeWairarapa?A: The 3D model took account of it.

Q: Can saltwater speed up *E.coli* mortality? A: In Lake Onoke where it is tidal it's likely to speed up *E.coli* mortality but when you have high loads of *E.coli* in flooding situations it will dilute the water and there will be low salinity.

Q: How was the 1m depth change modelled? A: It was modelled as an increase to the depth of 1m but the change could also come from dredging.

Q: The Lake Wairarapa levels are controlled by the water conservation order so can they be changed?A: The water conservation order reflects the values that are used to set lake levels. The levels are then set informally by GWRC. There have been changes to lake levels in other parts of the country controlled by water conservation orders. How would that then affect the drainage scheme?

Overview -Setting human health objectives for the lakes Following the modelling output presentation Committee members then discussed this information, along with community engagement data relevant to human health in the lakes and where the lakes sit in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan.

The Committee members referred to the <u>document noting</u> <u>comments from engagement events to assist developing human</u> <u>health freshwater objectives</u> that was also provided at the previous workshop on 24 October 2017. They also referred to comments they had received at hui at marae over this process – in particular the high recreation values at Lake Onoke were noted.

Committee members also referred to <u>Schedule I and Schedule F</u> in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan.

They were asked to identify objectives (a suitable NOF band) for each that best provided for the seven values they have identified for the Ruamāhanga catchment, along with their vision and long term outcomes. The decisions they reached are set out in the next section.

#### Example worksheet used to assist in developing lakes objectives

Lakes Human Health Freshwater Objectives Consensus decisions were reached in respect of Lake Wairarapa Moana and Lake Onoke for the human health freshwater objective.

The decisions are:

#### Lake Wairarapa Moana.

- NOF Band: Maintain A band status for E.coli attribute
- *Reason:* The Lake is already at an A band and must be maintained. Important to stop the *E. coli* upstream in the rivers.

#### Lake Onoke

- NOF Band: Maintain B band status for E.coli attribute.
- *Note:* Revisit once modelling data is in for all other attributes: If an A band appears achievable at that stage, then change to 'Improve' to A Band.
- *Reason:* Lake Onoke is very important for fishing values. It also has high recreational values, and high mana whenua values. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the Lake's water quality does not make people unwell however.

#### **Other Measures**

• Give much greater focus to reducing loads in the upstream catchment.

## F Workshop Notes – MCI & Periphyton

Overview setting ecological health objectives for each FMU Alastair Smaill gave a brief overview of where periphyton and MCI sit in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and talked about how you might set objectives for MCI, periphyton and fish. The link between fish objectives and mahinga kai was discussed, and the link between periphyton and recreation.

Hayley Vujcich briefly explained the summary table for periphyton and MCI.

Summary table of periphyton baseline and modelling results

Summary table of MCI baseline and modelling results

Richard Storey gave a presentation of the modelling results for MCI, periphyton and fish, three ecosystem health attributes that were modelled through the Bayesian Belief Network (BBN) modelling framework in respect of a range of future management scenarios. A summary report was also provided in advance of the workshop.

Presentation on predictions of the bayesian network for periphyton, macroinvertebrates and fish

Summary of predicted outcomes from ecological bayesian network (BN)

Q: Could you change the water temperature and therefore periphyton but having more groundwater input?A: Groundwater is a lower temperature than surface water so it could help. Especially in the wide streams where it is hard to shade.

Q: What has the biggest effect on MCI?

A: Deposited fine silt would have the biggest effect. Concern from the Committee that silt is being deposited today in localised places in the river as a result of flood protection bulldozing. The potential effects of climate change have not been modelled. Acknowledged they would affect things like temperature and flow.

Q: What monitoring data is used for MCI? A: The modelling data uses 3 years of monitoring data.

Q: Were flood protection works modelled in the BN? A: No they weren't. One of the ways fish are affected is by the habitat in the river for them – the pools, riffles and runs. Flood protection works would affect these. The Committee would like the scenarios rerun with flood protection measures in the model.

Q: We've heard that the mitigation measures in the scenarios aren't giving a lot of change. Do we need to think of something more? A: In this case more small streams weren't modelled but potentially this is an area where more changes could be made to bigger effect. E.g. shading of smaller streams. Most habitats for fish are in smaller streams.

Several comments were also made:

- Any removal of crack willow would need to be staggered so there wasn't a massive increase in water temperature while new planting grows.
- Water quality needs to be improved overall for mahinga kai. Iwi use the whole river to survive and for health reasons. We need to be thinking of improvement.

• We heard from the recent hui with mana whenua their unhappiness about the rivers being used as highways. We need different flood management.

Following this presentation, Committee members identified and discussed relevant information from community and mana whenua engagement, along with other data.

<u>Community engagement material - developing ecological health</u> <u>freshwater objectives</u>

They then worked in groups, taking one or more FMUs each, to identify objectives for each river in that FMU in respect of both MCI and periphyton, as they saw best meeting the values identified for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua, along with their vision and long term outcomes. An updated example values and objectives cascade was also considered.

Example worksheet used to assist in developing freshwater objectives for ecological attributes

Updated example values and objectives cascade

Plenary discussion & consensus on MCI and periphyton freshwater objectives Consensus decisions were reached in respect of the Western Hill Rivers, Northern Rivers, Main Stem Ruamāhanga, Valley Floor Streams and South Coast Streams FMUs. These are detailed in the table in Appendix 1.

Plenary discussions:

Northern Rivers

- The modelling didn't show much improvement.
- We want improvement.
- Want to try the other methods talked about to see if that would get a change.
- AGREED FRESHWATER OBJECTIVES

Upper Ruamāhanga Main Stem

- Looking for improvement to an A band in the future. Agreed the timeframe was by 2040 for periphyton.
- Some discussion that periphyton wouldn't be the difference between people deciding to swim in an area or not.
- There are high values (trout, mahinga kai, migrating fish etc.) in the Ruamāhanga main stem so looking for improvements to MCI.
- Aware they are ambitious freshwater objectives but potentially could be achieved with good work in the tributaries.

#### AGREED FRESHWATER OBECTIVES

Western Hill Rivers

- Question about whether MCI in the Mangatarere is in the C band. Committee experience is that it's better so consider achieving an A band is possible. It is the most important trout spawning area in the Wairarapa. Agreed to improve to B by 2040 and A by 2080.
- Waipoua it is quite a narrow river so should be able to get a shift from B to A band for periphyton with shading. Will revisit once we get the economic impact information.
- Waingawa some discussion about why only maintaining at the B band for periphyton? Fishing is very poor downstream and the draw off from the river is high. It's important because it feeds into the Upper Ruamāhanga. Hard to make a shift.
- Waipoua want to move to the A band for MCI as it's already been identified as a special river by the Committee. Are we being optimistic? It suffers from low flows as it's a foot hills river. Agreed to move to the B band.
- AGREED FRESHWATER OBECTIVES

Valley Floor Streams

- Otukura Stream looking to maintain as it flows in Lake Wairarapa which as a receiving environment has less periphyton issues.
- AGREED FRESHWATER OBECTIVES

South Coast Streams

- Looking to maintain as they're likely to be good streams for these attributes already.
- AGREED FRESHWATER OBECTIVES

# Next steps It was agreed to complete work on the Eastern Hill Rivers, the Eastern Hill Streams and the Aorangi Rivers FMUs at the next workshop.

## Appendix 1: Freshwater objective decisions for ecological health attributes (MCI and periphyton)

River	FMU:	Current to Recommended NOF Band: <u>MCI</u>	Reason why (with respect to RW values)	Current to Recommended NOF Band: <u>Periphyton</u>	Reason why (with respect to RW values)	Other Measures for Periphyton and MCI
Western H	<b>Iill Rivers</b>	s FMU				
Waiohine	Western	C to B (Improve)	Need further investigation Flood management	A to A (Maintain)	Already at A - must maintain it there.	
Waipoua	Western	C to B (Improve)	Further investigation on the potential for improvement - what could get it to A band?	B to A by 2040 (Improve)	Further research required - smaller streams management	
Upper Ruamahanga	Western	C to B (Improve)	Further research / investigation required	A to A (Maintain)	Already at A - must maintain it there.	
Mangatarere	Western	C to A (Improve to B by 2040 and A by 2080)	A big improvement should be possible with improvements in waste water treatment under way, declining industrial usage, riparian planting programmes on first and second order streams	C to A (Improve long term by 2040)	A big improvement should be possible with improvements in waste water treatment under way, declining industrial usage, riparian planting programmes on first and second order streams	

## = Consensus not reached on these rivers

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Waingawa	Western	B to B (Maintain)	Already at A and must maintain	A to A (Maintain)	At a reasonable level	
Tauherenikau	Western	C to B (Improve)	Check existing state	A to A (Maintain)	Already at A - must maintain it there.	
Eastern H	ill Rivers	FMU				
Taueru River	Eastern Hills	Good to Good (Maintain)	Formerly used for recreation. High mahinga kai values. Lack flushing flows.	D to C (Improve)	Must improve.	More monitoring sites than one are needed on sub- catchment to help take community on a journey - citizen science opportunities. Riparian planting is needed - inconsistent within catchmenmt. Needs <u>scale</u> of community groups. Re- clothing the hill country is a must. Farm plans need greater reach. Careful management of removal of willows.
Huangarua River	Eastern Hills	Fair to Good (Improve)	Think improvement is possible with hill country mangement. Lots of willows - if removed then we need good transitional management to try and replace shade on stream.	C to B (Improve)	Shift shown in modelling. Concerned about low flows in the catchment.	Retirement and erosion protection is important here. All farmers on farm plan. Riparian planting! Concern about potential impact from urban take (Martinborough). Investigate restrictions at minimum flow - need bettre flow monitoring and investigation and enforcement. Optons for

			 		river management to control cross blading.
Makahakaha	Eastern	Fair to Fair	Maybe C (based on	Some shading of	Riparian planting on stream
Stream	Hills	(Maintain)	other EHR grade) to	stream but reduced as	and tributaries likely to be
Stream		(ivianitanit)	C? (so little	willows have ben	important here. Need further
			information) -	removed - but no	information to really know
			Maintain?	shading in upper	options including to see
				catchment. Riparian	what opportunities there are
				planting could have a	to decrease water
				big impact. A smallish	temperature. Signal to
				catchment. Spring feed	community to get to B if
				so fair flow - small	possible. This is Andrew
				feeder streams likely	Stewart's catchment!
				below accord size. Pā	
				tuna, significant mana	
				whenua values	
				including being close to a Marae. Limestone	
				catchment in two-thirds	
				of the catchment.	
				Unclear how much	
				shading will cool the	
				water.	
South Coa	st Streams	s FMU			
South coast		Unknown to	Unknown to		
streams		Unknown	Unknown.		
		(Maintain. Or	(Maintain. Unlikely to		
		improve to Fair if	have a periphyton		
		necessary. May be	problem because of		
		one stream in this	substrate and low		
		category)	nutrient load)		

Eastern H	astern Hill Streams FMU					
??	Eastern Hills Streams	?? to ?? (Maintain)	Small, dry up, only two bridges in the area and one river is called Dry River act as flood flow paths. Some intensive farming with good soils between road and river, but very dry on other side. Enthusiastic community - should leverage this. Catchment has lowest recorded average rainfall for the whole of the North Island.	?? to ?? (Maintain)	Small, dry up, only two bridges in the area and one river is called Dry River act as flood flow paths. Some intensive farming with good soils between road and river, but very dry on other side. Enthusiastic community - should leverage this. Catchment has lowest recorded average rainfall for the whole of the North Island.	
Aorangi R Tauanui	Aorangi Rivers	J Fair to Good (Improve)	MCI - Seeks stock exclusion higher up the catchment. Category A restrictions at minimum flows.	C/D to B (Improve)	Significant biodiversity values. Low flows, including as dries up naturally. Invesntive land use (beef feed lot). Lots of drainage of catchment. Deforesting of upper catchment of pines. Cyanobacteria issues-can't walk dogs. Small catchment and only a few intensive land uses so change is	

Turanganui	Aorangi Rivers	Fair to Good (Improve)	MCI - Farm plans, stock exclusion, category A restrictions at minimum flow	D/C to B (Improve)	<ul> <li>possible, e.g. through farm plans. Right by lake - important for migrating fish.</li> <li>Significant indigenous biodiversity including for fish - first stop for fish on their way up river. Intensive land use and stock access.</li> <li>Animals are regularly crossing the river.</li> <li>Some good mitigation in the catchment.</li> </ul>	
Northern	<b>Rivers FM</b>	IU				
Kopuaranga	Northern	C to B (Improve)	Want to improve the situation as its poor quality.	D to C (Improve)	Must improve.	MCI - need other methods that reduce deposited silt.
Whangaehu	Northern	C to B (Improve)	Want to improve as its poor quality.	D to C (Improve)	Must improve. No data so matched with Taueru results as they're similar rivers. Want to improve but think it will be hard to achieve.	Retiring worst land - already in modelled scenarios? Planting poplars and willows - bank stabilisation Periphyton - focus on dissolved nutrients - other measures on top of mitigations in scenarios. Shading on smaller streams - take a coordinated approach. Planting poplars and willows. Gross feeders to help reduce nutrients.

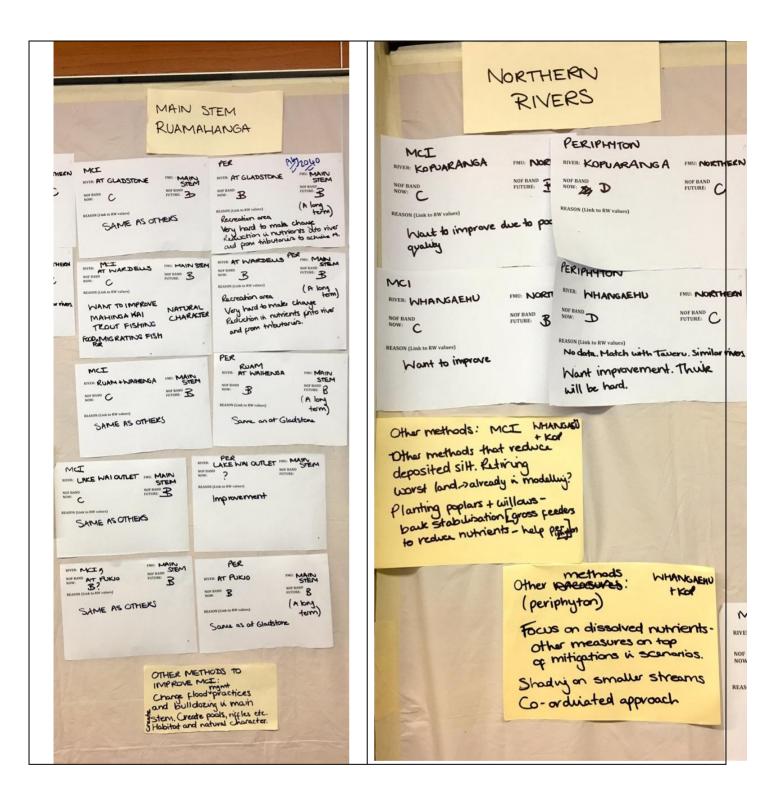
Valley Flo	or FMU					
Parkvale	Valley Floor Streams	Fair to Good (Improve)	Responding to community desires to improve Parkvale Stream	B to B (Maintain)	Good enough! Measures taken to reduce nutrient concentrations (next week's objective setting) may improve periphyton grade. Rather focus is on N and P objectives.	
Otukura Main Sten	Valley Floor Streams <b>Ruamāh</b> a	Fair to Fair (Maintain) anga FMU		Unknown to Unknown (Maintain)	It is unlikely to support periphyton - macrophytes are more likely to dominate.	
Ruamāhanga at Waihenga	Main Stem Ruamāhang a	C to B (Improve)	Want to improve for mahinga kai, trout fishing, food for migrating fish and natural character.	B to B (Maintain) (Want to improve to A in long term - 2040)	Recreation area. Very hard to make change. Reduction in nutrients into river and from tributaries is needed to achieve improvement.	MCI - Change flood management practices and bulldozing in main steam. Create pools, riffles etc. Create habitat and natural character.
Ruamāhanga at Pukio	Main Stem Ruamāhang a	B to B (Maintain)	Want to maintain for mahinga kai, trout fishing, food for migrating fish and natural character.	B to B (Maintain) (Want to improve to A in long term - 2040)	Recreation area. Very hard to make change. Reduction in nutrients into river and from tributaries is needed to achieve improvement.	
Ruamāhanga at Gladstone	Main Stem Ruamahang a	C to B (Improve)	Want to improve for mahinga kai, trout fishing, food for migrating fish and	B to B (Maintain) (Want to improve to A in long term - 2040)	Recreation area. Very hard to make change. Reduction in nutrients	

			natural character.		into river and from tributaries is needed to achieve improvement.
Ruamāhanga	Main Stem	C to B (Improve)	Want to improve for	B to B (Maintain)	Recreation area. Very
at Wardells	Ruamahang		mahinga kai, trout fishing,	(Want to improve to A	hard to make change.
	a		food for migrating fish and	in long term - 2040)	Reduction in nutrients
			natural character.		into river and from
					tributaries is needed to
					achieve improvement.
Ruamāhanga	Main Stem	C to B (Improve)	Want to improve for	Unkown to Unknown	
at Lake	Ruamahang		mahinga kai, trout fishing,	(Improve Long term -	
Wairarapa	а		food for migrating fish and	2040)	
outlet			natural character.		

## **Appendix 2: Photos of flip charts**



**RWC Whaitua Workshop No. 52** 6 November 2017



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