

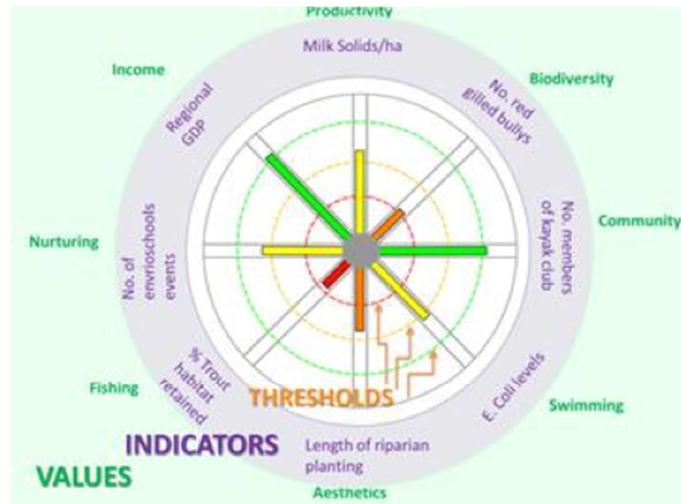
The Wheel of Water Process

An introduction for Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee members

Summary

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua committee is looking to use the Wheel of Water process to support its work developing a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP).

It is expected that the Wheel of Water process will assist the Committee with development of objectives, targets and limits for fresh water, which are some of the elements that must be included in the WIP for the Ruamāhanga catchment.



The Wheel of Water research programme, funded by MBIE, will assist the Whaitua project team and committee in a number of areas, including planning and data modelling. It will also set up and run a monitoring and evaluation process to enable everyone involved to learn from the process as it unfolds, and contribute to improvements for the future.

This document describes what the Wheel of Water process is, and what the Committee can expect.

What is the Wheel of Water Process?

The Wheel of Water process is a structured approach to support a group to identify, and reach consensus, on catchment objectives, desired outcomes and limits to manage water use and protect water quality and aquatic values.

Through a facilitated, interactive process, the group identifies what is valued in a catchment indicators and acceptability thresholds that can measure the health of each value. Issues and potential scenarios are developed, and a graphic tool called the WaterWheel enables the group how various actions might impact on what people value in a catchment across the four 'well being' values. The graphic is underpinned by information generated through a set of modelling tools.

In essence, the process and graphic work together to provide a holistic decision support tool for the group charged with the task of identifying objectives and resource use limits.

What are we going to be doing?

While the specifics are still to be worked out, (and we'll work with Committee members as part of this) you can expect to be involved with:

- A series of workshop sessions during Whaitua meetings (exact number to be confirmed). Topics are likely to include (but are not limited to):
 - A stocktake and review of catchment information thus far

- Identification of catchment values
- Discussion of current issues
- Identification of a set of future scenarios to be modelled
- Identification of indicators for important values and ‘acceptability’ thresholds for these
- Presentation and impact analysis of modelled scenarios
- Consensus process to identify catchment objectives, desired outcomes, targets and limits.
- Community engagement, if and when Committee support is required as part of this, where wider community views are sought to inform one or more parts of the process.
- Interviews before, during and after, in support of the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the collaborative process that the research team will undertake with everyone involved

Who will facilitate the process?

Michelle Rush, from Participatory Techniques Ltd, will facilitate the Wheel of Water process meetings.

Wheel of Water Research Programme

The Wheel of Water research programme is funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), and led nationally by Aqualinc Research Ltd. Also involved are Landcare Research Ltd, AgResearch Ltd, Tipa and Associates, Will Allen and Associates, Participatory Techniques Ltd, and Lincoln Agricultural Economic Research Unit. The research team partnered with GWRC, Mangatarere Restoration Society and community members in the Mangatarere catchment for one of two case studies undertaken for Phase One. Feedback from Phase One was positive, and as a result, the research programme has been granted a further three years of funding. This will be used to refine and test the concept in two limit setting processes, one of which is the Ruamahanga Whaitua.

Which researchers will be involved?

The team includes: James Turner and Oscar Montes, AgResearch Ltd; Will Allen, Will Allen and Associates; Andrew Fenemor, Landcare Research Ltd; Gail Tipa, Tipa and Associates; and John Bright, Aqualinc Research Ltd.

When will the process start?

At this stage, the expectation is that the process will start at the Whaitua Committee’s October 8th meeting.

Further Information

Contact Michelle Rush, rush.m@xtra.co.nz or 0274574414 or 04 4791730.

Phase 1 Research Summary: *Collaborative catchment planning using the WaterWheel process and tools* <http://learningforsustainability.net/pubs/WOW-summary.pdf>