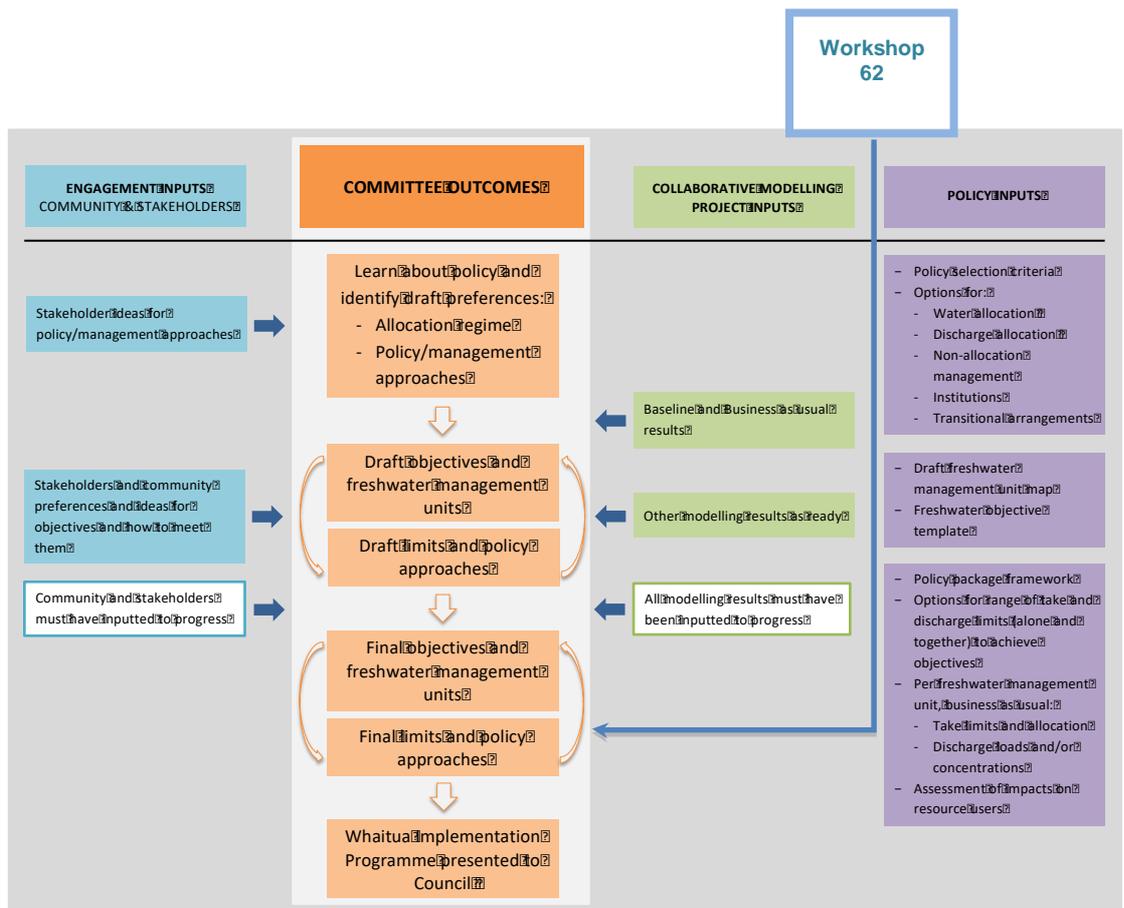


# Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

## Deliberations Phase 3 – Workshop 62

Monday 30 April 2018, 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Featherston Community Centre, Featherston



**Summary** This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held 12:00pm to 6:00pm on Monday 30 April 2018 at the Featherston Community Centre.

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**Contents** These notes contain the following:

- A** Workshop Attendees
- B** Workshop Purpose and Agenda
- C** Actions
- D** Workshop Decisions
- E** Workshop Notes – Presentation from GWRC flood protection
- F** Workshop Notes – Reflection on stakeholder meeting
- G** Workshop Notes – Planning for community meetings
- H** Workshop Notes – Working through draft WIP chapters

**Appendix One:** Photos of Flipcharts

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## **A Workshop Attendees**

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**Workshop Attendees**

*RW Committee:*

Mike Ashby, Esther Dijkstra, Andy Duncan, Peter Gawith, Russell Kawana, Colin Olds, Phil Palmer, Ra Smith, David Holmes, Mike Birch, Rebecca Fox, Vanessa Tipoki.

*Apologies:*

Aidan Bichan, Chris Laidlaw.

*Greater Wellington Project Team:*

Alastair Smaill, Natasha Tomic, Kat Banyard, Mike Grace, Hayley Vujcich, Caroline Watson, Paula Hammond, Horipo Rimene.

*GWRC Flood Protection (attended first section only):*

Graeme Campbell, Mark Hooker, Colin Munn

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## **B Workshop Purpose and Agenda**

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**Purposes**

The purposes were:

1. The Committee gains an understanding from flood protection on the opportunities they see in how to implement the WIP.
2. Reflect on stakeholder workshop and identify issues for further discussion to include in the WIP. Agree next steps

for further engagement.

3. Confirm approach and planning for community meetings.
4. Review draft WIP chapters (second half only) for gaps and issues, and resolve them.

All the purposes of the meeting were met.

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**Agenda**

The agenda is detailed in the table below.

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Time	Task
12:00 – 12:10PM	Welcome, karakia and purposes of meeting
12:10 – 12:50PM	Presentation from Flood Protection on flood management plans
12:50 – 1:15PM	Reflection on stakeholder meeting 24 April 2018
1:15 – 1:45PM	Lunch
1:45 – 2:00PM	Planning for community meetings
2:00 – 3:30PM	Working through chapters for the second half of the WIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategic and overarching policies chapter</li><li>• Managing contaminants – discharges and land management<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Objectives and limits – specific numbers</li><li>○ Farm planning</li></ul></li><li>• Water allocation</li></ul>
3:30 – 3:45PM	Afternoon tea
3:45 – 6:00PM	Working through chapters for the second half of the WIP continued....
<b>6PM</b>	Meeting Close

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## C Actions

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**Actions**

**Stakeholder workshop:**

Organise a second stakeholder workshop for 24 May 2018.

**Reviewing draft WIP chapters:**

Project team to take away the Committee's comments and incorporate them into a next draft version for Committee consideration.

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## D Committee Decisions

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### Committee Decisions

Decisions were made at this workshop about additions to the draft WIP chapters the Committee wanted to see. These are outlined in section H of this document.

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## E Workshop Notes – Presentation from GWRC flood protection

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### Presentation

Mark Hooker from GWRC's Flood Protection department gave a presentation to the Committee on opportunities for whitua implementation through GWRC's flood and erosion management work programmes.

#### [Presentation on opportunities for whitua implementation](#)

Some of the key points discussed were around:

- Alignment between the whitua outcomes and flood management plans.
  - Impacts on sediment loads from bank erosion from allowing the river more room to move.
  - The whitua committee providing strong direction on the outcomes desired.
  - Alignment of what we mean by 'river management'.
  - Achieving outcomes that align with broader community wishes, not just individual landowners.
  - Developing relationships between catchment communities and river schemes.
  - Who is representing public land in the current schemes?
  - Who pays?
  - Update on where work on the Te Kauru Floodplain Management Plan is currently heading.
  - Future opportunities through the review of the lower valley scheme.
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# F Workshop Notes – Reflection on stakeholder meeting

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## Stakeholder workshop

The Committee reflected on the workshop with stakeholders on 24 April 2018. The notes from this workshop, including who attended are available here: [Notes from workshop with stakeholders 24.04.2018](#).

What was positive?

- Good attendance
- The end comments about what the Committee should focus on were very helpful
- Presentation from the whaitua committee was excellent
- It was a test of us as community members
- Positive feedback from water users and from Federated Farmers. Most positive Fish and Game has been to date.
- Terry facilitated well.

What was negative?

- Fish and Game attitude towards the process.
- The level of detail some of the stakeholders wanted wasn't there.
- There was a focus on the rural stakeholders. Need to invite Councils next time. Need to reflect the 'we' better.

What were the messages to take from the day when developing the WIP recommendations?

- Clear messages on economic impacts:
  - Including message of 'will be a strain but affordable'. If we do nothing this will be the economic impact.....
  - Consider section 32.
  - Link to innovation
  - Link to timeframe to transition
  - Emphasise the role of decision makers (territorial authorities) in how the community are impacted e.g. Henley Lake.

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## Planning for follow up workshop

Agreed there would be a follow up workshop with stakeholders on 24 May for half a day. Things to think about:

- What do the stakeholders like or not like about the proposed approaches?
- Provide numbers e.g. for objectives
- Discuss catchment community groups further
- Discuss any funding concerns

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## G Workshop Notes – Planning for community meetings

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### Community meetings

Planning for the upcoming early May community meetings:

- Committee agreed who would do which part of the presentation and any updates they wanted to make.
- Esther will facilitate.
- Will have poster information about each FMU on the wall.

Message for community meetings:

- Be clear – we have the economic information and have considered it seriously. Have considered timeframes to allow for change. It's about the values of the community – everyone feels the economic gains and losses.
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## H Workshop Notes – Working through draft WIP chapters

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### Overall comments

The Committee considered updated copies of the following draft WIP chapters in advance of the workshop – overarching themes, flows and allocation, managing contaminants, and the mana whenua chapter. The Committee then worked through chapter by chapter discussing changes.

- GWRC reviews monitoring and modelling practice in light of the WIP recommendations – recognising the mana whenua needs.
  - GWRC looks at fit for purpose water quality monitoring.
  - Consider a glossary – sediment, river management etc.
- 

### Overarching themes

- Water storage is an important message – the WIP needs to be more to ensure this is promoted.
  - Add bullet points about storage to the overarching themes chapter.
  - Offline storage is easier than in-stream storage.
  - Make sure the Committee's position is very clear – there is no silver bullet – 'storage in its various forms.'
  - Make clear in the overarching themes and in the flow and allocation chapter (Recommendation 27).
  - Discussed trying to lobby for changes to the building act to make it easier for small dams to be

consented. Was discussed this was unlikely to result in change.

- Recommendation 1 – catchment wide objectives override localised objectives.
- Recommendation 5 – broaden efficiency meaning to incorporate productivity and value.
- Recommendation 3 – include emphasis on GWRC needing to deliver GMP. Allow for innovation. Prototyping of small parts rather than the whole problem.
- Recommendation 5 – include benchmarking of community use.
- Emphasise role of prototyping in experimentation with respect to changes and mitigating risk.
- Ensure connection with mana whenua WIP content.

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## Flows and allocation

- Ensure messages (including water storage) are consistent with the overarching themes policy.
- Water races – very inefficient but recognise there are benefits to this inefficiency in recharging aquifers.
  - Link to reduce at minimum flow (Rec 1)
  - Recommendation 30, 31 and 32 – strategic planning to inform next consent – ensure connected to strategic managed aquifer recharge work
  - Also recognise – reconnection at bottom of the race
  - Water quality impacts of the discharge, purpose and potential purposes of the water races, aquifer recharge etc.
  - Consideration of the links between artificial and natural streams.
  - Consideration of solutions for individual water races is post-WIP.
- Tauherenikau – current state. 100% habitat protection and loads mean water below gravels. One take below minimum flow – water race? Public supply? Note this is an anomaly but no different from the draft. Should be consistency of 90% habitat protection across the catchment. Note river management opportunity in gravel management.
- More and robust groundwater monitoring including to inform consent applications.
- Link to mana whenua monitoring.
- Precautionary approach to issuing resource consents where information is poor.
- Recommendation 14 – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet points – make clear. Bringing consents up to date.
- Recommendation 18 – make clear the domestic supply is a right, 5m<sup>3</sup> for permitted activities is on top of this.
- Recommendation 21 – ‘encourage’. Suggest more strongly to push territorial authorities. ‘RWC strongly supports’ or

‘in order to meet minimum flows, tanks are necessary.....’

- Recommendation 22 – note volume per day differs for each shed. Only relates to surface water and Category A groundwater takes below minimum flows. Water can be used multiple times – cooling, washing etc. Need to benchmark current use.
  - Make link between water conservation and resilience (Recommendation 23).
  - Minimum flow section – recognise that change has economic impact.
  - Recommendation 27 – link with efficiency discussed in overarching themes.
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### **Managing contaminants**

- Non-allocation approach – 10 year review – closer to the front of the chapter.
- Gauging water quality limits with a 10 year review.
- Might need innovation in order to achieve E. coli limits i.e. scenarios didn’t get us there.
- Don’t conflate E. coli and swimability. Talk about level of risk for swimming.
- Treating the water by different mechanisms
- Promote innovations that improve water quality and human health
- MCI in Wairarapa is different to other places – small sediment settling is causing problems for MCI and releasing nutrients.
- Nutrients are not the only driver of MCI. Make sure the emphasis covers off the link with sediment as well.
- Clear what we mean by sediment – fine (not just gravels).
- Other measures of human health (other than E. coli)
- Different treatment methods to increase resilience for human health.
- Recommendation 27 – collect nutrient information at property scale, periodically. ‘Nutrient budget’ is not the right wording. GWRC has a legal obligation to hold catchment ‘accounts’. For some it might be at a catchment scale e.g. sediment, for other contaminants it might be at a property scale e.g. nutrients. The key is providing information back to users on whether everyone is operating within the limit. Aggregated information is what would be made available publically.
- Recommendation 30 – individual’s data needs to be kept private, reporting on an FMU basis.
- High risk activities – what about practices that are already happening that we don’t want to happen? E.g. break feeding on certain classes of land. How do we incentivise change?
- Section 1.4.8 - Consistency of wording ‘mainly’ and ‘largely’. All to land – fix wording.

- Recommendation 20 – no discharges to water unless three times median flow by 2025. Andy to think about good words for recommendation. All to land by 2040 isn't achievable and may not be cost effective. E.g. might be 80% of cost to discharge the last 1% to land.
- Important to be equitable between rural and urban around this issue.

**FARM PLANS**

- Farmers doing farm plans is a good thing.
- Record mitigations as they occur.

**Limits tables**

Al Smaill introduced the work going into producing the limits tables. The technical experts have taken the concentrations from the Committee's freshwater objectives and have then calculated the load numbers. The 'current load' is the total amount that can be discharged now, to reach the objective we have a 'target load'.

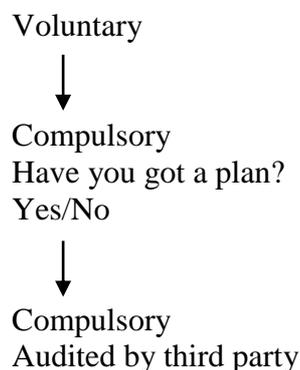
[Draft sediment and nutrient limit tables - Valid April 2018](#)

- A colour coded map of the load reductions would be useful.
- The limit numbers will go into the managing contaminants chapter.
- The freshwater objective numbers will go into the objectives chapter.
- The load numbers can be seen as narratives for the size of reduction.
- The numbers may be adjusted as checking processes occur.

**Farm plans**

Al Smaill introduced a discussion around farm plans and what approach did the Committee want to take in the WIP.

There is a spectrum right through from voluntary to compulsory (which also includes different types of compulsory):



Resource consent



Compulsory  
Approved by Council resource consent

Some key points from the discussion were:

- Voluntary plans could be audited themselves.
- Maybe focus in problem catchments? Compulsory plans in high risk areas?
- Maybe allow 10 years for people to make a change? In the meantime collect more data and encourage people to think about changing their land use.
- Interaction with land use change consent requirement.
- The limits will be a non-complying rule. There will be a discretionary land use change rule so if people want to discharge more they will have to apply for consent. The onus would be on the applicant to prove they weren't breaching the limit.
- Compulsory farm plans would show catchment communities what neighbours were doing.
- However there is a cost associated with farm environment plans.
- Having farm plans on lowland farms is only just starting.
- What is the quality of information e.g. from Overseer?
- Land use suitability rather than land use class might be better in the future.
- How do we control break feeding? Visit from land manager? Make a non-complying activity (for activities currently permitted)?
- People want to make changes voluntarily. If we make it compulsory we might turn people off. However do support compulsion if people don't take action.
- A lot of people already have farm plans. What about the effects? What are we doing already that isn't good enough? What if the load reduces but the effects are too high? Review at 10 years – we won't know until we start.
- How do you stop people doing bad practice? Compulsory farm plans unlikely to change that.
- Erosion control in some areas is constrained by materials, rather than whether someone has a farm plan.
- Could have farm awards – to benchmark against the best in the catchment.
- Importance of sharing information – maybe this doesn't have to happen through a farm plan.
- Will everyone work together to encourage those in a catchment to change their practice – haven't seen it to date.
- Compulsory farm plans make land management the police – should be a focus on catchment communities to encourage

behaviour change.

- Some changes on private land could have public funding as a component as there will be a public good at a sub-catchment scale.
- Do we need an FMU (sub-catchment) plan? There are other land uses in a catchment e.g. forestry, life stylers. Who are plans required from? Could there be a number of catchment communities coming together? Could be a compromise from compulsory farm plans – regulation at the FMU scale. Would a first step be scoping a management plan to say what’s happening in our catchment? Where can we most improve? More change will be required in some catchments than others.

**ACTION:**

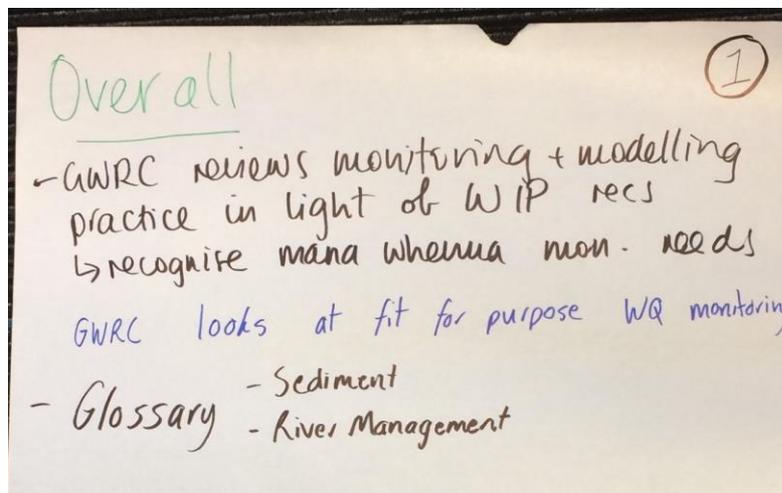
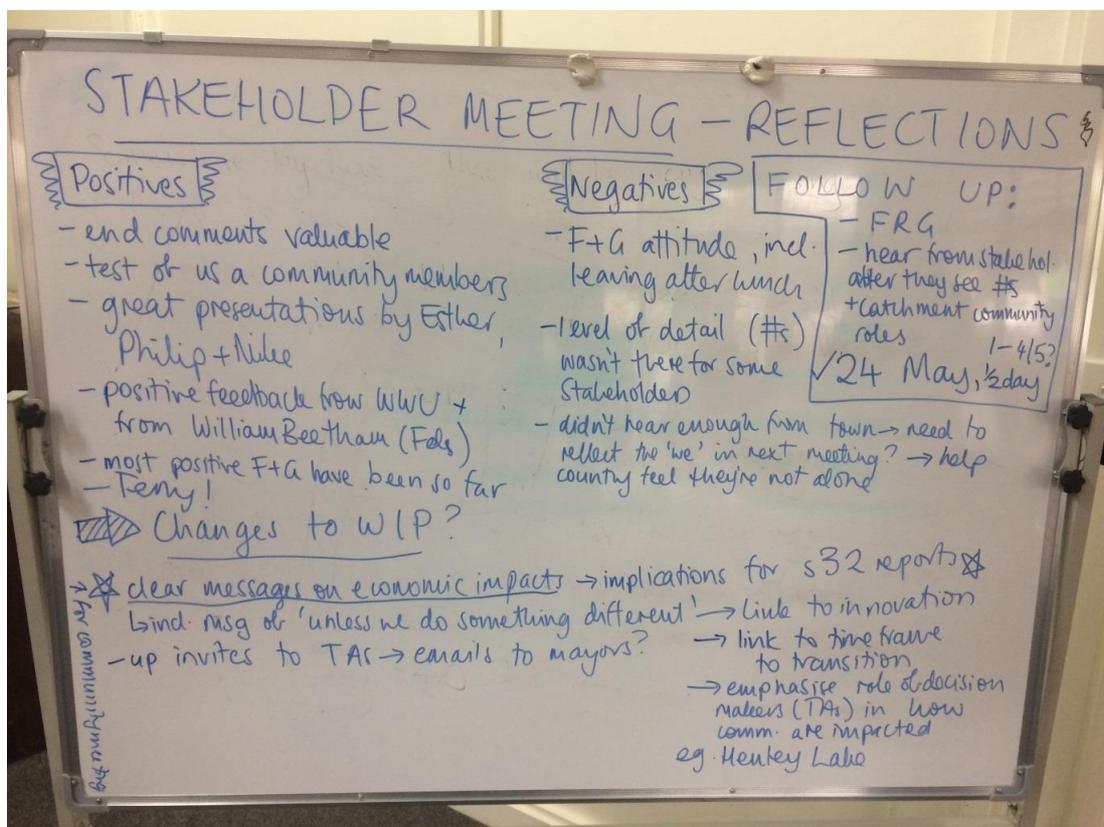
Project team to draft some wording for the WIP based on the discussions. This will be considered further by the Committee.

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**Mana whenua  
WIP chapter**

- Ra Smith talked through the chapter.
  - 2017 NPS changes around Te Mana o Te Wai should be in the body of the policies.
  - The role of the new Statutory Board was discussed and it was clarified this will be different to the role of hapū and marae at an FMU level.
  - Where this chapter slots into the WIP needs to be determined.
  - One of the concerns heard at Papawai was about timeframes, but that is not reflected here. May achieve change faster through FMU management so less concerned about the timeframes.
  - Kaitiaki meeting organised for 10 May. Meeting invite will be sent around.
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## Appendix One: Flipchart Photos



## Overarching themes

(2)

- water storage v. imp't msg → main WLP do more to ensure this is promoted
  - ↳ make sure ~~deposition~~ clearly visible
  - = there is no one silver bullet
  - ↳ make clear in Ov. themes + in flows + allocation chapters (Rec 27)
- Rec 1 → catchment-wide objectives override localised objectives
- Rec 5 - broaden efficiency meaning to incorp. productivity + value
- Rec 3 → inc. emphasis on GW need to deliver GMP, incl. from man ↓ + from officers ↑
- Rec 5 → include benchmarking of community use
- emphasise role of prototyping in experimentation
  - ↳ Δ + mitigating risk
- ensure connection to mana whenua consent - Pistine waters - intent to maintain through catchment

## Flows + allocation

\*more on groundwater?

(3)

- ensure messages <sup>incl water storage</sup> consistent with Overarching themes chapter
- water races - very inefficient but recognise there are also benefits to this inefficiency
  - link to Reduce @ min flows (Rec 1)
  - Rec 30 + 31 <sup>±32</sup> strategic planning to inform consent
    - ↳ ensure connected to strategic MAR work
    - ↳ also recognise: reconnection at bottom of race + water quality impacts <sup>not discharge</sup>; purpose + potential purposes of WR; aquifer rock.
- Tauherenikau - current state: 100% hab. protection + ~~very low~~ gravel loads mean water below gravels
  - ↳ one take below MF → water race? public supply?
  - ↳ note this is an anomaly but no Δ from draft
  - ↳ note river man. opportunity in gravel management
- more + robust groundwater monitoring incl. to well inform consent applications
  - ↳ link to mana whenua monitoring
- precautionary approach to issuing resource consent

where information is poor

- Rec 14: 2<sup>nd</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> bullets <sup>make</sup> ~~not~~ clear (4) (2)
- Rec 18 - make clearer domestic supply is str right, 5m<sup>3</sup> is on top...
- Rec 21 - 'encourage' ~~not~~ - suggest more strongly to push TAs. 'RWC strongly supports' or, 'in order to meet MF, tanks are necessary'
- Rec 22 - note vol/day differs for each shed
  - only relates to SW <sup>at Cat A</sup> takes below min. flow
  - water can be used multiple times (cooling → wash)
  - need to benchmark current use
- make link between water conservation + resilience (Rec 23)
- minimum flow section - recognise that Δ has economic impact

## Discharges + land use

(5)

- Non allocation approach - 10yr review → closer to front of chapter.
- Gauging WA limits - with 10yr review.
- Might need innovation in order to achieve EColi limits ie scenario's didn't get us there.
- Health implications worse than EColi showing?
- Treating the water by different mechanisms (w/water)
- Talk about level of risk for swimming.
- Promote innovations that improve <sup>via</sup> human health
- MCI in Wairarapa different to other places
  - small sediment - settling causing problems for MCI
  - releasing nutrients
- Nutrients not only driver of MCI
- Clear what we mean by sediment - FINE (not just gravels)
- Pathogens
- Other measures of human health (other than EColi)
- Different treatment methods to increase resilience for human health.

Rec 27 - <sup>collect</sup> nutrient <sup>— qualify</sup> information at property scale. (6)  
- periodically

Rec 30 - individuals data needs to be kept private  
- reporting on FMU basis

1.4.8 consistency of words 'mainly' 'largely'

Rec 20 No discharges to water unless 3x median flow  
by 2025. Andy to think about words for this recommendation

NUMBERS (7)

Colour coded map for Contaminants.

Tables in discharges chapter

Objectives in FMU chapter.

Numbers expressed with a narrative

FARM PLANS (8)

Farmers doing farm plans are a good thing.

Record mitigation as ~~it~~ it occurs.

ENDS