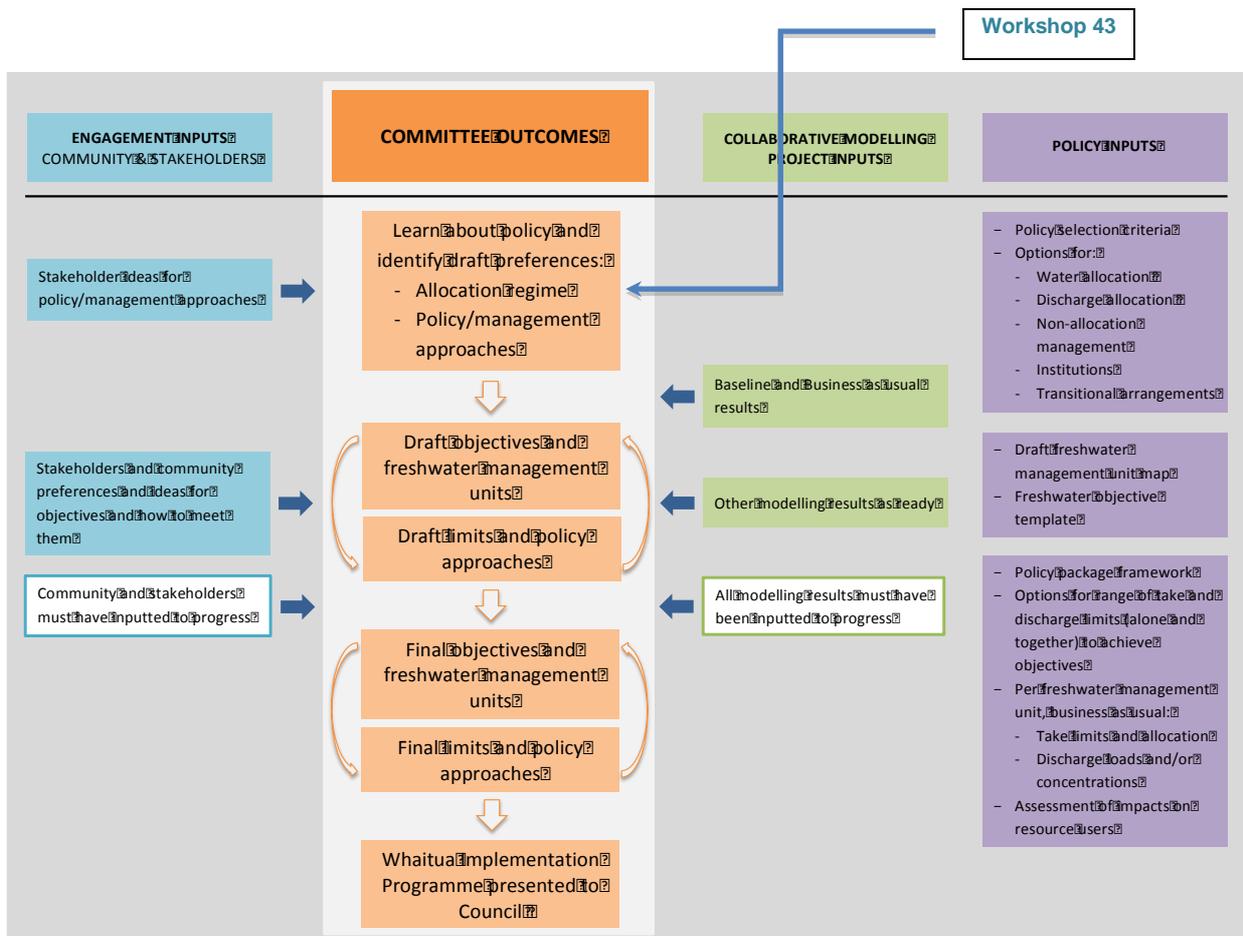


# Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

## Deliberations Phase 3 – Workshop 43

Monday 12 June 2017, 1:30-6PM

Featherston Community Centre



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**Summary** This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held 12 June 2017 at the Featherston Community Centre.

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**Contents** These notes contain the following:

- A** Workshop Attendees
- B** Workshop Purpose and Agenda
- C** Workshop Decisions
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- E** Workshop Notes - Staying Alive Game
- F** Workshop Notes – Permitted Activities – Water allocation
- G** Workshop Notes – Water Allocation – Minimum Flows and Allocation Limits
- H** General Business

**Appendix 1:** Photos of Flipcharts

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## **A Workshop Attendees**

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**Workshop Attendees**

*RW Committee:*

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

*Greater Wellington Project Team:*

Kat Banyard, Mike Grace, Murray McLea, Horipo Rimene, Alastair Smaill, Mike Thompson, Natasha Tomic, Hayley Vujcich.

*Modellers:* John Bright.

*Independent Facilitator:* Michelle Rush.

*Apologies:* Chris Laidlaw.

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## **B Workshop Purpose and Agenda**

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**Purposes**

The purposes were:

- 1) To discuss and confirm a draft RWC water allocation policy approach for discussion with stakeholders and community members in relation to permitted activities.

2) To prepare for, practise and receive feedback on, tactics for explaining RWC proposals to stakeholders and the community.

3) To receive and discuss the modelling of different flow regimes on selected fish species in relation to values of:

- Manawhenua values and
- Ecology (fish habitat)

And from this, to identify and reach agreement on proposals to discuss with stakeholders and community in regards:

- Minimum flows and allocation limits for the rivers modelled
- Any additional modelling required

4) To refresh understanding as regards:

- approaches to replace grand-parenting at consent renewal in fully allocated catchments
- sharing/transfer of water permits

In preparation for discussion and agreement to a proposed approach at the next workshop that can then be taken out and tested with stakeholders.

**Purpose 1 was partially achieved. Purpose 2 was achieved. Purpose 3 was partially achieved. Purpose 4 was not achieved.**

**Agenda**

The agenda is detailed in the table below.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Who</b>
<b>1:30</b>	<b>Welcome, Karakia, Session Purposes and Outline</b>	<b>Peter, Ra, Michelle</b>
1:40	Preparing for Stakeholder Consultation - Play the ‘Staying Alive’ game	All
2:30	Permitted Activities for Water Allocation Develop and confirm proposals to test with community with respect to: - dairy washdown/cooling; - stock and domestic supply; and - general.	All
<b>3:15</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
3:30	Identifying Minimum Flows and Allocation Limits - Presentation of Modelling Results - Workshop Session	Mike All
5:00	RW Policy for fully allocated catchments - Replacement for ‘grandparenting’ at consent expiry - Transfers and sharing during consent lifetime	Murray All
<b>6:00</b>	<b>Karakia and Close</b>	<b>Ra</b>

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## C Committee Decisions

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### Committee Decisions

The Committee made decisions on draft proposals for water allocation permitted activities in respect of:

1. Stock and Domestic Water Use – no cease at minimum flows.
  2. Dairy Washdown and Cooling – leave amount as agreed in the PNRP. Investigate if take volume can be limited to clean water take only in terms of allowing continuation of supply at cease take.
  3. General Water Use – A five cubic metre per day limit, and takes should cease at minimum flow.
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## D Workshop Actions

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### Workshop Actions

The following actions were agreed to:

**Provide** an indication of what a suitable amount might be for the domestic use permitted activity class (using an amount that presumes a level of efficiency). E.g. review Beacon report, which provides some benchmarking for domestic water use. Provide information on connections with other rules around public health and S14 of the RMA, what other Councils are doing, and definitions used elsewhere.

**Provide** a similar indication for stock (a view was its probably 70l drinking water per day for dairy cattle.)

**Provide** advice on how to enable and promote water storage options in conjunction with the permitted activity rules.

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## E Workshop Notes - Staying Alive Game

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### Staying Alive Game

This game was an opportunity for committee members to practise explaining RWC policies to stakeholders and the community, as part of preparations for the upcoming engagement round on RWC policy proposals.

Working in teams of four, participants played the ‘staying alive’ game, practising explaining to a stakeholder what their decision was, and why.

Players were ‘scored’ on the degree to which their answers to randomly allocated scenario cards met the criteria – collective, clear and convincing. The scenario cards were generated from real situations the Committee identified.

Following the game, participants identified what they had learned from the experience and what could be used for the stakeholder and community engagement they will shortly be doing.

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**Lessons for being prepared for RWC community engagement**

- Speaking as a collective is very powerful.
  - Emphasise personal connection to place.
  - The importance of listening to what others had to say.
  - Draw on the knowledge gained through the process.
  - Understanding the question is important. Take a moment to pause before answering.
  - Defer to other RWC members and their expert knowledge if needed.
  - Their perception is their reality – you have 30 seconds to change it!
  - Instantly need to understand audience to tailor your response. Harder in a bigger group.
  - Ask the person some questions to give them a chance to explain their perspective.
  - It can be hard to know the level of technical detail to reply with.
  - Be clear what the RWC is responsible for.
  - People might have a preconception about what the RWC’s collective view is. Need to explain what the RWC’s actual view is!
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## **F Workshop Notes - Permitted Activities – Water Allocation**

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**Overview**

Following on from the 22 May 2017 Committee workshop, Murray McLea reminded RWC members of the issues with the current permitted activity classes for water allocation in the PNRP, explaining what these were and what the key issues for RWC were:

- inconsistencies with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management in respect of the total permitted amount not being accounted for in the overall allocation limit, and
- the permitted activity threshold for the general category being high in comparison to other similar regions in NZ.

He outlined what other councils were doing, e.g. Horizons and Marlborough and Canterbury, and the options available to RWC in reviewing these provisions.

In advance of the workshop the Committee received the following background papers:

- [Background information on permitted activities](#) – provided to RWC at 22.05.2017 workshop
- [Developing proposals to test with stakeholders with respect to permitted activities for taking and using water](#)
- [Permitted activity water takes in recent plans \(Post NPS-FM\)](#).

People worked in three groups on the following four topics:

1. Section 14 – stock and domestic category
2. Permitted Activity – dairy washdown and cooling category
3. Permitted Activity – general water use category
4. Certainty levels for permitted activities for water allocation.

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**Section 14:  
Stock and  
domestic  
category**

*Question: Should this be restricted in fully allocated catchments?*

Group 1: Yes but efficiency conditions.

Group 2: Yes.

Group 3: No restrictions.

**Final consensus answer:** Stock and domestic is permitted up to ...  
[Need further information on benchmarking for water use to agree amount]

*Question: What should happen at cease-take (when minimum flow is reached?)*

Group 1: Restricted user regime – mandatory water storage for domestic.

Group 2: Progressive reductions before reaching cease take. Go down to the minimum. Basic requirements for human and animal health are contained in other laws.

Group 3: Nothing.

**Final consensus answer:** No cease at cease take (NB, other rules come into play when restrictions on essential water use are required).

**Action:** RWC members asked for an indication of what a suitable amount might be (using an amount that presumes a level of efficiency). PT to follow up and review Beacon report, which provides some benchmarking for domestic water use. Information

was also requested on connections with other rules around public health and S14 of the RMA, what other Councils are doing, and definitions used elsewhere.

Benchmarking was also needed for stock: the view was it's probably 70L drinking water per day for dairy cattle.

RWC members also asked for advice on how to enable and promote water storage options in conjunction with the permitted activity rules.

**Key points from discussion:**

- Whether or not to combine this permitted activity category with the general water use category?
- Whether or not to specify actual activities in rural and urban contexts?
- Whether or not to more carefully define what was meant by 'domestic use' and 'stock drinking water.'?
- Permitted activity rules must be easy to understand.
- Don't have a cease at cease take - the limit is already set on a reasonable amount of use.
- Rules around domestic storage would be in addition to permitted activity rules.
- Introduce metering everywhere as a form of education. Heard in community engagement that urban people are ok with meters. Or do random checks on priority areas?
- The NPS-FM doesn't require these takes to be recorded. They can be estimated.

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**Permitted Activity: Dairy washdown and cooling category**

*Question: Is this category justifiable in a fully allocated catchment?*

*NB: These users already operate under a consent regime, e.g. consent for dairy effluent discharge.*

Group 1: Yes if aligned with good management practice (GMP).

N.B: Fonterra assesses all dairy farms.

Group 2: Yes

Group 3: No – requires consent.

**Final consensus answer:**

Yes – with good management.

*Question: If no, how much? Answer in cubic metres per day.*

Group 1: Nothing.

Group 2: Stay as is.

Group 3: Didn't answer.

**Final consensus answer:**

Yes as it is in the PNRP.

*Question: What should happen at 'cease take?' (Minimum flow?)*

Group 1: No changes.

Group 2: Cut back to 1 milking per day.

Group 3: Cease means cease (sort your storage).

**Final consensus answer:**

Investigate if take volume can be limited to clean water take only in terms of allowing continuation of supply at cease take. This might require adjusting the number for the 'take' amount in 2(b). Still need to limit the overall amount.

*Question: What, if any revisions do you want made to the conditions?*

Group 1: N/A

Group 2: Leave as is.

Group 3: Didn't answer.

**Final consensus answer:**

Nothing.

**Key points from discussion:**

- Would requiring a consent make it easier to account within limits?
- RWC members heard that the figure for water use is 55 l/s for all cow stock units in the Wairarapa.
- Fonterra do efficiency assessments every year on farms.
- GMP is happening anyway. Industry is driving the use of water meters. Massive investment is going on to reduce dairy washdown water amounts.
- Gains could be made from greater use of GMP. Compliance concern – how would it be enforced and monitored?
- Random water use testing could occur in conjunction with dairy effluent checks, or happen in areas with water quantity issues.
- If the cumulative amount of water use in an FMU is above the limit there would have to be a reduction. Permitted activities or consented water takes could then be reduced – permitted activity takes are quite small in comparison so they might not be the first thing you would look at reducing.
- This use is tied up with other regulatory requirements – minimum amounts of water required for wash down under MPI health regulations and dairy farmers being encouraged away from surface water takes as need quality water not filled with sediment and e-coli.
- Green wash – roughly 75% of dairy sheds in the Wairarapa couldn't do green wash at the moment.

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**Permitted  
Activity:  
General water  
use category**

*Question: Is this category justifiable?*

Group 1: No  
Group 2: No  
Group 3: Only with lower volumes than the current rate.

**Final consensus answer:**

Not at current levels.

*Question: If not, how much is? Answer in cubic metres per day*

Group 1: 5 cubic metres per day.  
Group 2: What's the regime? Encourage water storage. If have storage have a different regime. Have a monthly amount – smaller in summer. Didn't agree on amount.  
Group 3: 5 cubic metres per day. Surface and groundwater.

**Final consensus answer:**

Agreed to an amount of 5 cubic metres /day.

*Question: What should happen at cease-take (when minimum flow is reached?)*

Group 1: Cease.  
Group 2: How can we work around this? Education. Yes – cut people off at cease take.  
Group 3: Cease at minimum flow.

**Final consensus answer:**

Use should cease.

*Question: What, if any revisions do you want made to the conditions?*

Group 3: No changes.

**Final consensus answer:**

No changes.

**Key Points from Discussion**

None at plenary as close to consensus when groups reported back.

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**Certainty of  
Permitted  
Activity Water  
Use**

*Question: In terms of managing the water resource, what is the level of certainty of use the committee want to achieve in respect of these permitted activities given they need to fit within a limits framework?*

**No consensus was reached:** Ran out of time to agree.

*Question: What method do you want to use to ensure that the level of certainty you want is delivered?*

**No consensus was reached:** Ran out of time to agree.

**Key points from discussion:**

- Committee agreed they wanted more certainty but weren't sure how to achieve it.
- We will need more certainty in under pressure sub-catchments.
- Survey users (by GWRC) with regularity (e.g. every 5 years)?
- Measuring storage, benchmarking, education?
- Have all bores metered (it was pointed out that the NES for water measurement applies only to very high use situations – and permitted activities for water usage tend to be at the other end of the spectrum).
- Perhaps measure all pumped water (whether via meter or flow restrictors).
- Consider mandatory water storage for domestic use.
- If the RWC reduces the amount to 5 cubic metres per day does this reduce the need for certainty? Is it worth measuring it for the administration and the costs to manage?

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## **G Workshop Notes – Minimum Flows and Allocation Limits**

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### **Overview**

A report was circulated in advance of the workshop explaining further about what would be modelled using EFSAP (Environmental Flows Strategic Allocation Platform) and the assumptions behind it.

#### [Allocation modelling to support RWC decision making](#)

In the workshop, Mike Thompson presented the modelling results for 8 predominantly hill-fed rivers in the Ruamahanga catchment as measured by four indicators - habitat loss/protection, change in duration of low flows, change in median flow and reliability of supply. When looking at flows for cultural values (as described by Caleb Royal in 2012) an assessment was made on the potential consequence for reliability.

#### [Presentation by Mike Thompson on initial water allocation modelling results](#)

A summary of the draft modelling results for the habitat loss, change in duration of low flows and change in median flow indicators was also provided.

[Summary of initial water allocation results](#)

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**Workshop  
Activity**

**The discussion on this was not conducted and will be held over to the next workshop.**

Key considerations will be working out draft proposals for the minimum flows and allocation limits for each of these rivers.

Small stream flows and limits will be considered separately.

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## **H General Business**

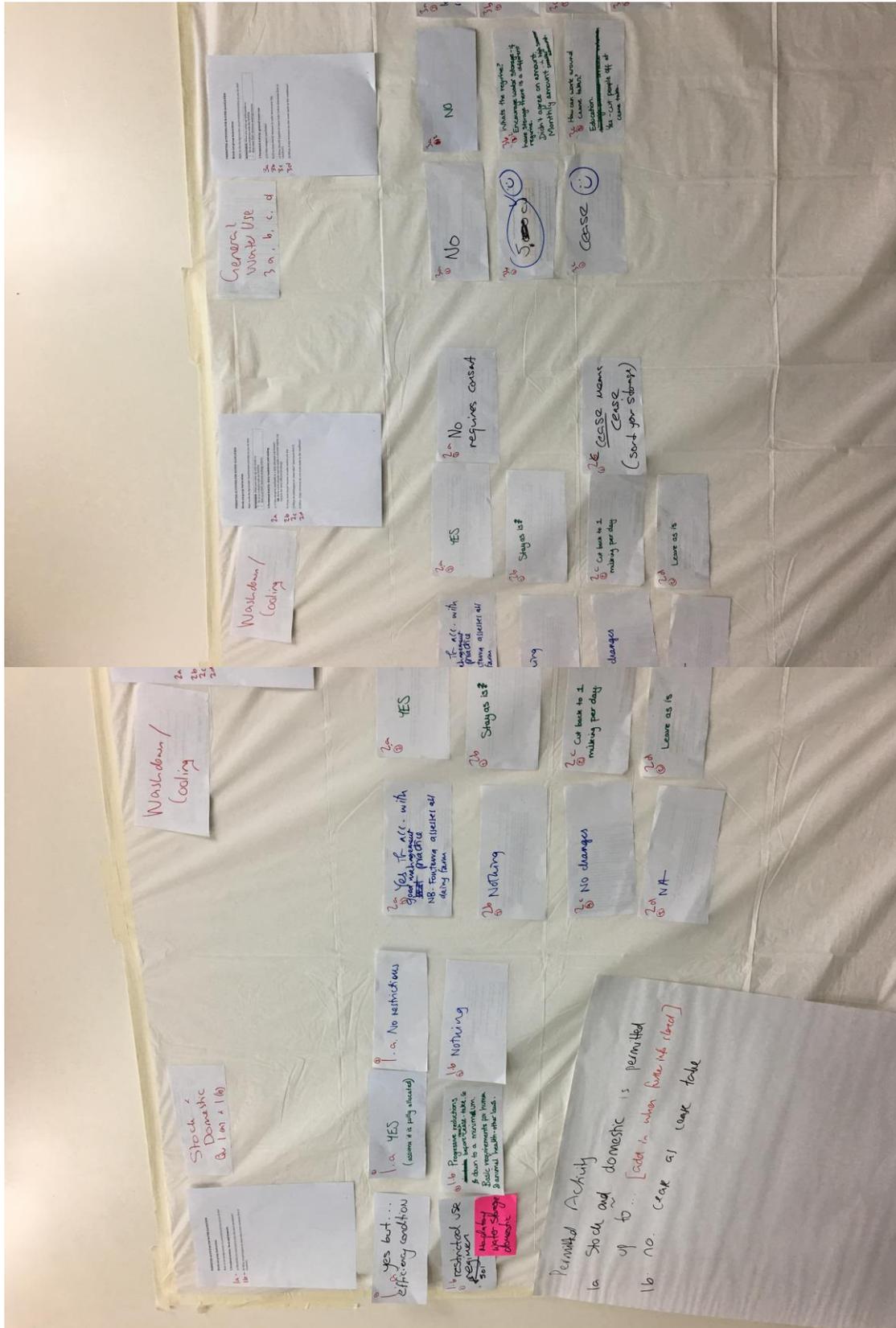
**Overview**

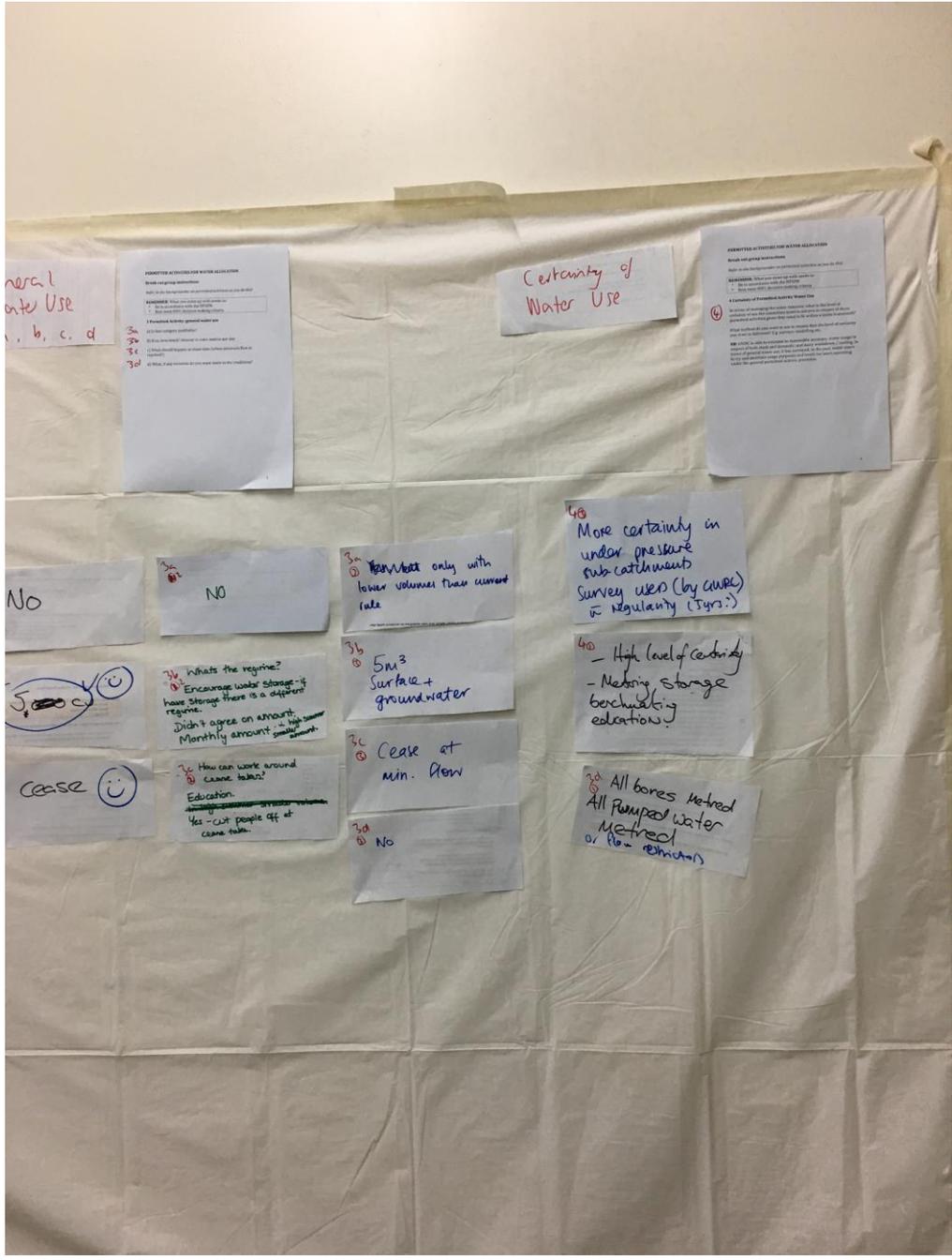
The Kourarau catchment group has invited the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee to talk at a field day coming up on 25 June at 12PM. Peter and Esther will attend and speak for the whaitua committee.

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ENDS

# Appendix 1: Photos of flip charts





## Discussion of Permitted Activity Provisions

Domestic = drinking, washing clothes, dishes

[could be defined]

Stock = stock drinking.

2 approaches ... put in a number OR define the use.   
 - e.g. MDC Sect 3

Permitted must be easy to understand

Rationale for stock and domestic  
- basic needs

come back with info on connection with other rules e.g. public health / and ss14 of Act  
and what other councils are doing  
and definitions

- come back with options on how to enable / promote storage options
- number - benchmarking / target water use - Beaton reports  
- for domestic and also stock - per ha basis.  
eg 70L / cow / day

- for domestic use  
eg 10L / cow / day

### Permitted Activity

- 1a. Stock and domestic is permitted up to ... [add in when further info received]
- 1b. no. cask as cask take

Permitted Activity washdown/cooling

Yes - with good management

2b Stay as is in terms of no.s

2c Take volume applies to freshwater take only

~~No~~ No clean take w.r.t clean water take.

[might need to revise clean water take amount for 2b]