

## Raising the minimum flow on the Waingawa River

The Committee has already made a policy decision consistent with the approach in the proposed Natural Resources Plan (pNRP) to restrict, at minimum flow, the amount of water that community water supplies can take to the volumes sufficient for the health needs of people.

The pNRP has three minimum flow thresholds for the Waingawa River - 1900L/s, 1700L/s and 1100L/s.

### Flows affecting MDC water takes:

		Flow (l/s)			
Management point	Waingawa @ Kaituna	1900	1700	1100	
Days below this flow	Average number of days	38	27	4	
	80 <sup>th</sup> percentile	50	41	5	
What happens at this flow under ...	PNRP	Community supply (and water race)	No reduction required	No reduction required	Reduce take to health needs of people (and stock drinking water)
		Surface water and Category A takes	Reduce by 50%	Cease take (Cat A 50% reduction continues)	
	Draft RWC proposal	Community supply (and water race)	No reduction required	Reduce take to health needs of people	
		Surface water and Category A takes	Reduce by 50%	Cease take (Cat A 50% reduction continues)	

The Committee has indicated a desire to remove the 1100L/s minimum flow in the Waingawa River which would raise the threshold at which Masterton District Council (MDC) would be required to reduce their take for Masterton to the health needs of people to 1700 L/s. At the 1100L/s minimum flow, MDC would have to reduce their take to health needs of people on average four times per year. Raising the flow to 1700L/s would mean restricting the supply to the health needs of people on average for 27 days per year.

- **Are you happy to leave as proposed?**
- **If so, do you want to include transitional arrangements to phase in the change?**

### Proposed options for transitioning

A similar approach can be taken with transitioning the Waingawa River to the new minimum flow as was discussed at the last workshop for the Waipoua River and Upper Ruamāhanga River.

