

## Notes from Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee follow up workshop with affected water users - 05.03.2018

Venue and time: Carterton Events Centre, 1-3PM

Attendees:

Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee – Esther Dijkstra, Peter Gawith, Mike Birch, David Homes, Mike Ashby, Philip Palmer, Andy Duncan, Chris Laidlaw, Aidan Bichan

Project team – Paula Hammond, Al Smaill

Affected water users – 20 invited water users (those who provided written feedback to Committee)

### *Summary material from whiteboard*

- Irrigation for stock feed
- Monitoring for Category A re-classification
- Adequate water to maintain and grow industry
- Linking 'hard' and 'soft' changes
- Irrigation ≠ nutrient losses
- Achievable timeframes
- Large-scale stored water first and work backwards
- Work collaboratively towards a solution
- Solutions based on science
- Efficiencies to continue
- Reliable water = reliable jobs
- Range of food types to increase but market dependent
- Reliability important for the whole province
- Complex processes
- Communication
- Minimum low flows raised ok but cease takes not
- Irrigation lifts quality of life
- Don't put pressure on RWC to make decisions
- Storage (large dam)
- Aquifer recharge
- Infrastructure and river management (slowing water down)
- Efficiencies (rural and urban)
- Education
- Look for impediments that could be eased e.g. consents
- Facilitate medium sized storage

### *Material from each round table discussions*

#### Sheet 1

- Importance of storage – selling into it the NZ population
  - Reliability of water
- More extreme events

- Incentives to be efficient
- Shane Jones investment into the region – research/investment
- Importance of improving regional economy
- Risk of small scale storage redundant once large scale schemes done
- Incremental Change after next 10 years

## Sheet 2

### In next 10 years

- Monitoring:
  - How long required to get good info?
  - Lower down catchment
  - All 21 sub-catchments
  - Where at now – trends?
- Consents: incentivise for efficiency (e.g. soil moisture monitoring)
  - Encourage lifting the bare – i.e. bucket test
  - Recognise capital investment – longer terms
- Step down policy to encourage efficiency (some issues with definition of efficiency)
- Community involvement – how much water being used? (permitted takes)
  - Improve water quality and provide shade to reduce temperatures
- River management – deeper pools, recharge aquifers
  - Oxbows – hold water – community ownership
- Dairy – make process easier
  - International food security
- Wairarapa-wide solution
- Time – match supply and demand
  - 35 years (certainty, capital investment)
  - Ruataniwha lessons – famers accepted limits with promise of irrigation – this didn't happen but restrictions remained

## Sheet 3

- Support to achieve in 20 years
- Storage – community
  - Community buy in – leaders, GW/TAs
  - Longer term, fast track
- Storage – on farm
  - 10 years
  - Consents issues to sort out
  - Getting water to store
- Sharing water – remove impediments
- GW more receptive to new ideas and help fund them
- Category 1 – definition sorted out – GW cost

**REQUEST – good communications from whaitua – where up to, use emails**

## Sheet 4

### Solutions

- Timeframes 10 years +
- Flexibility around consents
- Make consents 10 years + to line up reviews
- Encourage innovative water management options e.g. buffer zones, water recharge areas
- Better understanding of aquifer
- Build a dam

## Sheet 5

- Education
  - Community awareness and expectations
  - Urban/rural divide
- Policy solutions
  - Target setting
  - Priority classification – big water storage, politics, regional policy/central government
- Economic impact
  - Urban and rural industry awareness
  - Buy-in from community
  - Social and mental health