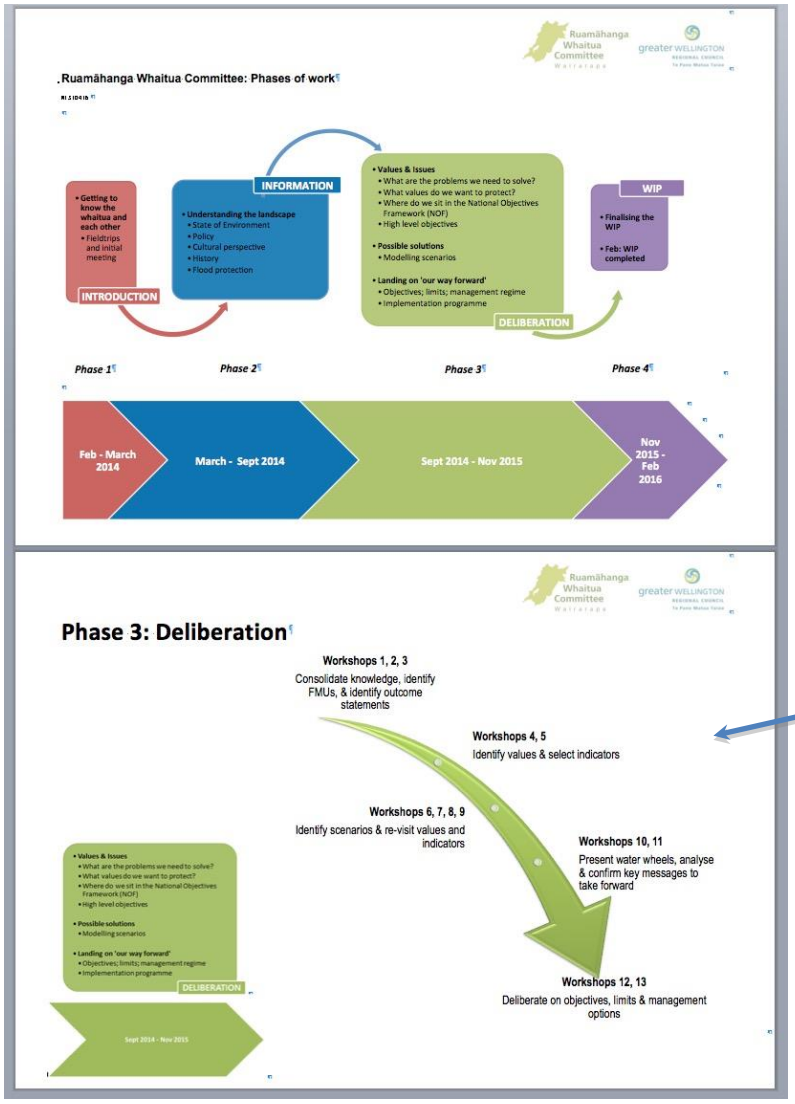
Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

Deliberations Phase 3 - Workshop 14

December 7 2015 4:00pm – 8:00pm

Featherston Community Centre



Workshop 14

Summary

This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held December 7 2015 at Featherston Community Centre.

Contents

These notes contain the following:

A Workshop Attendees

Workshop Attendees

Aidan Bichan, Mike Birch, Esther Dijkstra, Rebecca Fox, Peter Gawith, David Holmes, Mike Ashby, Russell Kawana, Ra Smith, Philip Palmer, Vanessa Tipoki

Kat Banyard, Michelle Rush, Alastair Smaill, Andrew Stewart, Natasha Tomic, Emily Greenberg, Horipo Rimene, Mike Grace, Shane Parata

Michael Bassett-Foss, Stephen Thawley, Mike Thompson, John Bright

Apologies: Chris Laidlaw, Andy Duncan, Colin Olds, Brigitte De Barletta

B Workshop Purpose

Workshop Purpose

The workshop purposes were:

- Identify attributes for the Our Ruamāhanga river culture value group
- Build an understanding of the existing water allocation regime for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua
- Identify, discuss, and build a shared understanding of issues with the current allocation regime

All three purposes were achieved.

Workshop Agenda

The workshop agenda was:

3:45 Arrivals
4:00 Welcome and Overview
4:15 Session 1: Ruamahanga Culture Attribute Set
5:00 Session 2: Policy Areas – Water Allocation
6:00 Dinner
6:30 Session 2: Policy Areas – Water Allocation continued
7:30 General business
RWC Generic Presentation
Christmas Party
RWC response to Federated Farmers correspondence
Resource Management Bill 2015
Next meeting purpose, as per Deliberations Process
- Seek RWC input to agenda items
- Committee only or public
- Homework to prepare for next meeting
- Other upcoming events at which RWC involvement might be relevant/beneficial

8:00 Close

C Actions

Actions

General Business and Other Actions:

Informing community and stakeholders of progress:

- Put a graph showing work schedule (topics) for RWC on website
- Create a one pager summarising what is coming next and put out in email newsletter and in a press release e.g. Wairarapa News, and on the website not in pdf (too hard to download)
- FFNZ – Peter reported on the responses made to concerns raised by FFNZ to ensure RWC comfort: it was agreed no further steps needed; if future concerns are raised any member hearing them to bring back to RWC for committee to discuss.
- Circulate generic presentation to RWC members to use

Community Events

- South Wairarapa Biodiversity Forum – 8th March? Carterton – Peter to do liaison with Forum.
- Community event planned for Sunday 13 December: Lake Onoke Alive – 11-5pm Sunday – Lake Ferry Domain

Other Matters

- RM Bill – once enacted an option for RWC process to go into a different process to Schedule 1 – will make time for more discussion at a future workshop. See MfE website for the Bill – Kat to circulate link to the Bill to committee members.

Next Meeting

- Further information on allocation (guided by questions), and also a discussion of allocation options
- In depth review and discussion of attributes for Our Ruamāhanga River Culture value set.

D.1 Workshop Notes - Wairarapa Culture Attributes

Summary Working in two break-out groups, committee and project team members worked together to identify a draft set of Wairarapa Culture attributes that they believed would allow people to know what the health of this value is.

The results from both groups are set out in the table below.

Draft Attributes: Ruamahanga River Culture Value Set
• Change of use of river - What is driving this?
• Barbeques, fishing, eeling
• Social
• Weaving
• Visual assessment
• Community
• Sense of belonging
• Pepeha/Whakapapa
• Amount of use – does enjoyment while using meet expectations?
• # of business' with dependence
• Business culture - sense of livelihood from river
• Sense of Peace
• Informal traditions
• Intergenerational use
• *Survey* o connection to the river (past/present/future) o awareness o how much people value the river o Pride in waterways o Stories o Oral histories
• Change in the number of sites able to be used for cultural purposes
• Number of primary school programmes covering river ecosystems, including Maori perspectives
• Number of legal campsites
• Change in the use-ability of the river and knowledge of (and confidence in) it's use-ability {A perception that social changes have made it more difficult to use rivers and streams the way we used to}
• Access/Accessibility (legal – non-legal)

D.2 Workshop Notes - Water allocation

Summary

Murray McLea (GWRC) gave a presentation summarising details of the current water allocation regime for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua. As part of this, he detailed the provisions for water allocation in the Proposed Natural Resource Plan (including policies and rules); and comments made in respect of water allocation by major submitters to the plan. See **Appendix One:** Water Allocation Presentation.

Following his presentation, the committee, project team and water allocation experts from GWRC split into four groups, each starting on a different issue associated with water allocation (Groups then circulated, meaning every group had a chance to consider every issue and add to the notes being taken for that issue).

Water Allocation Issues
Group 1: Limits
Group 2: Reliability
Group 3: Allocation efficiency
Group 4: Use efficiency

In each group, participants discussed, the following:

- What do you see as the issues with this aspect of water allocation?
- Why is it happening?
- Is there an equity dimension?
- Who are the current winners and losers?

The key points from the discussions are set out below.

Limits

Limits are about minimum flows, and the total allocation amount.

Issue: Is the current method fair?

1. All areas need to be treated equally (l/s or # days?)
2. Encourage on farm storage (taken off peak) Issue: How to set catchment specific limits
3. Minimum flows are important
    a. need to be set (and reviewed) on flow trends over period of time (what about impact of climate change?)
    b. Issue: Is MALF the best method? And best for sub-catchments? What about lake levels?
4. Limits (dividing up the pie of available water) should incentivise beneficial behaviour change, innovative practice?
    a. Issue: can limits encourage efficient use?
5. Realistic limits in place to ensure life supporting capacity, sustainable management (How can limits protect environment?), future generations
6. Review and audit
7. Need multiple allocation bands to provide for a range of uses etc.

Reliability of Supply

- How triggers (minimum flows) are set
    - What about the environment?
    - Minimum flow and allocation limit (to protect the supply reliability of users)
    - Is MALF the right method?
- Prioritisation – winners and losers?
- Ground and surface water interaction – equity? Only between GW-A & GW-B (says the water user)
- Critical – more input than amount
- If usage increases – reliability drops (only if there is no allocation limit)
- Storage (Is this more important to consider than minimum flows?)
    - mini but $'s make easier
    - macro - with care
- Cost of reliability
    - loss of income
    - capital investment to ↑ reliability
- Unnecessary over-application (inefficient irrigation)
- Winners – environmental – needs strong science and good will – urban – appropriate uses
- Clunky
- Artificial groundwater recharge
- Proactive approach is preferable

Key Points from Discussion for reporting back:

1. What is the statistic for reliability of supply
2. How do you balance reliability of supply with other values
3. Reliability is critical for landowner
4. How do you balance amount allocated –vs- reliability
5. Reliable water may be over-used.

Allocation efficiency

- Water use has to be flexible i.e. land use change
- Need to know how much is used - meter and monitor
- Irrigated grass is not the most efficient use
- Value changes, judgemental
- Walnut farming can help allocation
- Business models need certainty and development
- Reserve water for higher value uses
- Establish allocation by land use incentives efficiency and value higher
- Room for debate
- First in – first served not fair/equitable (someone added 'room for debate' here)
- Water not going to the highest value user
- Develop an equity index
- Not all of the water that is allocated is used
- Short term/temporary transfer is a method for raising allocation efficiency – can applications for transfers be processed quickly

enough? A question here: should the Council be involved in temporary transfers?
- Need more and better data to enable this type of solution

- What is 'full allocation''? When we reach it, how do we provide for/make possible new uses?
- Allocation geared/tailored for various land users
- Efficiency measured as economic return/unit of water
- Pre-empted allocation for the environment, has risks in this
- Allocation has to be used
- Allocation should be tailored to land use (Yes, but some reservations)

(the two last bullets inserted here from the limits flipchart)

Water use efficiency

1. Technology will improve efficiency
    a. Consent terms should incentivise increases in efficiency
    b. Urban water use efficiency is also important
2. Good will to move towards greater efficiency
    a. industry is providing a big push e.g. winemakers, t-totallers
3. Perceived inefficiencies in open water race – equity - (Another group added, it's **not** perceived, they **are** inefficient)
    a. Loss to ground water }
    b. Not loss to use } fair point
    c. Recharging ground water }
    d. Tweak the purpose (in regards to comment above)
    e. Situation now is that the winners are status quo and lifestylers; in the future possibly better water race use by everyone
    f. Inefficient uses should be banned e.g. border dykes, guns, (Another group added n/a to this)
    g. Alternative is a dam (either on farm/ or big)
    h. Wider uses of water race (need wider debate around need for races)
    i. Include urban for all issues
    j. Use of water meters in towns – rebates
    k. Not just ornamental ponds (premium rating) Q-Art has value
    l. Consent conditions could be used
4. Efficiency – water harvesting for water storage (farm scale) (reward by incentivising)
5. Where there is no stress, no efficiency – it is still a mind set – to change mind sets, need to look at:
    a. the $$ driver
    b. not ∞ source
    c. cost of water
    d. Allocation spread models
    e. 2 include more users??
    f. Q keeping water – winners
    g. Future – Everyone wins

Definition? highest water value vs efficiency *method use??*
Q No use how to show efficiency?
Consent terms as way of driving efficiency

Water allocation questions

At the close of the report back from each water allocation break out group, participants had the opportunity to write down any outstanding questions they had about water allocation, with the expectation that the Project Team would prepare further information on these to bring back to the committee. The questions were:

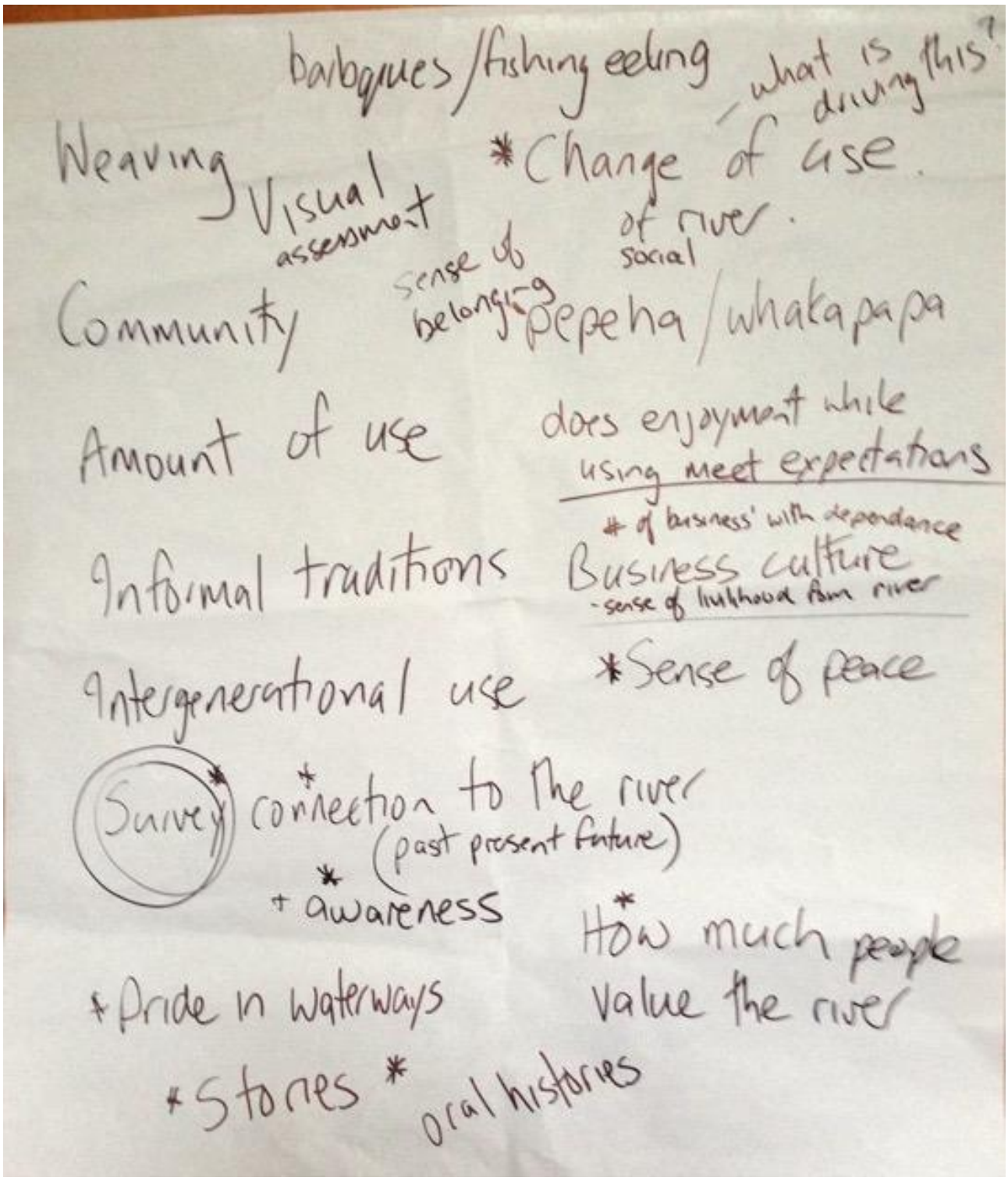
- Establish surplus and utilise for incentive driven regime
- Is MALF the right approach?
- No formula for setting MALF – need to average on trends
- Science beyond setting limits – how robust is it?
- What's in the submissions? – summarise back to us
- Water races – amount used, efficiency, other issues – culture, social, urban, environment, use
- No minimum flow measuring of Onoke Category A groundwater
- Allocation process, how do other councils and overseas cope with this?
- What are examples of ECAN consent conditions and monitoring?
- How have other "zone" committees written "conditions or consents"
- No water right but need to prove usage and efficiency
- How is reliability of supply?
- How do you allocate (divide) fairly? Do some get more and how to know if it's fair
- Would like to see catchment specific data
- More issues less solutions discussions
- Scenarios from good discussion about catchment specific data

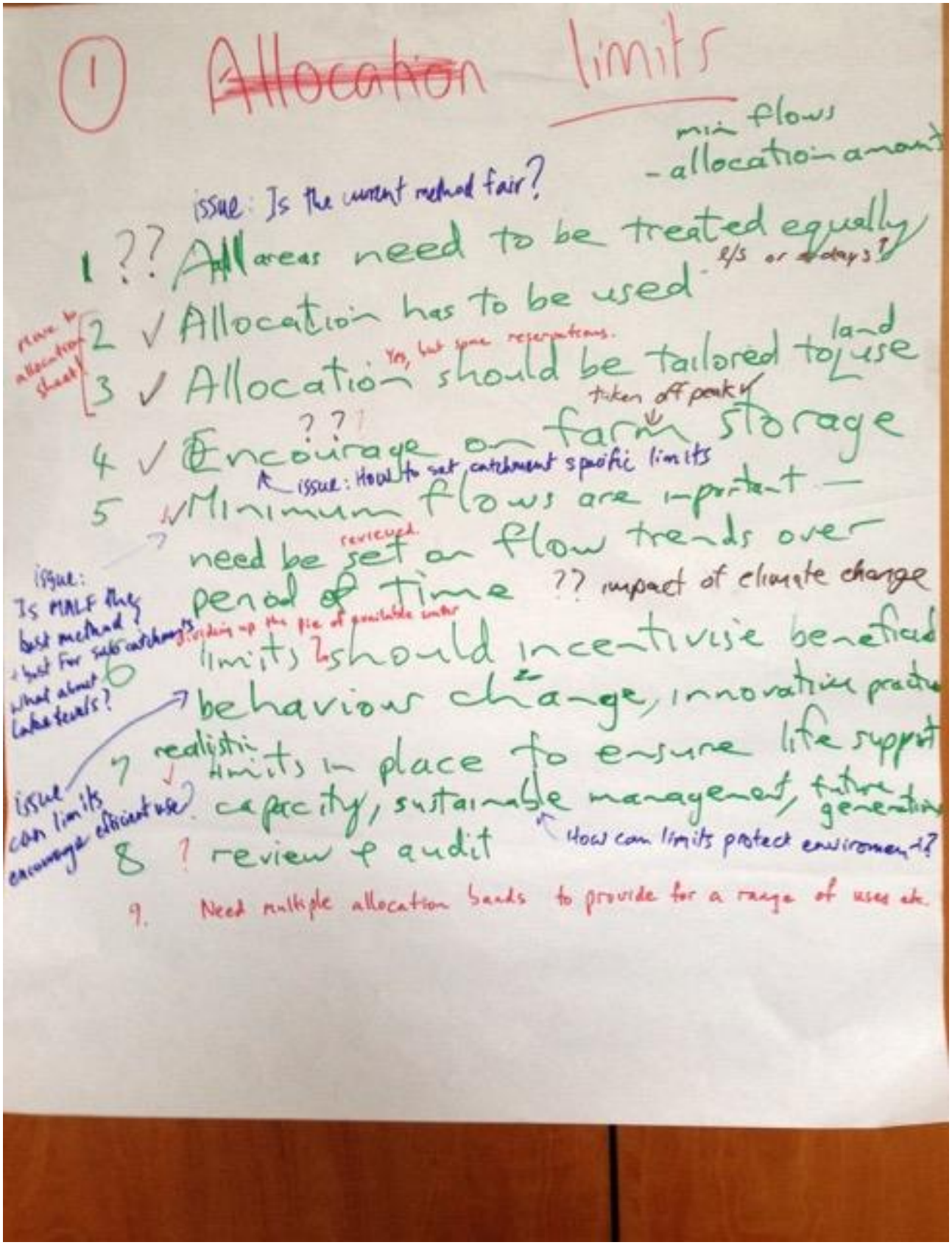
Appendix 1 – Water Allocation – Current Regime

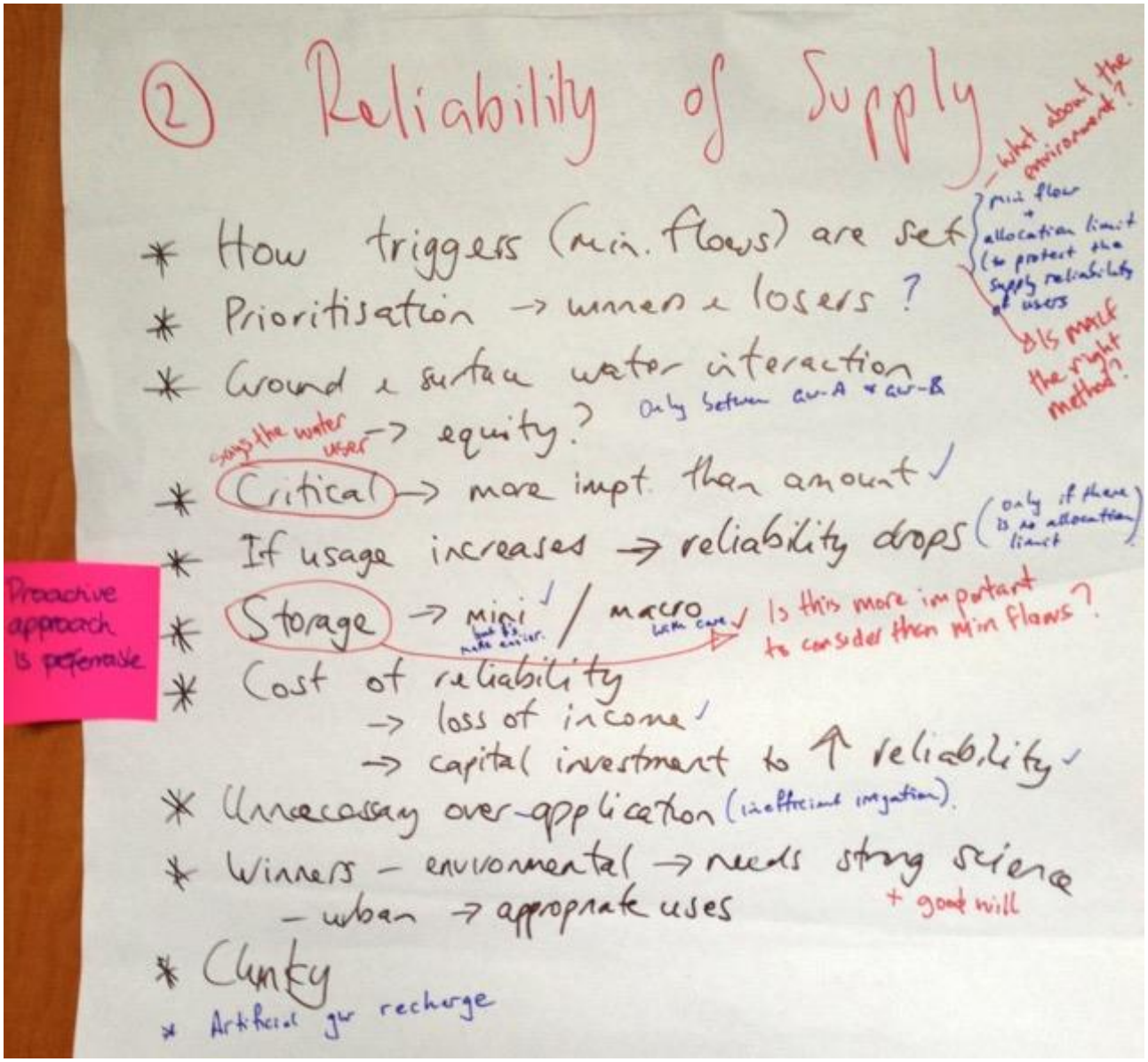
Presentation on
Water Allocation to R

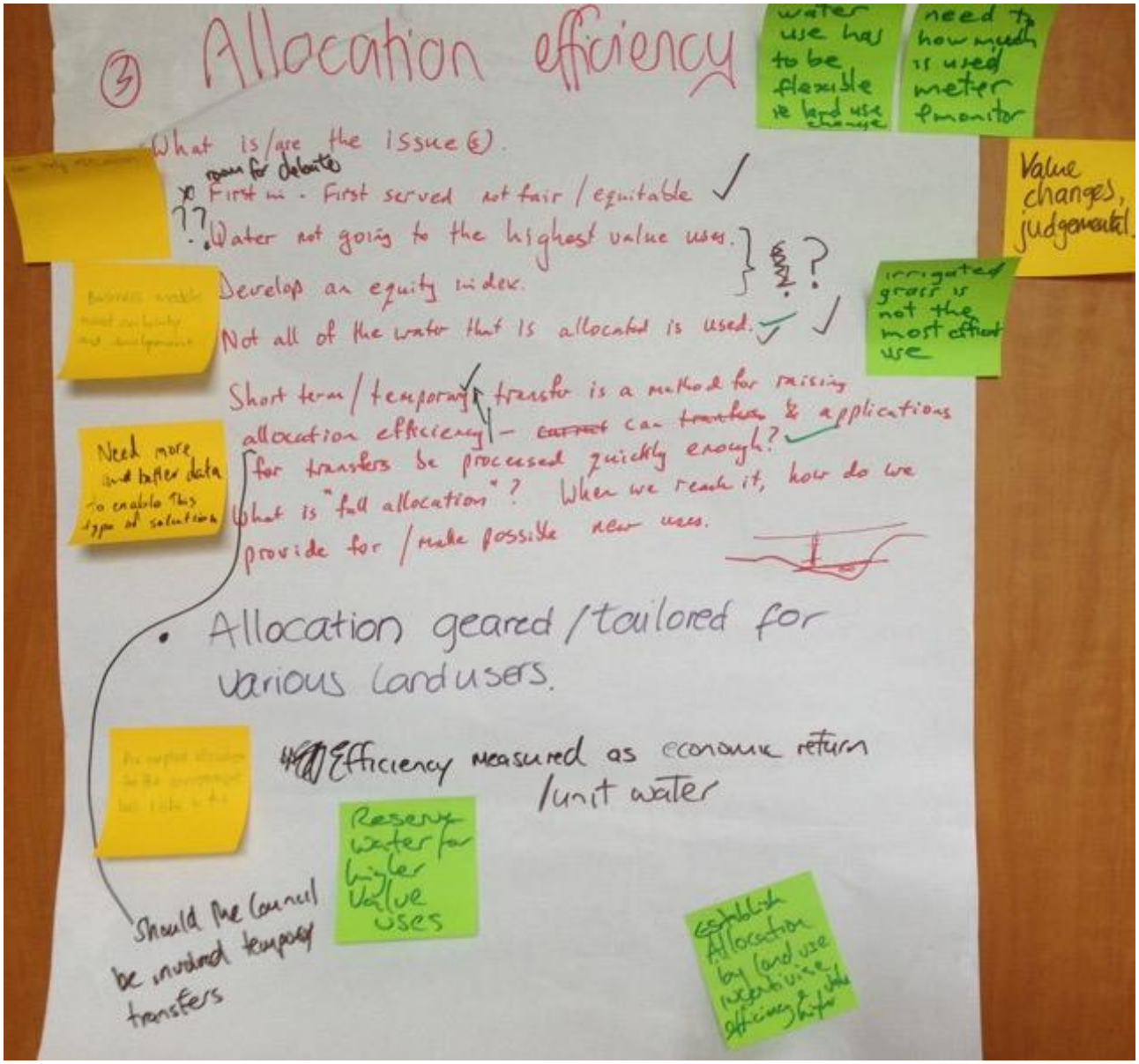
Appendix 2 – Flipchart photos

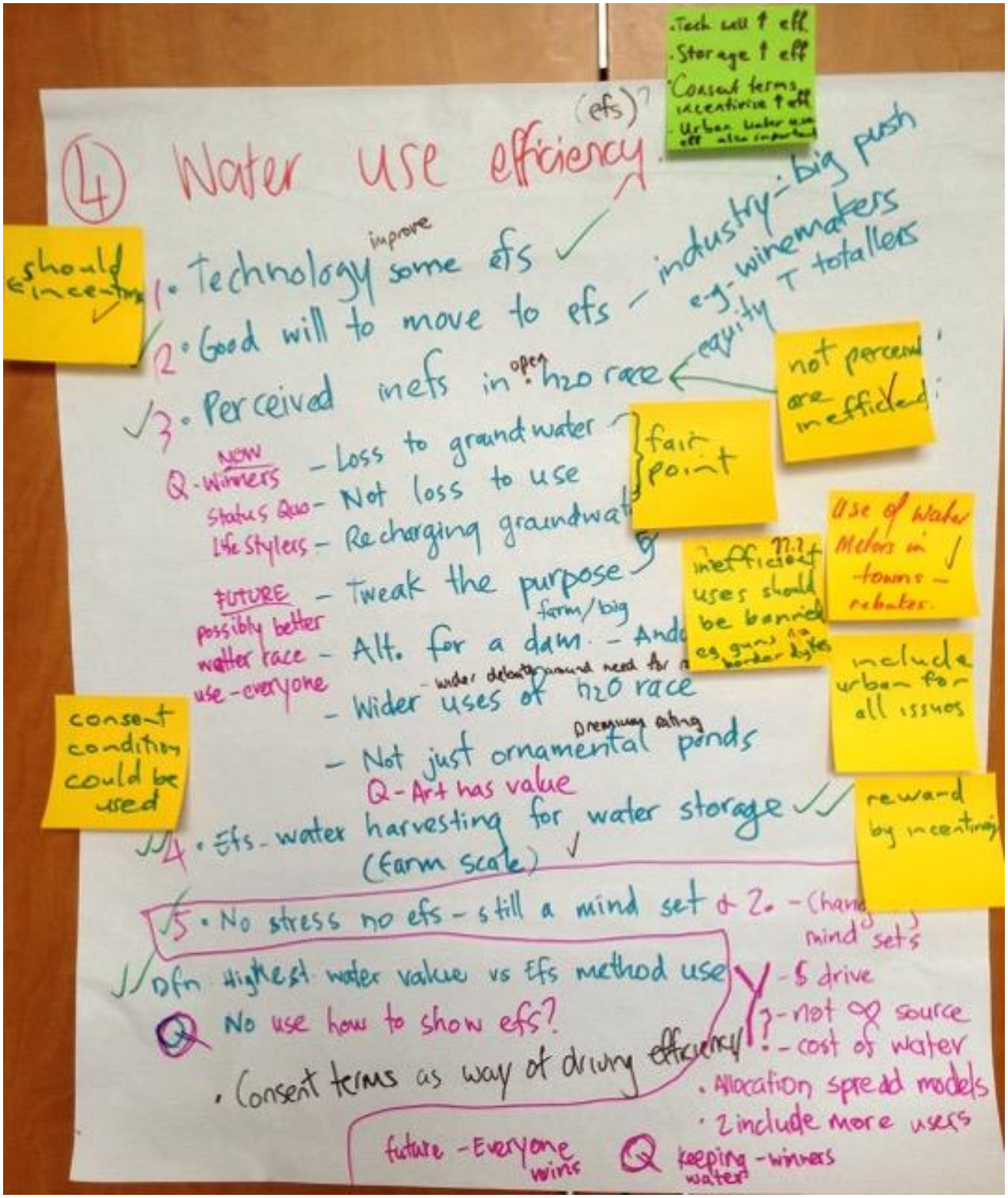
Attributes for Ruamahanga Culture




1
Allocation
limits
issue: Is the current method fair?
1 ?? All areas need to be treated equally
2 ✓ Allocation has to be used
3 ✓ Allocation should be tailored to land use
4 ✓ Encourage on farm storage
5 ✓ Minimum flows are important —
need be set on flow trends over
period of time
6 limits should incentivise beneficial
behaviour change, innovative practice
7 realistic limits in place to ensure life support
capacity, sustainable management, future generations
8 ? review & audit
9. Need multiple allocation bands to provide for a range of uses etc.
min flows
- allocation amount
l/s or days?
Yes, but some reservations.
taken off peaks
issue: How to set catchment specific limits
issue: Is MALF the best method for sub catchments? What about lake levels?
issue can limits encourage efficient use?
How can limits protect environment?


② Reliability of Supply
What about the environment?
* How triggers (min. flows) are set
min flow + allocation limit (to protect the supply reliability of users)
Is MALF the right method?
* Prioritisation → winners & losers?
* Ground & surface water interaction
Only between gw-A & gw-B
→ equity?
* Critical → more impt than amount ✓
(keeps the water user)
* If usage increases → reliability drops (only if there is no allocation limit)
Proactive approach is preferable
* Storage → mini ✓ / macro ✓
Is this more important to consider than min flows?
* Cost of reliability
→ loss of income ✓
→ capital investment to ↑ reliability ✓
* Unnecessary over-application (inefficient irrigation).
* Winners - environmental → needs strong science + good will
- urban → appropriate uses
* Clunky
* Artificial gw recharge


③ Allocation efficiency
water use has to be flexible re land use change
need to how much is used meter & monitor
What is/are the issue(s).
open for debate
First in - First served not fair / equitable
Water not going to the highest value uses.
Develop an equity index.
Not all of the water that is allocated is used.
Value changes, judgement!
irrigated grass is not the most efficient use
Short term / temporary transfer is a method for raising allocation efficiency - can transfers & applications for transfers be processed quickly enough?
What is "full allocation"? When we reach it, how do we provide for / make possible new uses.
Need more and better data to enable this type of solution
Allocation geared / tailored for various landusers.
Efficiency measured as economic return / unit water
Reserve water for higher value uses
Should the Council be involved temporary transfers
establish Allocation by land use incentivise efficiency & value


Tech will ↑ eff
Storage ↑ eff
Consent terms incentivise ↑ eff
Urban water use eff also important
4 Water use efficiency (efs)?
should incentivise
1. Technology improve some efs
2. Good will to move to efs - industry - big push e.g. winemakers
3. Perceived inefs in open h2o race
equity T totallers
not perceived are inefficient
Q - New Winners - Loss to ground water
Status Quo - Not loss to use
Life Stylers - Recharging groundwater
fair point
FUTURE possibly better water race use - everyone
- Tweak the purpose
- Alt. for a dam - And
- Wider uses of h2o race
- Not just ornamental ponds
Q - Art has value
inefficient uses should be banned eg guns
Use of Water Meters in towns - rebates.
include urban for all issues
consent condition could be used
4. Efs - water harvesting for water storage (farm scale)
reward by incentivising
5. No stress no efs - still a mind set & 2. - (change mind sets)
Dfn highest water value vs Efs method use
Q No use how to show efs?
. Consent terms as way of driving efficiency
Y - $ drive
? - not ∞ source
! - cost of water
. Allocation spread models
. 2 include more users
future - Everyone wins
Q keeping - winners