

Draft Committee preferences for minimum flows and allocation limits for major Ruamāhanga Whaitua rivers

Table 1 summarises interim minimum flows and allocation limits for major rivers in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua discussed at Committee workshops to date. The pages that follow Table 1 give a more detailed breakdown for each river. Issues, drivers and policy preferences are given for the Waipoua, Waingawa, Upper Ruamāhanga, Waiohine, Mangatarere and Tauherenikau streams or rivers. The Committee will discuss the Kopuaranga and Lower Ruamāhanga rivers at the next workshop.

Some common elements

The work of the Committee shows a number of common issues, drivers and policy preferences emerging across the rivers and streams examined. The common features and how they will be explored are:

- *River management*
Relevant in all the rivers discussed. A paper is being prepared on the theme of river management to help the committee move forward.
- *Restricting community water supply (subject to the health needs of people), water races and category A groundwater at minimum flows*
Identified in most management areas where these takes occur. More efficient water use is a theme that will help reduce water takes. A paper on efficient use of water is in preparation to help the Committee move forward.

Table 1. Interim summary table for flows and allocation in the

River	RWC preference for discussion			Issues and drivers	Comment on key policy elements
	Habitat protection as a proportion of habitat at MALF	Minimum flow as a proportion of MALF	Allocation (L/sec)		
Kopuaranga				<p>The following apply to one or more rivers as set out for each river system in the pages that follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor water quality - drinking water, swimming, high water temp, periphyton, stormwater Mahinga kai, harvesting materials, mana whenua values, baptism Riparian planting Multiple river/flood management objectives Recreation (e.g. kayaking, swimming) Greater community understanding and ownership The extent of water take below minimum flow (public water supply, water races, category A groundwater) Allocation could be a lot more efficient – reduce 	<p>Key policy elements set out for the river in the pages that follow.</p>
Waipoua	90%	Raise from 68% to 90% 7d MALF (250 to 340 L/sec)	130 No change		
Waingawa	100%	Raise from 80% to 100+% 7d MALF (1,100 to 1,700 L/sec)	1197 No change		

				domestic take, reduce water race take, irrigate efficiently	groundwater and water races at minimum flow.
Upper Ruamāhanga	90%	Raise from 67% to 90% 7d MALF (2400 to 3,250 L/sec)	1,930 L/sec No change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'New water' (storage aquifer recharge) 	Key policy elements set out for the river in the pages that follow.
Mangatarere	100%	100+% 7d MALF No change)	To be considered with small streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic ecosystem health • Reliability of supply • Fairness to all users 	Key policy elements set out for the river in the pages that follow.
Waiohine	90%	Raise from 65% to 90% 7d MALF (2300 to 3,040 L/sec)	1005 No change		<p>Key policy elements set out for the river in the pages that follow.</p> <p>Raising the minimum from 2,300 to 3,040 L/sec will result in little change in practice because current resource consents support a minimum flow of 3040 L/sec to the extent that at 3040 L/sec:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community water supply reduced is to 100 L/sec (reduced further to 60 L/sec at river flow of 2,300 L/sec) • water races are reduced by 30% • all other surface water takes must cease. <p>Under the PNRP at 2300 L/sec:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community water supply is reduced to the 'health needs of people' • groundwater takes are reduced by 50% • water races must cease. <p>The Committee considers that restricting community water supply to the health needs of people at minimum flow is appropriate but has yet to decide on what restrictions will apply to water races and groundwater.</p> <p>Further discussion is needed on what restrictions will apply to groundwater and water races at minimum flow.</p>

Lower Ruamāhanga					
Tauherenikau	90%	Raise from 85% to 90% 7d MALF (1,100 to 1,300 L/sec)	233/410 L/sec No change		<p>Key policy elements set out for the river in the pages that follow.</p> <p>Raising the minimum from 1,00 to 1,300 L/sec will result in little change in practice because current resource consents support a minimum flow of 1,300 L/sec to the extent that at 1,300 L/sec:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplementary community water (Boar Bush Creek) can be taken for the health needs of people • water races are reduced by 30% • all other surface water takes must cease. <p>Under the PNRP at 1,100 L/sec:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community water supply is reduced to the “health needs of people” • groundwater takes are reduced by 50% • water races must cease. <p>The Committee considers that restricting community water supply to the health needs of people at minimum flow is appropriate but has yet to decide on what restrictions will apply to water races and groundwater.</p> <p>Further discussion is needed on what restrictions will apply to groundwater and water races at minimum flow.</p>

Kopuaranga Stream

Management area

- The Kopuaranga River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River.
- The minimum flow is monitored at Palmers.

Key issues and drivers

- To be identified by Committee in workshop sessions, both general and specific to this river.

Draft policy preferences

- To be identified by Committee in workshop sessions, both general and specific to this river.

	Minimum flow			Allocation amount	
	% habitat space	% 7d MALF	L/sec	% 7d MALF	L/sec
Current (PNRP)	80	90	270	26	150
Preferred	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

Waipoua River

Management area

- The Waipoua River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River.
- The minimum flow is monitored at Mikimiki Bridge

Key issues and drivers

- More information needed (E.g. PNRP method 10, geomorphology)
- Land use change (lifestyle blocks)
- Poor water quality - drinking water, swimming, high water temp, periphyton, stormwater
- Mahinga kai, harvesting materials, mana whenua values (E.g. Waka kaikokirimarae), baptism
- Multiple river/flood management objectives
- Recreation (E.g. more pools)
- Greater community understanding and ownership

Draft policy preferences

- Increase minimum flow to 90% habitat area over time
- Allocation limit to stay the same
- Model river for urban and rural management
- Riparian plantings (to increase shading)
- Wetland restoration
- Restoration of Tanks pool

	Minimum flow			Allocation amount	
	% habitat space	% 7d MALF	L/sec	% 7d MALF	L/sec
Current (PNRP)	70	68	250	29	130
Preferred	90	90	340	29	130

Waingawa River

Management area

- The Waingawa River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River.
- The minimum flow is monitored at Kaituna.

Key issues and drivers

- Extent of river braiding
- Extent of losses to groundwater
- The extent of water take below minimum flow (public water supply, water races, category A groundwater)
- Allocation could be a lot more efficient – reduce domestic take (MDC), reduce water race take, irrigate efficiently
- Potential water storage location (Black Creek)

Draft policy preferences

- No change to minimum flow
- No change to allocation limit
- Restrict community water supply, water races and cat A groundwater at minimum flow
- Promote /enhance efficient use (community supply, water races, irrigation) including good management practice e.g. water storage
- Work with Masterton District Council on water conservation programmes
- Riparian planting

	Minimum flow			Allocation amount	
	% habitat space	% 7d MALF	L/sec	% 7d MALF	L/sec
Current (pNRP)	100	80	1,100	65	1,197
Preferred	100	100+	1,700	65	1,197

Upper Ruamāhanga River

Management area

- The Upper Ruamāhanga River is defined by the surface water catchments of the Ruamāhanga River upstream of the confluence with the Waiohine River, excluding tributaries of the Parkvale Stream and the Waingawa, Waipoua and Kopuaranga rivers.
- The minimum flow is managed at Wardells.

Key issues and drivers

- Recreation (E.g. kayaking, swimming at double bridges, Kokotau, Te Ore Ore, Cliffs)
- Protection of Wahi tapu sites, mahinga kai
- Aquatic ecosystems
- Reliability of supply
- Irrigation efficiency
- River/flood management does not achieve multiple objectives
- Fairness to all users
- Water storage
- Water quality improvement (eg. sewage discharges)

Draft policy preferences

- Raise minimum flow progressively (staged) to 90% habitat protection
- No change to allocation limit
- Restrict water races and Category A groundwater at minimum flow
- Promote /enhance efficient use (water races, irrigation) including good management practice (E.g. water storage)
- Require users to substantiate they are using water efficiently
- Put in place timeframes for improving water use efficiency and reducing water takes to limits
- Require water storage and efficient water use measures in new builds
- Review efficiency conditions in existing consents

	Minimum flow			Allocation amount	
	% habitat space	% 7d MALF	L/sec	% 7d MALF	L/sec
Current (pNRP)	70	67	2400	40	1,930
Preferred	90	90	3,250	40	1,930

Waiohine River

Management area

- The Waiohine River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River.
- The minimum flow is managed at the Gorge.

Key issues and drivers

- Maintain water quality
- Recreational values
- Give the river more room (river/floodplain management)
- Targeted riparian planting
- Wahi tapu sites

Draft policy preferences

- Minimum flow at 90% habitat protection
- No change to allocation limit
- Restrict water races at minimum flows
- Promote efficient water use

	Minimum flow			Allocation amount	
	% habitat space	% 7d MALF	L/sec	% 7d MALF	L/sec
Current (pNRP)	65	65	2300	32	1005
Preferred	90	90	3,040	32	1005

Mangatarere Stream

Management area

- The Mangatarere Stream is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Waiohine River.
- The minimum flow is monitored at the Gorge.

Key issues and drivers

- As per common issues and drivers
- Reduce community water supply and water race takes
- “New water” for community supply
- River goes underground in summer
- Water quality and ecological health
- Trout spawning

Draft policy preferences

- No change to minimum flow
- Reduce allocation limit - address amount alongside other over allocated small streams
- Restrict community water supply, water races and Category A groundwater at minimum flow
- Support Restoration Society efforts
- Promote water quality and ecological health through riparian planting, wetlands
- Promote wetlands
- Meter lifestyle water use

		Minimum flow			Allocation amount	
		% habitat space	% 7d MALF	L/sec	% 7d MALF	L/sec
Current (pNRP)	upper	100	145	240	143	473
	lower	100	120	200		
Preferred	upper	100	145	240	To be considered with small streams	To be considered with small streams
	lower	100	120	200		

Lower Ruamāhanga River

Management area

- The Lower Ruamāhanga River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Lake Wairarapa outflow.
- The minimum flow is managed at the Waihenga recorder

Key issues and drivers

- As identified by Committee in workshop sessions, both general and specific to this river

Draft policy preferences

- As identified by Committee in workshop sessions, both general and specific to this river

	Minimum flow			Allocation amount	
	% habitat space	% 7d MALF	L/sec	% 7d MALF	L/sec
Current (pNRP)	70-	68	8540	54	8046
Preferred	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

Tauherenikau River

Management area

- The lower Tauherenikau River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Lake Wairarapa outflow.
- The minimum flow is managed at the Gorge.

Key issues and drivers

- River management is the big issue in the Tauherenikau
- Silt build up at the river mouth can be addressed through riparian management

Draft policy preferences

- No change to minimum flow
- No change to allocation limit
- Promote riparian management
- Promote sub-catchment community group
- Restrict Category A groundwater takes at minimum flow

	Minimum flow			Allocation amount	
	% habitat space	% 7d MALF	L/sec	% 7d MALF	L/sec
Current (pNRP)	85	85	1,100	50	410
Preferred	90	90	1,300	50	410