

## Recommendations for draft policy and rule preferences for permitted activity water takes

### Preferences and themes from Committee informing recommendations

- Promote efficiency of use for all users (for all rules and policies for water take and use)
- Seek equitable approach to ‘domestic use’ rights for rural and urban domestic users
  - o Rules for direct users relating to reasonable use and promotion of use of water tanks
  - o Policy approach for demand management strategy for community or municipal supplies
- Seek more equitable approach to the way different types of takes are restricted at minimum flow. There are currently no restrictions on some PA takes
- Protect economic use of water at low flows for dairy farms maintain health requirements of dairy shed operation and continued milking
- Bring unconstrained general PA surface water users into line with approach for other users in relation to restrictions at minimum flow
- Apply a reasonableness lens to amounts available to general PA takers, including in accordance with similar use around the country
- Education and behaviour change approaches for improving conservation of water and compliance with PA limits, monitoring requirements and restrictions at low flows

### Draft policy and rule recommendations for Committee consideration

#### 1. Dairy shed wash down

##### *Issues, drivers and key context*

- Existing PA rule hard to justify in fully allocated catchments
- Recognise clean water is necessary for part of dairy shed wash down (c.f. green wash water) and cooling
- Recognise most (66%) of dairy farms have resource consents for irrigation
- Recognise that there is shift away from using surface water for farm dairies due to water quality restrictions on shed use (currently around 85% use groundwater)
- Note progressive improvement of systems rolled out by Fonterra will improve dairy shed wash down systems over the next five years

#### Possible provisions

##### *Rules:*

- Amend current PA such that water takes for farm dairies are made part of wider farm consented take
- New PA rule for take associated with clear water wash down needs below minimum flows

##### *Work to be done:*

- Need to quantify volume per day required for safe wash down with “clean” water
- Look into how rule changes could be progressively implemented over time allowing for upgrades in line with industry improvements
- Check the implications for existing and new consents and what is impact on increasing levels of over allocation

#### 2. Domestic and stock drinking use

##### *Issues, drivers and key context*

- Section 14(3)(b) allows for the taking of water for domestic and stock drinking water use as of right

- Regional Plans can restrict or further define this right in policies and rules if there is an actual or potential adverse effect on the environment
- The requirement of the NPS-FM to “identify methods in regional plans to encourage the efficient use of water” applies to all takes including s14(3)(b) takes
- Recognise that water quality is an element of domestic water use too (but to be addressed elsewhere)
- Seek to incentivise use of water tanks to provide for resilient supplies – opportunities through new subdivision and building controls

Possible provisions

*Policies:*

- Identify in policy using narrative and (possibly) numbers (unit/volume/day) the meaning of domestic and stock water use, e.g. :
  - o Water for an *individual’s reasonable domestic needs* is the amount sufficient to provide for hygiene, sanitary and domestic requirements.
  - o Water for the *reasonable needs of a person’s animals for drinking water* is the amount sufficient to provide for the animals’ health and welfare.
- Promote use of water tanks
- Encourage TAs to include requirement for rainwater tanks in new subdivision and development activities to promote efficient use

*Rule:*

- New PA rule for the take, use and diversion of rainwater from a roof to a tank?

*Education methods:*

- Promote knowledge around efficient home water use?
- Rainwater tank information, including options, costs, facilitation around planning controls?<sup>1</sup>

*Work to be done:*

- Establish possible numbers to apply to reasonable domestic use

### 3. General permitted activity use<sup>2</sup>

*Issues, drivers and key context*

- Recognise relatively high current levels of PA take for general takes compared to other regions post NPS-FM rules and hard to justify in fully allocated catchments
- Seeking restrictions at minimum flows
- Monitoring (surveys and modelling) so that accounting can be done

Possible provisions

*Rules:*

- Amend relevant PA rule to limit PA take to 5m<sup>3</sup> per day for surface and groundwater takes
- Amend relevant PA rule to include condition to cease take restriction at minimum flow
- Have provision in PA rule(s) which makes it clear that this water use excludes use for which a person has a resource consent
- Condition on PA rule to require a meter when required by GW (if there is evidence of PA abuse)

<sup>1</sup> E.g. See <http://www.smarterhomes.org.nz/smart-guides/water-and-waste/collecting-and-using-rainwater/>

<sup>2</sup> NB. This rule only applies to the take and use of water not covered by other rules