

Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee - Community Meeting on WIP recommendations (2)

SUBJECT Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee meeting with the community on their Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) recommendations

WHEN Thursday 3 May 2018, 6:30-8:30PM

WHERE Solway College Hall, Masterton

ATTENDEES

WHAITUA COMMITTEE Peter Gawith, Esther Dijkstra, Colin Olds, Mike Birch, Phil Palmer, Mike Ashby, Aidan Bichan

PROJECT TEAM SUPPORT Mike Grace, Jon Gabites, Paula Hammond, Natasha Tomic

COMMUNITY MEMBERS 120 members of the community attended the meeting.

Presentation from the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee presented on the contents of their WIP for approximately an hour. The presentation can be found [here](#) or on the GWRC website at: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/ruamahanga-whaitua-process/>.

Break out

A number of blank sheets were put up around the room. People then went to a sheet and wrote down their question for the Committee. The questions are below. The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee then answered a number of these questions back to the whole meeting.

Sheet 1

- Why can't we put more water through Henley Lake – it will purify the lake?
- Why can't the water to Henley Lake be recognised as a non-consumptive take with beneficial users and not a 'take' as such?
- Would we be able to return the water that we take from the river for Henley Lake to avoid restrictions?
- Can the intake to Henley Lake be revamped to reduce waste?
- Does the whaitua have criteria for assessing amenity lakes?
- Has the cultural value of the lake been considered?
- Will you meet with us to discuss as a special case before final recommendation goes to Greater Wellington?

Sheet 2

- Is stormwater measured? What will be done?
- Slowing the flow most easily achieved by removing bulldozers from rivers. How soon will this happen?
- What about erosion control for land owners if the river is allowed to take more space and natural character?
- There has always been sediment in our rivers, should we be trying to reduce it?
- How are we going to reduce sediment?
- Why is it not compulsory to have a water tank in a new house?
- Is MDC doing anything to encourage water collection from roofs?
- Do we know which rivers are swimmable now?
- Permitted takes are increasing because of subdivisions. How can we manage the river?

Sheet 3

- Integrated water management, storage – will there be more detail?
- Incomplete modelling used to create artificial data points - (which decisions are going to be based on). When we see serious efforts to collect real information to make real decisions?
- When will economic modelling be completed and released to those affected by the proposals in the WIP? – The whole package.
- Are the final stages of the WIP preparation and submission hasty in order to meet the deadlines from GWRC? Surely we need to validate data points and economic modelling before the final WIP is produced and commented on?
- Opaki water scheme - supplies 360 houses and stock. This is a category A take – will the restrictions at low flow apply to us?
- How will the whaitua proposal affect Henley Lake for recreational purposes such as dragon boating?
- What are the options of % habitat protection for torrent fish and where do the Upper Ruamāhanga and Waipoua currently sit?
- When will the whaitua committee set the nutrient limits for each FMU and when will the community get to see them?
- What are the options for protecting the long finned eel?

Sheet 4

- Are we going to get an update on the Black Creek Dam?
- You are cutting water to the nursery and the nursery is going to produce trees that will help stop the sediment. How is that logical?
- Progress on the storage dam (especially for Waipoua Catchment)?
- Water is over-allocated – what is a fair way of cutting down on getting them over-allocated?
- Who is responsible for driving the changes forward and doing the monitoring? Who will execute the recommendations and make it happen?
- A lot of negative opinion about the modelling. Is there real data that the model has been checked against?

- Slowing down the river flow – does it have detrimental impacts on MCI?
- Monitoring regime going forward? How will this be funded?
- Who pays for all of the recommendations being implemented?
- When does the 10 years start?
- How 'property' is defined in cut down from 20-5m³ per day for permitted activity? I.e. if a property has 4 houses does each house gets 5m³ per day or does the 'property' get 5m³ per day?

Sheet 5

- Clarify how Category A water is linked to surface. Given 2 year old water is found in some bores classed as category A.
- Why is there an aspiration for 'B' or 'A' when in a 'C'?
- Given the economic data is incomplete is there wriggle room in the minimum low flows?
- How is the Waipoua going to recover given the pressure on it?
- How is the Whaitua Committee proposing to co-ordinate the community groups? E.g. water testing, planting and water management?
- Why is GWRC using NIWA 8.5 scenario for climate change impacts when the Paris Accord is 4.5?

Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee response to questions

- There has always been sediment in our rivers, should we be trying to reduce it?
 - Clean water is valued. We live in a modified environment.
 - Not proposing to go back to a particular point in time but recognise the need to reduce the amount of sediment
 - Reduce to a degree to get rivers and lakes where everyone wants them to be.
- Incomplete modelling used to create artificial data points - (which decisions are going to be based on). When we see serious efforts to collect real information to make real decisions?
 - What is the alternative?
 - Modelling is only one method. The Committee has also heard from the community.
 - Guided by science but not directed by it.
 - The Committee is recommending that more monitoring information and data is obtained.
- When will economic modelling be completed and released to those affected by the proposals in the WIP? – The whole package.
 - Have had some economic modelling done.
 - Want to have further economic modelling done on the whole package of proposals.
- Who is responsible for driving the changes forward and doing the monitoring? Who will execute the recommendations and make it happen?
 - Have to do accounting, monitoring for every FMU.

- Communities that live in the FMU have the responsibility.
 - Those who live in the catchments can do their own monitoring.
 - We are all in it together.
 - Community driving changes – need to be responsible for making the changes.
- A lot of negative opinion about the modelling. Is there real data that the model has been checked against?
 - Models have been calibrated against monitored (real) data. Data set used was from 1992 to 2014 period.
 - Clarify how Category A water is linked to surface water? Given 2 year old water is found in some bores classed as category A.
 - If can prove not connected go to GWRC.
 - Age water coming out of the bore, then might show not connected.
 - Why is GWRC using NIWA 8.5 scenario for climate change impacts when the Paris Accord is 4.5?
 - GWRC used all four of the IPCC's scenarios to model future impacts on the region. It's impossible to know which scenario will reflect reality by the end of the century, so we urge consideration of the range of outcomes when planning for climate change.
<https://mapping1.gw.govt.nz/gw/ClimateChange/>
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/climate-change/>

Statements

Dianna Abraham

- Discussion on implications of min flows on lake ecology, exploring ways of limiting leakage and evaporation.
- The lake provides ecological benefits as well as recreation and cultural values
- The lake helps maintain groundwater levels in the area
- Inflow borrowed from the river rather than taken.
- Ask lake to be a special case and Lake of Remembrance water goes back into the river.
- Upper Ruamāhanga:
 - Inflow and out flow.
 - Economic impact.
 - Sporting impacts.

Tom Ward - Henley Trust

- Water body where sports could take place.
- The lake was formed in 1985.

- Porous gravel
- Water quality needs to be improved.
- Not enough water to improve lake.
- GWRC helped establish wetlands – filter out contaminants.
- It can't get water during summer the lake will turn into a cesspit.
- Wetlands will have been wasted.
- The lake needs more water than it can get at low flow.

Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee response:

- Hear what you are saying and we recognise the importance of the lakes.
- GWRC and MDC to sort through the consent process.
- Is it the water that is consumed by the lake that is the issue?
- Look at it like the water is borrowed from the river not take.

Leo Vollebregt – Water Users Group

- Storage needed at a range of scales – larger storage.
- Economic impacts.
- Water users have invested heavily.
- Not fair to change mind without an alternative.
- Who is initiating Category A takes?
- Take your time.

Lyn Patterson – Mayor, Masterton District Council

- Recognised the work put in by the Committee.
- Rubber hitting road.
- Take a breather to work through these issues together.
- Accept that something has to be done but is 10 years the right time frame?

Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee response:

- The committee hears what the community is saying about the lakes and recognises the importance of the lakes.
- A number of the issues to work out between GWRC and MDC.