



REGIONAL FORUM

People Water and Land – *Te Mana o te Tangata, te Wai, te Whenua*

RECORD OF WORKSHOP

Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 December 2020
Phase 3, Workshop 10 held at Distinction Luxmore, Te Anau

Present

Mata Cherrington

David Diprose

Kelsi Hayes

Bernadette Hunt

Paul Marshall

Phil Morrison (acting chair)

Estelle Pera-Leask (day 1 only)

Lisa Pearson

Michelle Roberts

Hayden Slee

Vaughan Templeton

Apologies

Fiona Smith

Ewen Pirie

Focus of the workshop

- Gain a deeper understanding of the potential methods and limits to achieve freshwater outcomes under the NPS-FM 2020
- Learn more about Te Tiriti O Waitangi
- Understand impacts of cumulative effects and role of integrated catchment management.

Other areas of discussion

Start and welcome

Eva Hendricks, principal iwi advisor at Te Ao Marama Inc opened the workshop with a karakia. Acting chair Phil Morrison led a discussion among the Regional Forum members on any matters they wanted to raise or reflect on since the last workshop in October at Riversdale.

Sessions

Update from recent Environment Southland Council and Te Ao Marama Inc Board meetings

Bonny Lawrence, people, water and land programme manager at Environment Southland discussed the recent decision by Environment Southland Council and the Te Ao Marama Board confirming the outputs of the Values and Objectives workstream. This provides

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direction for the Regional Forum to assess the implications of achieving the bottom of the hauora envelope within a generation (25-30 years) for all draft freshwater objectives (environmental outcomes).

Bonny explained how this direction from Council and the Board enables the Forum to commence its work considering possible methods and limits to achieve these draft objectives

Policy Questions

Emma Moran, senior policy planner/economist for Environment Southland outlined the themes that would be covered throughout the workshop. Emma explained how the policy questions, the Treaty of Waitangi, cumulative effects, and integrated catchment management were connected.

Lauren Maciaszek, senior policy planner at Environment Southland started a discussion on ways to manage the three different categories of discharge – point source, multiple point source and diffuse (non-point source). Lauren explained that a point source discharge is when there is one discharge point. A discussion was held around varied aspects of these discharges including tile drains, industrial and municipal discharges. Lauren then moved the discussion onto multiple discharge points, where there is a collection of sources, often spread over a wide area. Finally, the Regional Forum looked at diffuse (non-point source) discharges which are often spread over a wider area and do not have identifiable discharge points, including effluent discharges to land.

Anastazia Raymond, policy planner at Environment Southland led the Forum through an exercise to identify different types of discharges. This was followed by a discussion on activity controls for discharges – both consented and permitted. Karl Erikson, principal land sustainability officer at Environment Southland further defined permitted activities and the role of farm environment plans in developing understanding around the conditions of permitted activities.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Dean Whaanga Te Ao Marama kaupapa taiao manager and Regional Forum member Mata Cherrington led a session on Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The Regional Forum gained a greater understanding of the historical context before, during and after the signing of the Treaty, as well as the principles of partnership, participation and protection which underpin the relationship between the Government and Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi.

Cumulative effects and relative contributions

Ned Norton from Land, Water, People, led a session on the role of cumulative effects on current containment levels. Ned explained that there is great work being done in many areas including good management practice, riparian planting and wastewater management. However, the “wicked” problem of cumulative effects would continue to effect contaminant loads. Ned described cumulative effects as;

- Individual activities (and their effects)
- Sum of many activities – “cumulative effects”
- Acceptable cumulative effects – fully allocated
- Unacceptable cumulative effects – over allocated

Ned explained this session was not about assigning responsibility to land users, but to show how land use over time from multiple individual activities can lead to unacceptable cumulative effects.

Ned has re-filmed his explanation into two videos – watch them here:

<https://youtu.be/bnmfHm6fh3Y>

<https://youtu.be/nrCD9JmV4Jw>

Public Session (7pm Tuesday 8th February)

The Regional Forum co-hosted a public meeting with the Southland Conservation Board.

Phil Morrison led an introduction of the Regional Forum's work and sought feedback on the Regional Forum's vision for Southland's waterways.

Topics of discussion included:

- A discussion on the review of the conservation management plan
- Future planning for the Waiau
- Gravel extraction
- Options for drains cut on Stewart Island
- The role of catchment groups in the Regional Forums work
- What are contaminants of concern
- The role of freshwater monitoring in wider conservation conversations

For the Regional Forum this was an opportunity to partner with a group working in a similar area and understand more about how the two could share ideas in the future.

Integrated Catchment Management

Anastazia Raymond reminded Forum members of earlier workshops and the discussions and field trips they have had on projects such as the Aparima Community Environment project and Whakamana te Waituna. The Forum is now well placed to discuss what an integrated catchment management structure across the region might look like.

Fiona Young, land and water services manager at Environment Southland described how integrated catchment management is about working with catchments on collective actions, biophysical and community connections. Fiona outlined the two main models used for integrated catchment management – top down and bottom up.

The forum then held a discussion on several key points including

- The role of citizen science
- The difference between a Fresh Water Management Unit and Integrated Catchment Management
- The need for consistency while remaining flexible for specific areas
- Connecting with communities throughout the process

Policy Questions wrap-up

Emma Moran led a wrap up of the sessions introduced over the past couple of days. Final thoughts at that stage included:

- Impacts of climate change
- Limit types

Assessment Criteria – feedback and discussion

Over 250 people had viewed the page, with 40 feedback surveys completed. It was agreed to hold over making a final decision until the February workshop. This led to a further discussion around decision making processes if forum members were not be there in person.

Tools for difficult conversations

Adrienne Henderson, senior communications coordinator at Environment Southland provided the Forum with ideas on how they could undertake conversations on complicated and challenging subjects. The Forum members then role-played how these tools could be put into practice.

Key messages from Regional Forum members

We appreciate the recent endorsement of draft environmental outcomes by Environment Southland's Council and the Te Ao Marama Board.

We learned more about discharges, and that multiple minor discharges can contribute to a significant impact on our environment.

We were able to build on our understanding of contaminant load and what this means for over allocation, and the cumulative effects this has on our rivers and estuaries.

We know that there are challenging contaminant load problems that need to be addressed.

We appreciate that the impacts of climate change may further compound the challenge of effectively managing regional freshwater outcomes, with increasing frequency, size and duration of severe weather events predicted.

We understand that all discharge sources, from rural, urban and industrial areas, will need to be considered when forming our advice to council and Te Ao Marama board.

We gained a deeper understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi, and would value learning more in this area.

We found that the Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku perspective on water helped to reaffirm its importance in relation to how tangata whenua manage water for sustainability and kaitiakitanga (caretakers).

We noted opportunities for growth through partnerships in the future management of water.

We thank the Southland Conservation Board for co-hosting the public session with us. It was a great opportunity to partner with a group working in a similar area and understand more about how the two could share ideas in the future.

We are now well placed to further explore what an integrated catchment management structure across the region might look like. We will consider this in more detail and explore how it could work with input from community members and groups on collective actions.

The next face to face workshop is in Invercargill on 23 and 24 February 2020. The workshop will focus on understanding how far good management practice might take us to achieving environmental outcomes. The public session will be held on Tuesday 23 February at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed.