



# REGIONAL FORUM

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

## RECORD OF WORKSHOP

Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 February 2021

Phase 3, Workshop 11 held at Elmwood Gardens (day 1) and South Alive (day 2)

### Present

Fiona Smith (chair)  
David Diprose  
Kelsi Hayes  
Bernadette Hunt  
Paul Marshall  
Phil Morrison  
Estelle Pera-Leask

Lisa Pearson  
Michelle Roberts  
Hayden Slee  
Vaughan Templeton  
Ewen Pirie

### Consensus was reached on

It was agreed by all members that the Regional Forum will use the Assessment Criteria they have developed to inform their decision making

*The group consensus aligned with the guidance laid out in Regional Forum Terms of Reference.*

### Focus of the workshop

- Explore the practical application of limit setting
- Understand the updated Ngai Tahu values and objectives for freshwater (environmental outcomes) – methods and timeframes.
- Discover more about voluntary reward schemes and integrated catchment management

### Other areas of discussion

Start and welcome

Bonny Lawrence, People, Water and Land programme manager for Environment Southland opened the workshop with a karakia. Regional Forum lead Delia Riley and principal iwi advisor for Te Ao Marama Eva Hendriks were both noted as apologies. Chair Fiona Smith led a discussion among the Regional Forum members on any matters they wanted to raise or reflect on since the last workshop in Te Anau in December.

## **Sessions**

### ***Day one***

#### **Advice development and a conceptual discussion about limit setting**

Emma Moran, principal policy planner/economist for Environment Southland led a discussion on a general process the Regional Forum could use to develop their advice package over the next 18 months. Conversations included discussions on how industry experts could be involved to allow the forum to fully understand the implications of different methods that could be used to reach the desired goals. Regional Forum members discussed the need to share their thinking at different stages with the community and stakeholders to understand the different needs of those who could be affected by any recommendations. The session included brief discussions on allocation, good management practice and the use of education.

Independent facilitator Barbara Nicholas led a session where the Regional Forum members put themselves 25 years into the future to 2045 and imagined what they envisioned this future could look like. Regional Forum members talked through the social, economic, environmental and personal changes that could occur during this period.

#### **Update on Iwi values and objectives**

Maria Bartlett, senior advisor for Te Ao Marama Incorporated, built on the work she had previously discussed with the Regional Forum around iwi values and objectives for freshwater. Maria noted that through this work some strong signals about timing and methods from an iwi perspective had been put forward by the runanga. The forum discussed how valuable it was to understand this further and expressed their appreciation for the depth of work that has been undertaken. They also considered how this lens could be applied and work across catchment groups and throughout the region. The forum was interested in the different impacts of this work on issues such as climate change and stormwater discharges, and the role of projects like wetland restoration in helping achieve the objectives within the timeframes noted.

#### **Empathy Mapping process**

Phil Morrison, Regional Forum deputy chair took the rest of the forum through Empathy Mapping as a process. Phil explained that an empathy map is a tool which can capture knowledge about behaviours and attitudes. Phil explained it could be a tool the forum used to understand how people were feeling as it gives individuals the opportunity to explore their thoughts in a way which can remove some of the emotion that may sometimes overwhelm their thinking.

#### **Health and Safety**

Michelle Carter, health, safety and wellbeing business partner for Environment Southland provided some tools for ways the Regional Forum could ensure they were looking after

themselves. Michelle ran through some exercises with the Forum on the LEAP (listening, empathy, asking and planning/problem solving) method of developing open communication.

### **Framing of advice**

Emma Moran and co science lead Ned Norton from Land, Water, People, led a session to help the forum think about ways they could start to shape their advice report. They discussed developing a paper with their collated comments and questions as the forum starts to shape its advice. This advice document could grow as they progressed through the process and be the initial draft of an advice document. Ned led the forum through a diagram to illustrate how the multiple threads involved could then be organised as their thinking evolves. While a secretariat function is provided for the forum, the advice document is up to the forum to develop.

### ***Public Session (7.30 pm Tuesday 23rd February)***

Members of the public were invited to attend a public session with forum members. As part of the session, small groups of people were stationed at one of four posters, where Regional Forum members sought their feedback on different topics. The four posters covered

- How would you describe your connection to freshwater?
- What actions would have the most impact on improving Invercargill's waterways?
- Ideas to improve Invercargill waterways
- Ideas to improve the New River Estuary

### ***Day two***

#### **Managing inputs and outputs**

Emma Moran set the scene with a diagram of the possible inputs and outputs of a production system, highlighting that controls can be put over either outputs or inputs. The forum discussed the role of Overseer and how many farmers are realising they need to do nutrient budgets for their farms. The forum discussed the advantages and limitations of using Overseer and considered what role it could play in the future. Karen Wilson, co science lead and science team leader for Environment Southland, then moved the forum through a discussion on the different steps that could be undertaken to improve water health which came out of the Share Your Wai campaign. Based on these sessions, the forum then held a round table discussion on what inputs and outputs they could include when they started to develop their package of advice. It was decided this would be further defined and developed through the next few workshops.

#### **Education and reward schemes**

Karl Erikson, principal land sustainability officer for Environment Southland, started the discussion on the use of education as a method. The forum discussed the fact that education had an important part of the process, but other methods would also need to be used. Simon Mapp, compliance manager for Environment Southland, spoke about the different techniques the compliance team have been using to

support consent holders to comply with their consent conditions. Simon explained the VADE (voluntary, assisted, directed, enforced) model, and illustrated using a bell curve how most consent holders fell towards the centre. He then discussed the use of compliance reward schemes to empower consent holders. The forum discussed how far good management practice, including the use of compliance as a tool, was likely to get the region and noted the importance of bringing a stepped change approach into their thinking when making these considerations.

### **Key messages from Regional Forum members**

- Good management practices will not be enough in all areas to achieve the improvements we need for water quality.
- We're clear that we need to focus on the big stuff, the big actions and methods that are needed to make the significant improvements. We have to assume that everyone in the farming and business sectors are already operating using the expected good management practices.
- We agree that many of our waterways are in a degraded state and that puts us in an 'over-allocated' situation. In other words, we've put more nutrients, sediment and other contaminants into our waterways than they can cope with. These are issues we have to address.
- We had an update from Ngai Tahu representatives, which gave us an idea of their vision for Southland and how to achieve it. Together we welcome their vision and see their suggestions as useful in helping us with our task.
- It was clear to us that the Ngai Tahu view of the world is not out on a limb. Their ideas resonated with us and encouraged us to think about the next generation.
- We're looking forward to welcoming new members onto the forum, to bring new perspectives to our robust conversations.
- We're keen to hear more from the community and stakeholders. To meet the challenge, we will need a broad range of solutions brought to the table, and we want to learn from others.