



# REGIONAL FORUM

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

## RECORD OF WORKSHOPS

February 2022 – June 2022

Phase 3 Workshops

### Forum Members

Fiona Smith (Chair)

Phil Morrison (Deputy Chair)

David Diprose

Lisa Pearson

Estelle Pera-Leask

Kelsi Hayes

Ewen Pirie

Hayden Slee

Vaughan Templeton

Michelle Roberts

Sean Bragg

Cain Duncan

Paul Marshall

Bernadette Hunt

Rose Hanley-Nickolls (left the Forum Feb)

Darren Rewi

### Workshops in 2022

With COVID-19 still impacting the Southland community, and several of the Forum members and support staff involved with RMA hearings, the decision was made to hold the remainder of the 2-day workshops via Zoom. The exception was the final workshop which was held in person at Te Rau Aroha Marae in Bluff, the same location as the first Forum workshop. An additional 2-hour evening Zoom workshop was also held ahead of the June Workshop.

The move to workshop via Zoom enabled people to better work around illness, isolation, and commitments without needing to miss workshop time to the degree that would have been necessary if the workshops were held face-to-face. The use of Zoom also improved the ability to capture the discussion for the benefit of the lead writer, Phil Morrison, freeing him up to fully participate in discussion.

The 2022 workshops were reserved for the refinement of the Forum's advice and report writing. No new information was presented to the Forum during these workshops. The workshops were spaced roughly a month apart and this timing drove the schedule for the authoring of report.

Each month outputs from the preceding workshop were used to craft content for the draft report. Once complete, Phil would share the next draft version with the editorial team who would review prior to meeting as a group to discuss feedback and agree on any edits to be actioned. Once edited, the draft was released to the wider Forum and the Technical Support Team for their consideration ahead of the next workshop. This gave everybody involved the opportunity to reflect on progress ahead of each upcoming workshop and helped to focus thinking on any areas of the recommendations that needed further refinement. Phil was also able to flag any concepts that needed more attention to assist him as he worked to collate and articulate the Forum's advice. This process had the added benefit of ensuring the workshop facilitator and support staff were able to remain flexible to plan and respond to the needs of the Forum.

Each of the workshops were opened by Fiona Smith, Chair, before she handed over to the Workshop Facilitator. Report content was discussed and the opportunity for feedback given at each workshop. Breakout groups were still able to be used via Zoom and these were used several times to enable more connected discussions to occur ahead of reporting back to the wider group.

### **Brief workshop summaries**

#### **February - Workshop 18**

- held 15 and 16 February 2022
- apologies from Hayden Slee and Darren Rewi
- discussion topics – on-farm management; co-governance of FMU; hauora planning and management; climate change; farm debt; regulatory expectations; limits and timeframes; Environment Southland (ES) workstreams, the Long Term Plan (LTP), and the NPS-FM2020; action plans and hauora plans; stormwater management; industrial discharges; industrial and urban land use changes; Regional Forum presentation to governance (ES and TAMI) workshop; sense checking; and economic consequences.

#### **March - Workshop 19**

- held 15 and 16 March 2022
- apologies from Estelle Pera-Leask and Darren Rewi; Cain Duncan had RMA hearing commitments but attended when able; Michelle Roberts was unavailable for a period on Day 1. Ewen Pirie was unavailable on Day 1.
- discussion topics – nutrient management; caps and triggers; stocking density; wetland restoration; wetland task force; assessment criteria; farm waste; landscapes and land uses; repurposing public land; retention structures; educational and resourcing requirements; report requirements; urban stormwater and grey-water, Ngai Tahu values; funding; fairness; stock management; forestry – indigenous and exotic; water quantity, consents, and flow regimes; gaps
- Key messages:
  - The Regional Forum are excited to be thinking about how effective wetlands are in helping to work towards Southland's freshwater challenges
  - Enjoying past couple of days refining recommendations, teasing things out
  - Impressed with conversation, pleased with where we're heading
  - Examining our ideas from other viewpoints has been very important
  - Since 2019 we've been percolating all sorts of information, and meeting very regularly to discuss and analyse, it does feel like all of that is coming together in a coherent fashion
  - We've been privileged to receive a lot of information that others don't necessarily get to hear. That has aided our thinking and we hope to use it to clearly articulate how we might achieve the objectives for freshwater
  - We bring perspectives from the wider community – coming from all walks of life and geographical areas – some of our recommendations will be challenging, and some members of our community will be heartened to hear them
  - We will need to ensure the community is given a chance to step on to this journey, with good information/wayfinding

#### **April - Workshop 20**

- held 12 and 13 April 2022
- apologies from Kelsi Hayes, Darren Rewi, and Ewen Pirie. Hayden Slee unavailable Day 1; Cain Duncan in and out Day 2 due to RMA hearings.
- discussion topics – Regional Forum presentation to the Governance workshop; farm debt; economic modelling findings; FMU variations; Waiau; early adopters; types of wetlands; incentives; 'grandparenting'; co-governance; industrial and urban recommendations; breakout group case study findings (testing the functionality of recommendations); farm plans; consenting; incentives and

enforcement; land use matched to physiographic mapping; innovation requirements; upskilling and education; water quantity; riparian planting; investment; drought and water takes; water storage, philosophy, principles, and values; timelines and aspirations.

- Key messages:
  - We are designing a new approach for the way in which Southlanders will engage with freshwater resources in our region
  - It has been very important to have the strategic oversight and input of mana whenua, with their long-term view of kaitiakitanga/guardianship of the land and water front and centre of our thinking. We believe we can achieve community objectives for freshwater by working in partnership with mana whenua
  - Southlanders recognise there are critical issues with our freshwater, and we believe most are keen to get some direction about how they can contribute to improving Te Mana o te Wai
  - While our approach focuses on a 'high trust' model, we are also recommending setting some parameters to ensure our region is able to be monitored for successful improvements against what we want to achieve
  - We are recommending measures which we recognise may cost significant amounts to some landowners. We will be recommending a robust framework that remains in place to support our journey towards achieving those measures within a generational timeframe of 25 years
  - While our respect for our communities is always present, our job has been to focus on improving the quality and resilience of our region's freshwater systems now and in the future
  - We are now at the stage of finalising our thinking and decisions which will be pulled into the final report that will detail our recommendations, with one more workshop in May 2022
  - Our completed report of recommendations will go to Environment Southland and Te Ao Marama Inc in June this year

### **May - Workshop 21**

- held 12 and 13 May 2022
- apologies from Estelle Pera-Leask and Ewen Pirie. Kelsi Hayes unavailable morning of Day 1; Paul Marshall unavailable Day 2
- discussion topics - report progress and refinement, timing philosophy; Waiau and other FMU specific recommendations; wetlands; wetlands task force; mahinga kai; policy questions; urban and industrial activities; executive summary; water quantity; allocation philosophy; affordability and funding; appendices; localised wastewater tanks; stormwater management
- an additional 2-hour evening session was held May 30 to provide sufficient time to approve report wording changes resulting from the discussions at this workshop
- Key messages:
  - Looking forward to finalising the report now
  - Pleased at where we've got to with people's input and wordsmithing
  - More confident the report is reflecting collective views
  - Learn so much from others in the forum all the time
  - Will be more effective speaking to Council and our community with this collectively-agreed report
  - We've become real whanau and will be a little sad at the end of the project (while appreciating getting time back for other things)
  - Concerned about whether we have the people and capability, plus concerns about the costs to the region. But need to start somewhere
  - Looking forward to seeing some of these recommendations flow through to actions on the ground
  - Three years, big piece of work, much done through a global pandemic. Important to acknowledge we've persevered
  - When this gets out into the public domain – it might be something unexpected. It will take a bit of people getting their head around this new system we've designed. A fair bit of effort will be needed to communicate how it's going to work

## **June - Workshop 22**

- held 8 and 9 June 2022 at Te Rau Aroha Marae in Bluff
- apologies from Kelsi Hayes, Paul Marshall, and Darren Rewi. Bernadette unavailable Day 1; Estelle Pera-Leask and Ewen Pirie unavailable Day 2.
- workshop purpose – the aim of this final workshop was to sign off the recommendations report; to share the draft package of advice with governance and provide an informal opportunity to explore concepts with the Forum; to celebrate the completion of the project and the impending delivery of the advice; and to recognise and thank everyone for their commitment, dedication, and mahi; to take some time together to reflect on the journey; and say farewells
- this workshop included:
  - a half day spent with Environment Southland councillors, Te Ao Marama Inc board members discussing the recommendations, and ES executives
  - a dinner with past and present Forum members; past and present support staff and consultants; Te Ao Marama Inc board members; and ES Councillors, executives, and senior managers
  - a debrief session and reflection time for the Forum members