



# REGIONAL FORUM

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

## RECORD OF WORKSHOP

Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 October 2020

Phase 3, Workshop 9 held at Riversdale Community Centre, Riversdale

### Present

Mata Cherrington  
David Diprose  
Kelsi Hayes  
Bernadette Hunt  
Paul Marshall  
Phil Morrison (deputy chair)  
Estelle Pera-Leask

Lisa Pearson  
Ewen Pirie  
Michelle Roberts  
Hayden Slee  
Fiona Smith (chair)  
Vaughan Templeton

### **Consensus was reached on:**

It was agreed that the Assessment Criteria the Regional Forum will use to inform their decision making when developing recommendations will go out for public consultation. This feedback will then be reviewed at the December Regional Forum meeting and a final agreement will be made on the questions that will be used when discussing options for their advice.

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

### **Focus of the workshop**

- Understanding the framework for determining the community values and objectives for freshwater and how the community and iwi values have been woven together.
- Take a closer look at the policy tools available which will help in the Regional Forum's decision making for recommendations
- Understand how to apply the tools through scenario testing
- Gain a sense of scale of the change likely to be required to meet Southland's freshwater objectives

## **Other areas of discussion**

Start and welcome

Bonny Lawrence, People, Water and Land programme manager opened the workshop with a karakia. Chair Fiona Smith led a discussion amongst the Regional Forum members on any matters they wanted to raise or reflect on since the last workshop in July at Riverton.

## **Sessions**

### **Values and Objectives Draft Freshwater Objectives - the process, key points and decision envelopes**

Eva Hendricks, principal iwi advisor at Te Ao Marama Inc took the forum through the process that was used to develop the values and objectives package. Eva highlighted that this is a ground-breaking piece of work in which iwi and community objectives have been woven together to produce a combined report. The process highlighted that iwi and the community shared many values and objectives which indicates that Southlanders have a shared understanding of what they consider important for freshwater management.

Following the presentation there was discussion around the importance of understanding the shared values and objectives and the role these have in the forums next phase of work.

### **The Southland Economic Project**

Emma Moran, senior policy analyst/economist at Environment Southland, took the forum through a session on the Southland Economic Project. The forum was introduced to how the project was developed, how industry and sector groups have been involved in the process and how the tools included in the project could be used. The projects' two reports - Agriculture and Forestry, and Urban and Industry - were discussed to show how they could be used to support the forums thinking. The forum were encouraged to read through the two reports, and to watch the video which was on the Southland Economic Project website <https://www.es.govt.nz/community/economy> to further develop their understanding.

### **Code of Conduct review**

Regional Forum chair Fiona Smith led a discussion on a review of the Forum's code of conduct which they had agreed when formed in 2019. A discussion was held around the role of mana whenua in decision making, especially when the striving for consensus section was discussed. The forum agreed that it was important for everyone involved to have a voice and that they would ensure that everyone was included in the conversations they were having. They are working on wording for this section of the code of conduct which will be finalised at the December workshop.

### **The Policy Toolbox**

Emma Moran, senior policy analyst/economist at Environment Southland, led a discussion on how regulation, education, financial mechanisms, research and development/ innovation are all tools which can be used when the forum is considering policy options. The forum was introduced to a concept of considering first which action they wanted to achieve, then thinking how this action plus the tool would equal the method selected.

Lauren Maciaszek, senior policy planner at Environment Southland, outlined how the 'top-down' approach worked using the policy tools contained in legislation such as the Resource Management Act, the Regional Policy Statement and the Regional Plan. Lauren showed what methods were currently applied for activities across the region using this framework. Thirty-one different activities were

considered including stormwater, tile drains, septic tanks, silage storage, wetlands and industrial discharges.

Anastazia Raymond, policy planner at Environment Southland, then looked at the 'bottom-up' approach including different actions-on-the-ground which are used throughout the region. The role of environmental education was highlighted, as well as industry driven groups and good management practice.

The forum then worked through an exercise to highlight which of the tools they would like more consideration of for the 31 different activities.

The forum indicated they had the most interest in understanding more about the tools in relation to wetlands, general discharges to water or land, community water supplies, cleanfill and landfill, industrial discharges, on-farm sediment traps and stormwater.

The forum discussed different ways they could approach their decision making, using the different tools in different situations.

### **Public Session (4.30pm-6.30pm Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October)**

The public session was an opportunity for the public to feedback their thoughts on the assessment criteria, which are a set of questions the forum will use when considering different options for ways to manage freshwater. The questions will guide their advice, be used as a checklist for group discussions and to report on the value of different options. The following questions are the assessment criteria which the forum is seeking further feedback on in November.

How is the option (or set of options) likely to:

1. Promote cultural equality?
2. Give active protection to the taonga of Ngāi Tahu?
3. Enable Ngai Tahu to fulfil their responsibilities as kaitiaki?

Is it effective?

To what extent is the option (or set of options) likely to:

1. Achieve the desired outcomes for fresh water (i.e. evidence-based)?
2. Be practical to implement?
3. Avoid unintended consequences that are reasonably foreseeable?
4. Recognise geographic variations?
5. Encourage more native aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity to help improve the health of waterbodies?

Is it efficient?

How is the option (or set of options) likely to:

1. Recognise the value of different types of assets important to local communities (i.e. people, financial, natural and built)?
2. Optimise resource use for the benefit of local communities (e.g. avoids resource banking)?
3. Give everyone more certainty, transparency, and understanding about the future?
4. Change (add to or subtract from) the resilience of local communities?
5. Give resource users flexibility in their activities and encourage innovation?

How fair is it?

How is the option (or set of options) likely to:

1. Result in everyone contributing to better environmental outcomes in ways that are proportional to:
  - a. their ability to contribute to outcomes;
  - b. the benefits they gain from resource use; and
  - c. the effects of their resource use?
2. Improve environmental outcomes for all local communities?
3. Recognise good environmental performance?
4. Recognise there are legacy issues from past generations and minimise them for future generations?
5. Support solutions that are generally acceptable to the people of Southland?

While there was only a small turnout at the public meeting, the feedback will be compiled with the feedback from the wider community consultation and discussed and considered at the December workshop.

### **Scenario testing**

Emma Moran held three sessions running through three different hypothetical scenarios on how applying the tools (such as reducing nitrogen, changing wastewater infrastructure, reducing erosion) could impact the region from an economic perspective. This was a pilot to show how the Southland Economic Model can be used. The scenarios were developed without specific science input (aside from within the economic model) or other input such as cultural or social considerations which will occur when actual scenarios are run in 2021. Models of each scenario were included to indicate how the implications of these hypothetical scenarios over time.

#### Scenario 1

Emma Moran ran through a presentation of a scenario on hypothetical nitrogen reductions. The presentation included models of how different options would impact in different ways across the region over the next 25 years. This encouraged the forum to understand how they could apply tools to create change and what the economic impacts could be by applying the different tools.

#### Scenario 2

Emma Moran also ran a hypothetical scenario session discussing sediment. The presentation showed models using 'slower – faster' and 'less action – more action' aspects. Considerations were made for options involving riparian buffers and retirement of steep land.

#### Scenario 3

The third scenario was on wastewater. The presentation included an acknowledgement that there are cultural concerns around the discharge of wastewater to water, and the implications this will have when new consents are being sought. The potential implications of wastewater treatment plant upgrades on rating revenue was included in the presentation

#### Summary

The forum members discussed each hypothetical scenario following each presentation and talked about how this process allowed them to consider different implications of applying different methods. Forum members were also asked to think about the draft assessment criteria questions they have

developed could apply to each scenario, as this will play an important part of their discussions going forward.

Topics of discussion included:

- How to apply equity to ensure any advice is fair
- How to prioritise what to do
- Effects of climate change on the modelling
- The role of innovation
- How do the scenario models link in with information coming through from the science team?
- What does a model of doing nothing look like?

#### Assessment Criteria in relation to scenario testing

Facilitator Barbara Nicholas ran through an exercise where the forum members were asked to consider how well they were able to use the assessment criteria when considering different options. The forum agreed it was a useful tool and they would now like to see if the community agreed with their criteria, which will be done through a period of public consultation.

#### **Contaminant reduction**

Science leads, Karen Wilson, team leader science, strategy and design at Environment Southland, and Ned Norton from Land, Water, People, presented the early key messages from science work to consider the reduction in contaminants from waterbodies that may be required to meet Southland's draft freshwater objectives. This work is ongoing and won't be completed until early next year but there are indications that sizeable reductions of contaminants (nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and *E.coli*) may be required across parts of the region.

Forum members discussed the links between reduction methods for different contaminants, what the contaminant information means in real terms, how this information may impact communities and how they will use this information to progress their discussion and thinking.

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

- We appreciate all the work that has been done in developing the modelling and understanding the science. We know the work is complex and understand why it has taken time to get to where we are now. We now feel that the muddy waters are now less muddy and there is a pathway forward.
- The scenario testing part of the workshop helped us understand how different methods could be used and how we'll be able to model the impacts of using these methods. It's challenging but we are now able to see what the work ahead will hold, and we know the value of this Kaupapa going forward.
- We are mindful that as we undertake further modelling, we will see different impacts across the region, and we take these things very seriously. We understand the value of talking with communities about this as we move going forward through the advice development process.
- We are looking forward to public feedback on our draft assessment criteria as these questions will help us focus our thinking and allow us to ask ourselves important questions as we progress through the options available.

- We know there will be increasing interest in what we're doing and we're looking at how we can make sure we're able to connect with people as we progress through the next 18 months.

The next in-person workshop will be held in Te Anau on 8 & 9 December 2020. The workshop will focus on planning going forward, gaining a deeper understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi, more information on the role of policy decision making and our communication strategy. Details of the public session are yet to be finalised.