

Waitaki Northern Fan Sub- regional Meeting

Agenda 1. General Information					
Meeting Date:	8 January 2015	Location:	Ikawai Hall, Ikawai		
Attended By:	Olivia Smith (Planner, Ecan), Emily Anderson (Land Management Advisor, Ecan), Judith Neilson (MGI), Robin Murphy (Lower Waitaki Zone Committee), Elizabeth Soal (WIC), Mitchell Bragg, Cuppy Shepherd, May Murphy, Joy Burke, Lindsay White, Gert Van't Klooster, Maurice Hellewall, Terry Cooney, James Dyer, Ron Mansfield, Paul Henshaw, Lyn and Digger McCulloch, Mark Hurst, Shane Lodge, Alex Taylor, Roger Small, Doug Hodder, Simon McRae, Simon Scott. Emily Anderson, Judith Neilson, Allan Hodder, Peter Brown, Mark Hodder, Marshall Smith				
Apologies:	Bruce McCulloch, Dave Gordon, John Gardener, John Stark	Organiser:	Olivia Smith	Meeting Notes:	Olivia Smith

2. Summary of Agenda Items	
Item	Description
How the group would function	<p>Olivia Smith encouraged the group to discuss how they will function over the coming months and identified the key roles. Olivia explained that Ecan will provide a group facilitator whose primary purpose will be to keep the group focused and ensure everyone has the opportunity to have their say. Olivia explained that Ecan will provide the required technical support however the tech team are stretched at present so will not be able to attend every meeting.</p> <p>Olivia suggested that the group may want to elect a chairperson who could conduct the formalities of the meetings. No nominations were brought forward at this time and it was confirmed that the group will reassess the need for a chair as they progress through the process. In the meantime Robin Murphy will continue to chair the meetings. It was also suggested that Olivia will continue to inform the zone Committee of the group's progress but suggested that in the future one or two representatives from the group may prefer to do this.</p> <p>It was agreed that the group will function as an open group and welcome other interest groups and stakeholders to attend meetings. Olivia emphasised the importance of ensuring that all stakeholders have an opportunity to contribute to the process and that meeting minutes be circulated to interested parties.</p>

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<p>Allocation Principles</p>	<p>Olivia explained the importance of developing a set of allocation principles which reflect what the community want to achieve in the catchment. To stimulate discussion Olivia explained the allocation principles decided by other nitrogen allocation groups such as the Hakataramea Nitrogen Allocation Reference Group. A community member requested that the principles be circulated to the group via email and then discussed further at the next meeting.</p> <p>Allocation principles from other nutrient allocation groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not overly favour one particular sector or interest group • Protect property owners' equity • Incentivise good nutrient management • Protect the ability of landholders to develop sustainably and allow for flexibility of land use • Maximise economic returns from the catchment • Recognise existing investment • Allow transition time to implement change • Simple, enforceable framework • Recognise environmental outcomes must be met • Maintain community cohesion • Framework which discourages localised hotspots
<p>Allocation options</p>	<p>Olivia explained that there are two key tasks the group needs to achieve by April 2015. These include recommending 1) a preferred load limit and 2) a preferred allocation approach, to the Zone Committee.</p> <p>The group was then reminded of the allocation option reading provided at the previous meeting and additional copies were then circulated. Olivia suggested that the group then discuss each of the allocation options and consider the pros and cons. The community feedback is as follows:</p> <p><u>Pure Grandparenting:</u></p> <p>Under grandparenting, nutrients are allocated based on current landuse.</p>

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Pros: Easy to understand and implement; everyone knows what to expect; certainty about actual/ potential environmental effects

Cons: Rewards high polluters; restricts those who are planning to develop in the future, doesn't incentivise GMP; inequality of land values; halts development in district; incentive to fudge number; will not result in improvements in water quality; environmental risks not mitigated or managed; doesn't reflect land use capability.

Equal Allocation

Under 'pure' equal allocation (or averaging), the load limit is averaged and every hectare of land gets the same nutrient allocation.

Pros: Easy to understand; fair; level playing field; could provide some flexibility for low emitters.

Cons: Potentially an environmental disaster- fails to focus on high risk areas; doesn't account for land capability (e.g. soil, slope etc.); fails to reward Good Management Practice (GMP); doesn't acknowledge existing or future investments entered into in good faith; limits future change of land use.

Modified Equal Allocation

Under this option the catchment is broken into a number of productivity zones (e.g. valley floor, steep cold country, hill country) and each zone gets a proportion of the catchment load based on its land-use capability. Within a zone each hectare of land in gets the same allocation.

Pros: Provides some equality; can minimise environmental risk in high risk areas i.e. set appropriate limits for land in close proximity to water bodies; can reflect land use capability to an extent.

Cons: Could be very disruptive especially to high emitters; doesn't necessarily take into account soils; confusing.

Top down- Bottom up Hybrid

This hybrid, used in South Canterbury Coastal Streams, requires Good Management Practice for all land-use. It provides a flexibility cap for low emitting land-uses to increase to and provides a maximum cap (based on soil type) that high emitting land-uses must manage down to over a transition time.

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	<p>Pros: Reflects land use capability; allows for land use change; manages environmental risk on light and very light soils; high emitter reduction results in load gain that can be distributed more fairly; provides flexibility for low emitters; allows transition time for high emitters; encourages GMP.</p> <p>Cons: Confusing; concern around how it could be monitored and enforced; relies on s mapping which has known inaccuracies; may cause considerable disruption to those that have recently invested in development.</p> <p>Allocation options will continue to be discussed in more detail at the future meetings using the decided principles to drive the conversation.</p>
<p>General Discussion</p>	<p>There were conversations around the timing of the sub-regional process especially in regard to the timing of the 'Matrix of Good Management (MGM)'. Olivia explained that the MGM is expected to be completed by August 2016. She acknowledged that it would be beneficial if it was available now for this process however it's not and we still need to progress with the best information that is currently available. Several community members enquired as to why we don't delay the process however Olivia explained that there are many advantages with completing the sub-regional process now such as the presence of the Ecan Act. Olivia said the current rules for the catchment are not necessarily the most appropriate, in terms of managing environmental effects, economic aspirations etc. therefore the sooner the community can work together and recommend locally appropriate management options the better.</p> <p>Several community members asked how they can inform decisions given the levels of uncertainty and inaccuracies in some of the technical information, such as s maps. Olivia acknowledged that we are making decisions in the face of uncertainty but there are various ways in which we can manage the risks associated with this. Olivia explained that there is no crystal ball, there will always be elements of uncertainty and risk regardless of when we complete this project- waiting for science is not the answer.</p> <p>Several community members questioned why Ecan are not following a similar approach to Otago Regional Council. Elizabeth Soal provided some explanation around the ORC approach and reinforced the benefits of the community having the ability to recommend management options suitable for their area. Roger Small added to this discussion, and explained that pros and cons of been involved in the South Canterbury Coastal Streams collaborative process. Roger explained</p>

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	<p>that making decisions from the bottom up was far better than having a generic top down blanket approach however he acknowledged that there are challenging times.</p>
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Several members of the group expressed concern about how the group can progress with developing a preferred allocation when they have not yet confirmed a preferred load limit. The group said that they want to know numbers so they can better understand how the allocation options may affect them. The group requested that Ecan tech staff provide load information and help them determine a load which will enable them to meet NPS requirements and the outcomes the community seek.</p> <p>Olivia explained that there are two options for the next meeting- 1) the group could further explore the allocation options they are most interested in, or 2) could focus on establishing a preferred load limit. There was consensus that the focus of the next meeting should be solely on the catchment load. Olivia advised that technical support will be required at that meeting and will confirm the availability of the technical team prior to setting the next meeting date. The groups asked that public advertising and a mailbox drop are completed prior to the next meeting to increase awareness in the catchment.</p>

3. Proposed items for next meeting(s)

Description	Next Meeting Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Allocation Principles • Recommend a draft load limit <p>Please invite your neighbors and friends to the upcoming meeting</p>	<p>29th January 4-6pm Ikawai Hall</p>