

Report to Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee 18 September 2015 – Decision Required

File No: 03 04 14, 23 10 09
Date: 31 August 2015
To: Chief Executive Officer
From: Independent CSG Chair and Director Science and Strategy
Subject: **Collaborative Stakeholder Group's values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa rivers**
Section B (for Recommendation to council)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline the Collaborative Stakeholder Group's (CSG's) agreed list of values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa rivers (values and uses), why the CSG has developed them, and the process the CSG has followed in their development.

Recommendation:

1. That the report **Collaborative Stakeholder Group's values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa rivers** (Doc # 3487796 dated 31 August 2015) be received for information.
2. That the Collaborative Stakeholder Group's values and uses are endorsed in principle by the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee and recommended to Council for approval.

Background

Identifying values and uses is a key step in developing policy, as set out in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014. The role of values and uses in the development of policy is outlined in Figure 1.

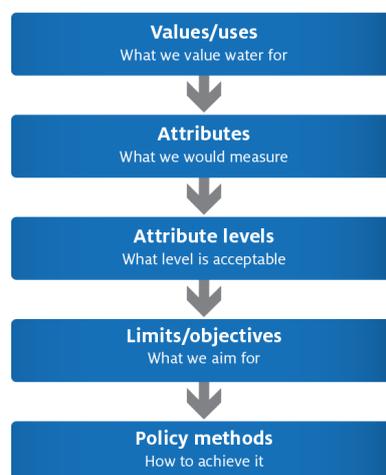


Figure 1: The role of values and uses in developing policy.

In setting objectives, limits and targets for catchments, a required step is to consider which of the national values apply to that catchment, and whether there are any additional values that also apply. The CSG have been considering values and uses from a range of different people, groups and perspectives since forming in March 2014, including working with River Iwi staff in considering Te Ture Whaimana – Vision and Strategy of the Waikato River and the values expressed in the objectives. The Committee have previously received updates on this process, and the opportunity to provide input on the discussion¹.

Developing a ‘working list’ of values and uses

The CSG have been considering values and uses from a range of different people, groups and perspectives since forming in March 2014. To draft a working list of the values and uses the CSG received the following key inputs into their deliberations:

- CSG members gave presentations on their values and a snapshot of their sectors, at CSG2, 7 May 2014.
- Staff presented a summarised list of values from research on community values, at CSG2, 7 May 2014.
- Staff presented a comparison of values expressed in Te Ture Whaimana – Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River, Resource Management Act 1991, key objectives in the Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement decisions version and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014, at CSG5, 14 August 2014.
- CSG members participated in fieldtrips, presentations and feedback from networks at each CSG workshop.

These inputs enabled the CSG to develop a working list of values and uses and share this at the October 2014 Large Stakeholder Forum. At this stage the working list of values and uses consisted of an overarching value of ‘Identity and sense of place through interconnections of land with water’, and the following 11 values and uses:

- Ecosystem health
- Human health for recreation
- Natural form and character
- Mahinga kai and fishing
- Farming
- Wai tapu
- Water supply
- Commercial, municipal and industrial use
- Electricity generation
- Transport and tauranaga waka
- Geothermal

Feedback was gathered from this forum and provided to the CSG. Since October 2014 the CSG has continued to work on the values and uses list. CSG members continued to participate in presentations, fieldtrips and feedback from their networks at each CSG workshop. River Iwi staff provided feedback at CSG10, March 5-6 2015. This feedback was developed following a values hui in December 2014 organised by River Iwi staff.

The working list of values and uses was included in a CSG update report to the Committee in April 2015, with the opportunity for the Committee to provide any comments back to the CSG.

¹ Report to Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee - Collaborative Stakeholder Group Progress Report - 17 April 2017, DM# 3325934 and Report to Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee - Collaborative Stakeholder Group Progress report - 14 August 2015, DM# 3453962.

Incorporating feedback and making edits

The CSG requested at CSG11, April 23-24 2015, that staff summarise feedback on the values, specifically the key themes and ‘what’s broken’, and for the chair and facilitator to bring back recommended wording for CSG review. Under instruction from the chairperson, staff undertook this analysis and specifically focused on feedback from River iwi staff and the Large Stakeholder Forum October 2014. A detailed gaps analysis assessment was also undertaken, which assessed feedback from presentations, fieldtrips, technical reports on iwi cultural values, River iwi environmental management plans and other relevant documents.

Considering those key themes from the feedback, staff made the following amendments to the list of values and uses:

- The addition of the Vision from the Vision and Strategy, and a statement about the importance of the Vision and Strategy.
- The addition of a diagram showing how the values and uses fit into the Mana Atua Mana Tangata framework.
- The reorganisation of the values into Mana Atua – intrinsic values, and Mana Tangata – use values. The Mana Tangata – use values were grouped into cultural and social use values, and economic use values.
- The rewording of values to focus on why the rivers are important to that value.
- A shortening of some values to ensure balance in length.
- Explanatory dot points and listed words were written into sentences.

These edits changed the general look of the document, by starting with a focus on the Vision and Strategy and orientating the values within the Mana Atua Mana Tangata framework.

The CSG considered those edits at CSG13, 2-3 July 2015, instructing staff on a number of detailed matters around wording and pitch of various sections. River Iwi staff present confirmed while there is more work to do that they were comfortable with the direction the work was heading, subject to some further work around adequately capturing River Iwi values. In order to address this issue a selection of CSG community representatives committed to worked with the Iwi Technical Advisor and some River Iwi staff between workshops.

At CSG14, 9-10 August 2015, the CSG finalised the values and uses document. The final edits included adding a value on the historical relationship between the rivers and River Iwi (the outcome of work done by the Iwi Technical Advisor and CSG community representatives), adding a value on mitigating flood hazards, and minor wording amendments to ensure consistency between the values and flow of the document as a whole. CSG agreed on the values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa rivers and recommended that the list go to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee for endorsement.

This process is summarised in Figure 2 below.

<p>March – October 2014</p> <p>October 2014</p>	<p>CSG member presentations Community research Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014</p> <p>Large Stakeholder Forum</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Fieldtrips</p> <p>Presentations to CSG workshops</p> <p>Feedback</p>
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March 2015	Feedback from River iwi staff	from networks
April 2015	Review of all information to date Gaps analysis Re-craft of values	
July 2015	Additional work to capture River iwi cultural values	
August 2015	Finalised and sent to Committee for endorsement	

Figure 2: A summary of the process to develop the CSG's values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa rivers

Conclusion

Identifying values and uses is a key step in developing policy, as set out in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014. The CSG has followed an extensive process to develop these including taking feedback from a large stakeholder forum, presentations, fieldtrips, community engagement, feedback from their sectors, feedback from River iwi staff, technical reports on iwi cultural values, River iwi environmental management plans and other relevant documents. The CSG has agreed a list of values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa rivers for endorsement by the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee.

Assessment of significance

Having had regard to the decision making provisions in the Local Government Act 2002 and the council's Policy on Significance, a decision in accordance with the recommendation is not considered to have a high degree of significance.

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Independent Chairperson of the Collaborative Stakeholder Group

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Director Science and Strategy

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1: Values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa rivers (*Document #3487849*)

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