



TAIRĀWHITI

REGIONAL FRESHWATER PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP

Hui #7 agenda, minutes, and actions

Held at Waikanae Surf Club, Gisborne at 9:00am

Advisory Group facilitator	Dr Jill Chrisp
Advisory Group members present	Stan Pardoe, Seanne Williams, Dave Hawea, Dianne Irwin, Taylor Howatson, Colin Kerlake, Alan Haronga, Phil Gaukrodger, Samuel Lewis, Shanna Cairns, Murray Palmer, Laura Watson, Owen Lloyd, Joss Ruifrok, Leo Kelso, Jacob Harrison, Sid (Guest)
Council	Janic Slupski, Katrina Ungco, Ariel Yann le Chew, Sarah Thompson, Abi Wiseman Lois Easton, Wolfgang Kanz, Adele Dawson
Apologies	Mere Tamanui, Hannah Kohn, Bella Hawkins, Matawhero Lloyd, Bronwyn Wilson-Hokianga (resigned), Elizabeth Kamana (resigned)

Agenda

Session 1 – General overview	
1. Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga	09:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Housekeeping Minutes and actions from hui #6 	
Session 2 – Water Quantity	
2. Water Quantity management - issues	09:15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory context - 10min Issues/Significance/Questions/ Brainstorm + report back - 30min Current state - 5min Future water supply and demand - 5min Issues - 5min 	
Leg stretch & cuppa tea	10:10
Session 3	
3. Group exercise and discussion	10:25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break-out session 1 (Identified issues), Report back – 25 min Break-out session 2 (Other issues) Report back – 25 min Wrap – up /next steps - 5min	
4. Closing karakia	11:25

Summary of actions

Tasks to be actioned

No tasks were raised for action.

Minutes

Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga

1. The hui commenced at 9:00 with an opening karakia.
2. Minutes and actions from the hui held on 13 March 2024 were taken as read and accepted as an accurate reflection.
3. Staff outlined housekeeping matters and reminded members of the Ka Hao Kupenga framework and principles guiding how the group operates.
4. Staff acknowledged the limitations of navigating complex regional water issues within a large group setting and welcomed further conversations alongside the Regional Freshwater Planning Advisory Group process.
5. A member noted that Karakatuwhero river has not been mentioned in discussions. Staff explained that discussions on specific rivers will occur through the catchment planning process, in this case through the Wharekahika-Waikura (Northern) Catchment Plan.

Water quantity management issues and group discussion

6. Staff outlined the agenda for the day focused on regional water quantity issues.
7. A member raised the need for expert advice on the impacts of water quantity provisions on businesses and the community, as well as the environment, to inform discussions. Staff noted this hui is the start of the process and focuses on the problem definition. Technical work is underway with the intention to model social, economic, and cultural impacts alongside environmental impacts.
8. Staff set out the context for water quantity management: what it means, key concepts and the requirements under the NPS-FM. Water quantity provisions play an important part in how we achieve outcomes and visions for FMUs.
9. Staff described the current approach to water quantity management under the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP), including current limit frameworks for rivers/streams and groundwater and the first-in first-served allocation model.
10. In response to questions, staff clarified that there is no volumetric charge for water, only the cost of the consent. The current system provides for water permits to be transferred, but the economic aspect of this is arranged between parties and is not regulated by Council.
11. In small groups, members discussed issues and concerns about water quantity management, why water quantity is important, and what questions they have about water quantity management. Transcribed feedback is included at **Appendix 1**.

Importance of water quantity in Tairāwhiti

12. Staff set out the current state of water allocation in Tairāwhiti and why it is important for supporting economic benefits and freshwater values (including ecosystem health, mana whenua values and social wellbeing). The focus is particularly in the Waipaoa catchment, where abstractive uses are concentrated.

13. Staff presented findings from technical work looking at how water supply and demand are changing in Tairāwhiti and implications for environmental flows and groundwater abstraction.
14. Staff outlined potential issues, including: the first-in, first-served allocation system; the complexity of transitioning to a new system; giving effect to Te Mana o Te Wai; the discrepancy between allocated volumes vs. actual use; perceptions of ownership of water, and the impacts of climate change. Staff noted that this will be discussed at a later hui.
15. There was discussion around the need for new water to be considered, given projected growth and climate change impacts. A member asked for an update on Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR), which staff noted would be discussed in a later hui.
16. In response to a member's question about examples of clawing back allocation, staff noted the significant reduction in (mostly paper) allocation in both the Makauri Aquifer and Waipaoa river since the introduction of the current Plan. Reaching the next targets would likely mean cuts in actual use.

Workshop session

17. In small groups, members discussed the following questions:
 - (a) Do you agree the issues should be addressed in the new regional freshwater plan?
 - (b) Do you have any perspectives or local experiences that can expand on describing these issues?
 - (c) What other issues are there with water quantity management in Tairāwhiti that need to be addressed in the new regional freshwater plan?
 - (d) What information do we need to understand to address the issues?
18. Members reported back the following points:
 - (a) Equity of access to water: We have clawed back paper allocation, but demand is still greater than supply. That's an equity issue because it shuts out iwi partners. Decision making structures will be key to achieving equitable allocation.
 - (b) Optics around availability of water: When businesses come in with significant resources, they can get ahead of the game over local interests.
 - (c) Issues could be the source of solutions: We need to try new things. Examples included alternative use and disposable (AUD), Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR), and water storage such as dams.
 - (d) Consider a system where those taking water must replace it either through financially contributing to a recharge/storage system or doing this within their system.
 - (e) Consider where water sources are geographically close and could recharge each other, and where rivers could be diverted to save water.
 - (f) We need to understand the actual use of water and look at smart systems that reflect the nuance of times at which water is available.
 - (g) Attracting investment that benefits the region is key: Water (alongside energy and infrastructure) are key to credible investment in Tairāwhiti on our terms.
 - (h) Consider how we give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai (TMOTW).
 - (i) Focus on practice too: We all have a role in water conservation on a practical level, regardless of the scale.

Next steps and wrap up

19. Staff thanked members for their contributions and outlined the next two hui on water allocation. At Hui 8 on 29 May, the Group will consider options for the approach to limit setting and allocation. In Hui 9 in July, the Group will consider managing water limits (reducing water use and increasing water availability).
20. The hui closed at 11:25 with a karakia and a shared lunch.

PARKING LIST

The following matters have been captured from discussions of the **TAIRĀWHITI REGIONAL FRESHWATER PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP** hui. They are captured here to be incorporated as supplementary recommendations in the Group's final report and/or responded to directly.

Ref	Item/Action	Date raised	Status
T11	Future discussion on stock exclusion regulations and implications.	16/8/23	Ongoing
T16	Provide opportunity for members to actively participate in the information analysis processes as we progress through plan development.	11/10/23	Ongoing
T19	Invitation extended to identify any emerging topics that can be explored in more detail within a smaller group. The goal is to share the findings more broadly afterward.	15/11/23	Ongoing: Staff meeting with local growers to further consider water quantity options
T20	Future discussions to include business sector, as current discussions only have environmental and community aspects.	13/12/23	In progress: Economic implications of options will be assessed as we progress our thinking.
T21	Revisit discussion on beds of rivers and lakes.	13/12/23	Date TBC
T23	Share Council's access to high-quality information, inclusive of technical reports, scientific findings and government policy updates.	13/03/24	Ongoing – Research papers linked on GDC website.
T24	Request to have more information on the Mangapoike Dam, how it was formed naturally, and then opened up through human intervention	13/03/24	Report to FWAG in progress

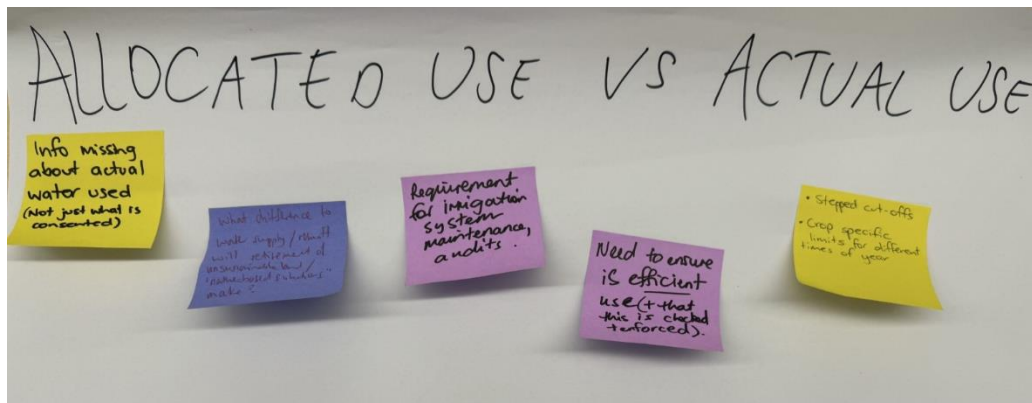
Appendix 1: Written feedback on water quantity issues

Questions

In small groups, members recorded responses to the following prompts:

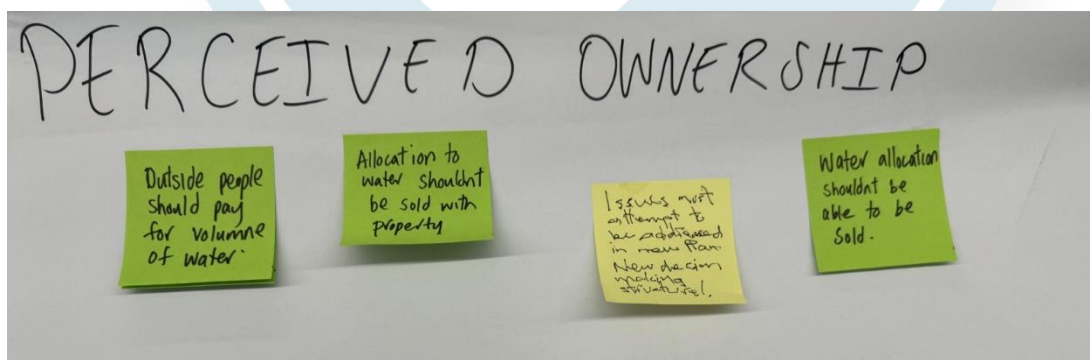
- Issues or concerns about water quantity management
- Why is water quantity important to you?
- What questions do you have about water quantity management?

Allocated use vs Actual Use



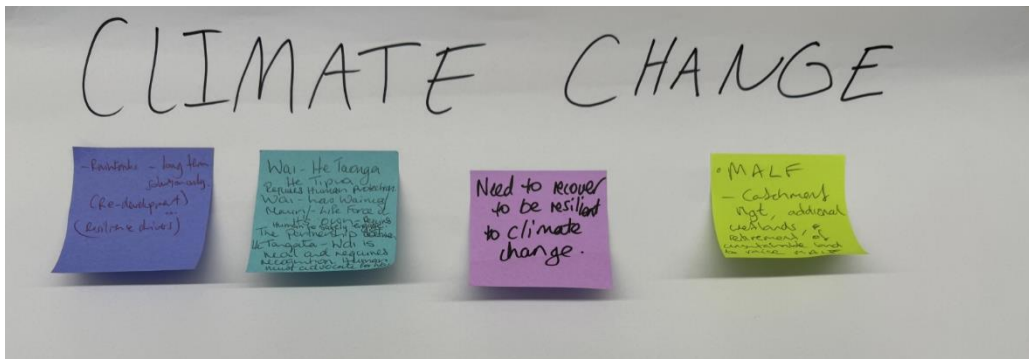
- Info missing about actual water used (not just what is consented)
- What difference to water supply/runoff will retirement of unsustainable land/'nature-based solutions' make?
- Stepped cut-offs
- Crop specific limits for different times of year
- Requirement for irrigation system maintenance, audits

Perceived Ownership



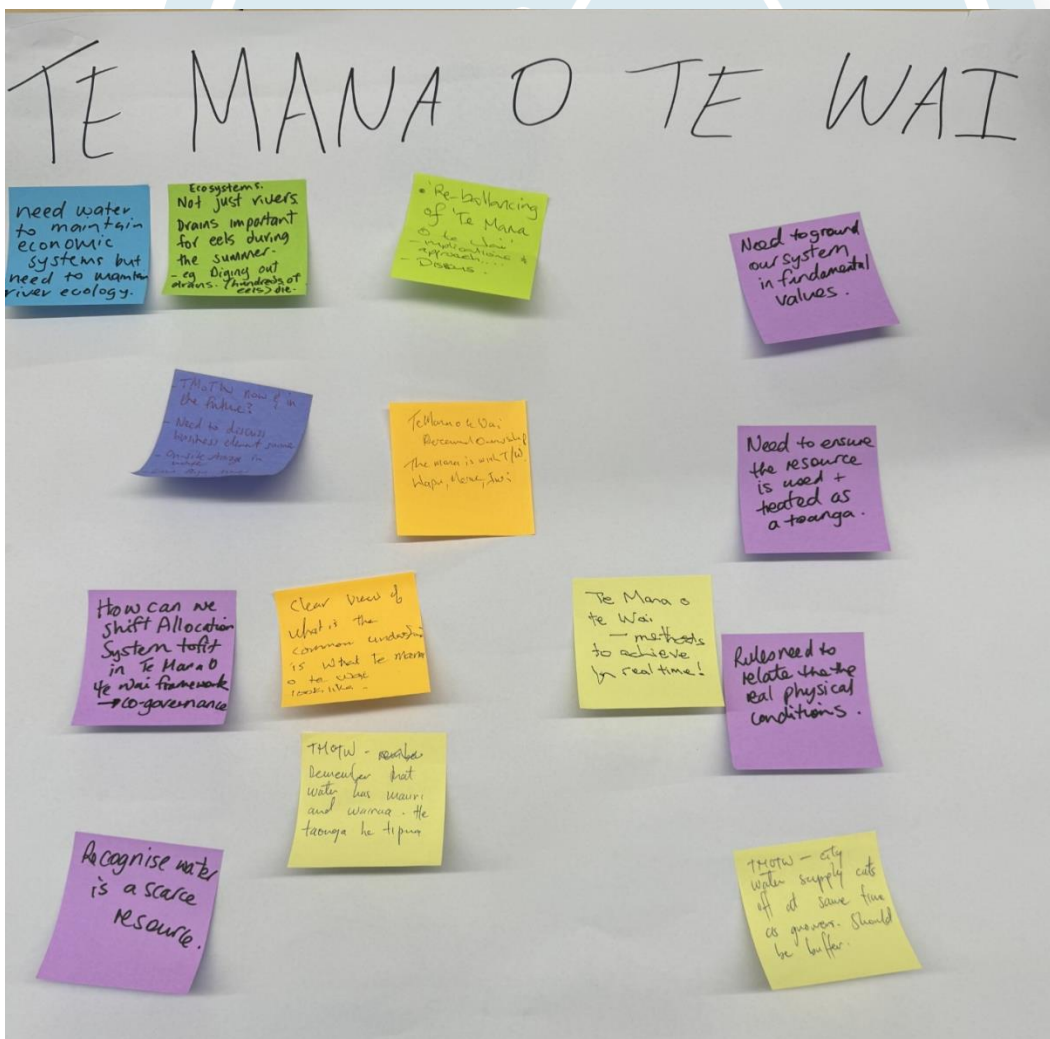
- Outside people should pay for volume of water
- Allocation of water shouldn't be sold with property
- Water allocation shouldn't be able to be sold
- Issues must attempt to be addressed in new plan, new decision-making structure

Climate Change



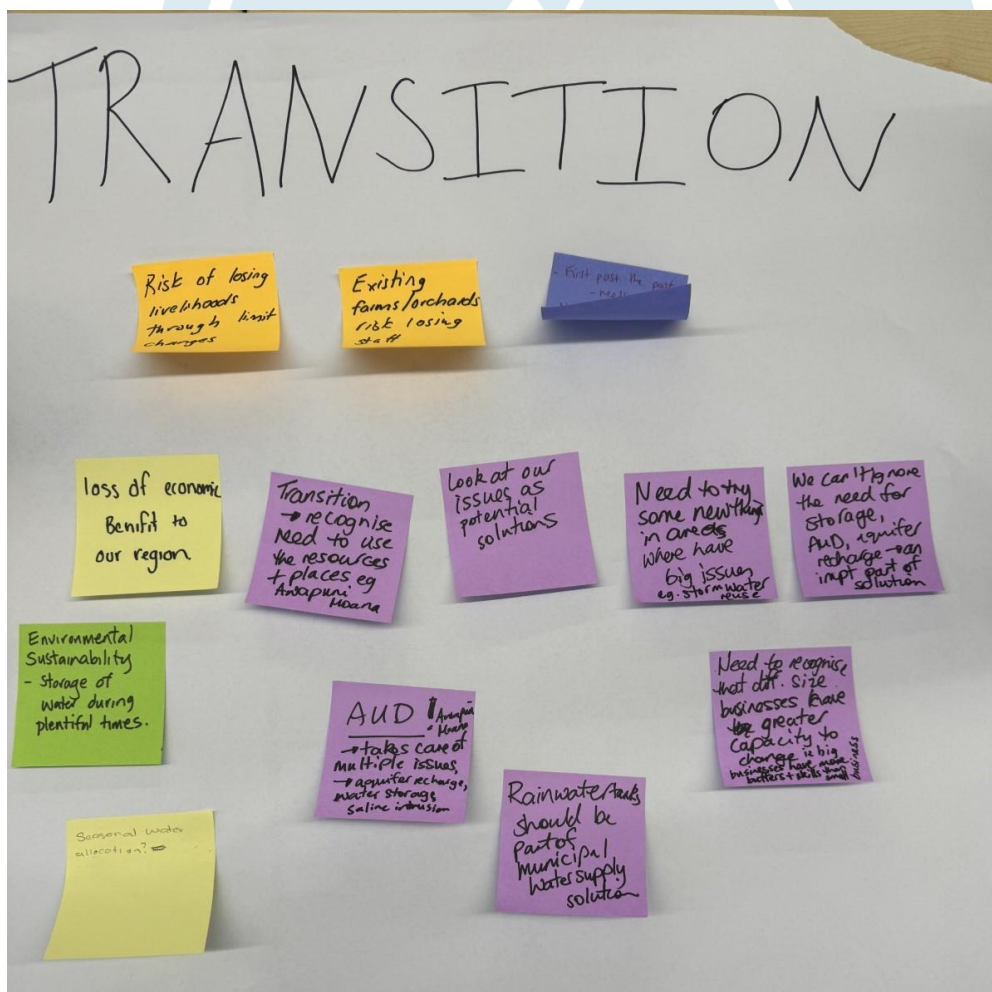
- Rain tanks - long term solution only (Redevelopment) (Resilience drivers)
- Wai – He Taonga He Tipua requires human protection. Wai – has Wairua / Mauri / life force of its own – Requires human to safely engage. The partnership between He Tangata – Wai is heal and requires recognition. Human must advocate for Wai.
- Need to recover to be resilient to climate change
- MALF – catchment management, additional wetlands, retirement of unsustainable land to raise MALF

Te Mana O Te Wai



- Need water to maintain economic systems but need to maintain river ecology
- Ecosystems not just rivers. Drains important for eels during the summer – e.g. Digging out drains (hundreds of eels) die
- Re-balancing of 'Te Mana o te Wai' - implications and approach, discuss...
- Need to ground our system in fundamental values
- TMOTW now and in the future?
- Need to discuss business element sooner
- On-site storage in winter
- Low flow times limited
- Te Mana o te Wai perceived ownership. The mana is with T/W, Hapu, Marae, Iwi
- Need to ensure the resource is used and treated as a taonga
- How can we shift allocation system to fit in the Te Mana o Te Wai framework – co governance
- Clear view of what is the common understanding is what Te Mana o te Wai looks like
- Te Mana o te Wai – methods to achieve in real time!
- Rules need to relate the real physical conditions
- Recognise water is a scarce resource
- TMOTW – remember that water has mauri and wairua. He taonga he tipua
- TMOTW – city water supply cuts off at same time as growers. Should be buffer

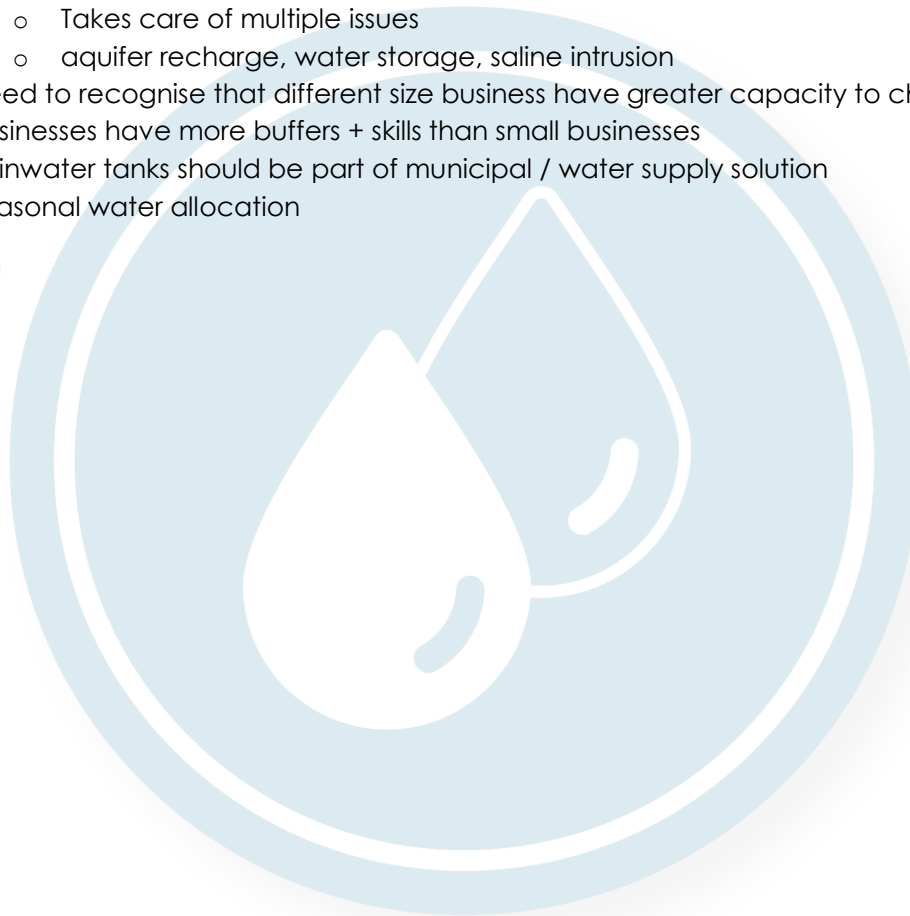
Transition



- Risk of losing livelihoods through limit changes

- Existing farms/orchards risk losing staff
- First past the post – needs a change?
- Need to preserve the current economic investment and overall economic sector
- Loss of economic benefit to our region
- Transition – recognise need to use the resources and places e.g. Awapuni Moana
- Look at our issues as potential solutions
- Need to try some new things in areas where have big issues e.g. stormwater reuse
- We can't ignore the need for storage, AUD, aquifer recharge – an important part of solution
- Environmental Sustainability – storage of water during plentiful times
- AUD!
 - Awapuni moana
 - Takes care of multiple issues
 - aquifer recharge, water storage, saline intrusion
- Need to recognise that different size business have greater capacity to change in big businesses have more buffers + skills than small businesses
- Rainwater tanks should be part of municipal / water supply solution
- Seasonal water allocation

Allocation





- Water permit a property right in all but name! Who should transfer such rights?
- Transfer -> DH adds value to farm
 - It's about access to water equity
 - Waimaori consent
- Ūawa could be a place to trial a new allocation system
- Should take limits be linked to MALF rather than static figures?
- The current plan criteria are too narrowly interpreted e.g. reasonable use
- Need to trial alternative allocation options in the catchments not overallocated
- If you take water, you need to be able to replace it. Benefiting all – not just a few (Whatever we do for allocation)
- Let's create a different allocation system not first in first serve
- The current system creates a proprietary right for water – that is a problem
- Different structure for decision making regarding permits – using models provided by NPSFM
- Live monitored water use could be useful as not all water users are irrigating at the same time

- Climate change growth possible solution: Change mouth of Waipaoa to bridge, and consider treated water from wastewater plant for irrigation.
- Transfer system in the TRMP should be ditched
 - Supports monopoly
- Need a wider range of values to be applied to how allocate water
- Difficult for new entrants under current system
- More dynamic system needed
- Allocation needs to watch the actual need or varying demand
- Current allocation is not just about that property, but overall economic / job sector / community
- Need to have a dedicated [drinking?] water supply
- Allocation regime is wrong – doesn't allow for worst production
 - Not flexible enough
- Water storage consideration of GDC owned reservoir / (joint) dam in upstream area to feed in Waipaoa R during drought for drinking / commercial
- Needs to be responsibility for use of water
- Water supply for city industries is critical
- Loss of current allocation will cause economic and job loss to many people
- In dry times the Waipaoa aquic lake compete with water supply
- Ideally need another robust drinking water supply
- Drive efficiencies through cost to user
- Is it fair for 1 landowner to get full allocation other none? First in the system, first self?
- Fairness vs Equity – how do we strike a balance?
- First in first serve system – Mana whenua should have rights / listen to them
- Allocation (see Dave explain) Tangata whenua wanted to grow kiwi fruit plan / finance worked on it all told (no) water over allocated.
- Sustainability. Storage of water during plentiful times, dams, reservoirs, tanks?
- First in first serve
 - Everyone should set up storage facilities
 - No incentive to store water if allocation guarantee
- But need to drive efficiencies to free up allocation:
 - Paper allocation
 - Actual use
 - Efficiencies
- Kiwi fruit growers' authority from other areas. Coming in buy land with allocated or buying permits from locals.
- Equitable allocation
- Local should be given first preference
- Kiwifruit expansion over last 5-10 years
- Reduction of current and future allocation will push high value
- Permanent horticulture crops out of the region devaluing land and sobs
- Allocated use – are businesses intentionally using more water during 'normal years in order to preserve allocations for drought years?
- Wastewater reuse
 - Currently pumped to sea outfall
 - Reuse with advanced treatment to other uses
- Compliance is key

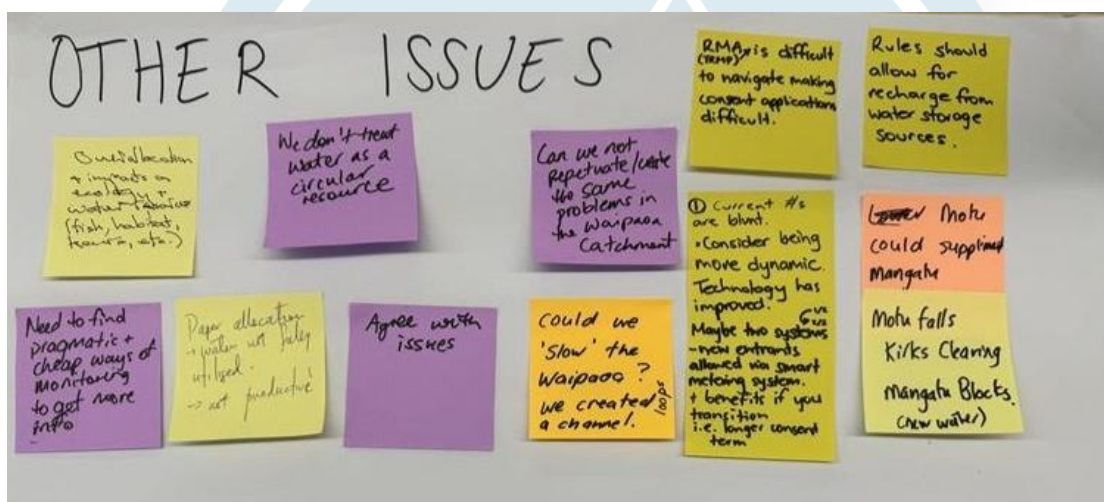
Questions

QUESTIONS

Does council / other groups have any plans for building more water storage capabilities lakes - dams etc.

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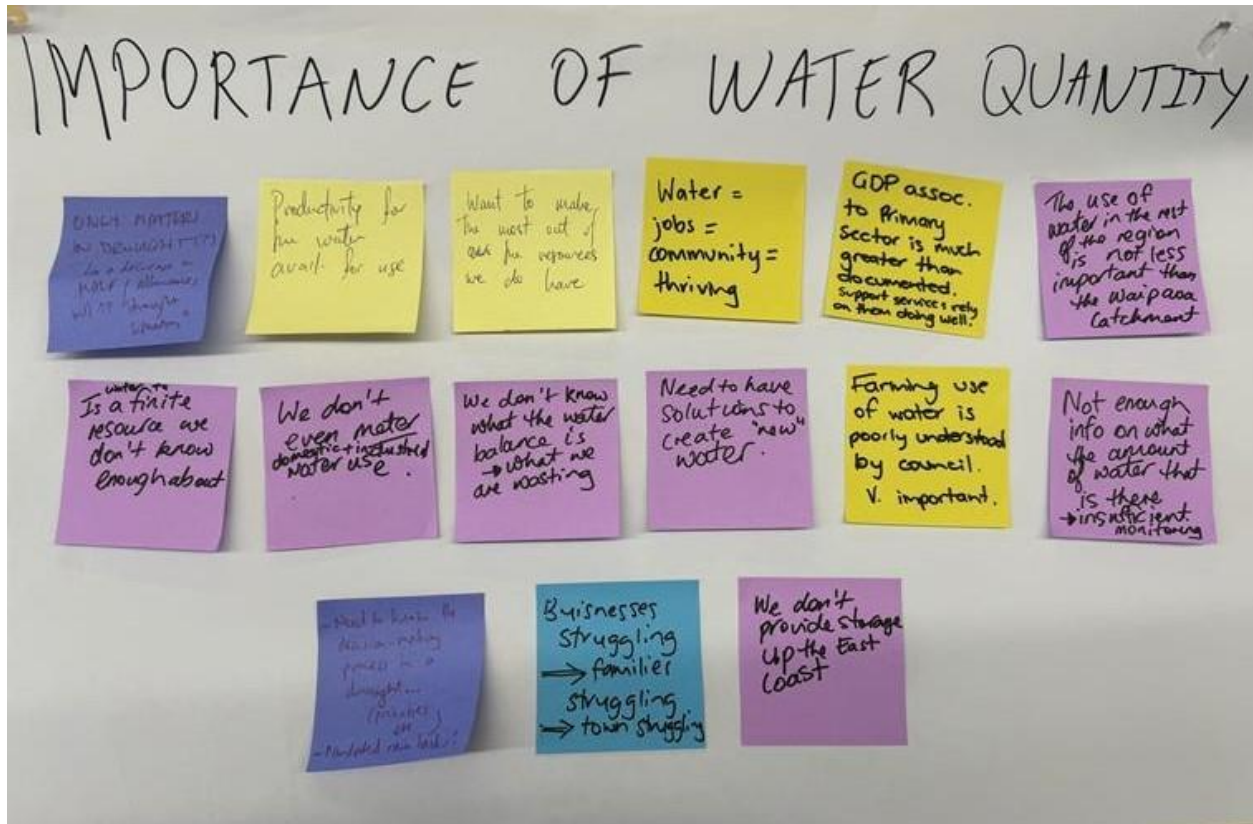
Other Issues



- Motu could supplement Mangatu
 - Motu falls Kirks Clearing to Mangatu Blocks (new water)
- Rules should allow for recharge from water storage sources
- Overall location + impacts on ecology + water resources (fish, habitat, Kaura, etc.)
- We don't treat water as a circular resource
- Need to find pragmatic + cheap ways of monitoring to get more info
- Paper allocation
 - Water not fully utilised
 - Not productive
- Agree with issues
- Can we not perpetuate / create the same problems in the Waipaoa catchment
- Could we 'slow' the Waipaoa? We created a channel (add loops back)
- RMA (TRMP) is difficult to navigate making consent applications difficult
- Current #s are blunt
 - Consider being more dynamic
 - Technology has improved
 - Maybe two systems

- New entrants allowed via smart metering system + benefits if you transition i.e. longer consent term

Importance of Water Quantity



- The use of water in the rest of the region is not less important than the Waipaoa Catchment
- GDP assoc. To Primary sector is much greater than documented. Support services rely on them doing well.
- Water = jobs = community = thriving
- Want to make the most out of the resources we do have
- Productivity for the water available for use
- Only matters in drought (?)
 - A decrease in MALF // allowances will increase "drought situations"
- Not enough info on what the amount of water that is there
 - Insufficient monitoring
- Farming use of water is poorly understood by council – very important
- Need to have solutions to create "new" water
- We don't know what the water balance is
 - What we are wasting
- We don't even meter domestic + industrial water use
- Water too is a finite resource we don't know enough about
- Need to know the decision-making process in a drought... (priorities, etc)
- Mandated rain tanks
- Businesses struggling
 - Families struggling
 - Town struggling
- We don't provide storage up the East Coast

