Freshwater – Future Management !

Regional Council Future's Workshop 2010

3rd November 2010

West Plaza Hotel – Wellington

Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

MAF

New Start for Fresh Water

In June 2009 Cabinet agreed to:

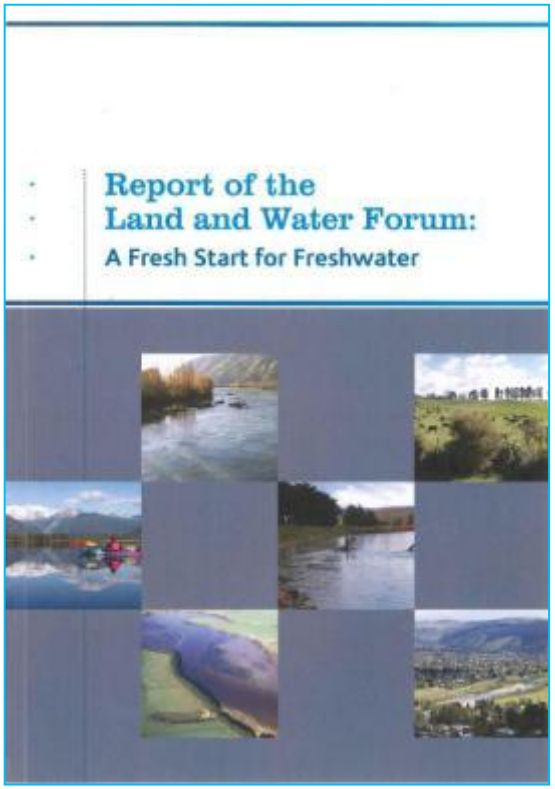
- role for Land and Water Forum
- ongoing discussions between Iwi Leaders Group and Ministers
- officials' workstream to scope policy options in the areas expected to be the main elements of the new direction

Land and Water Forum

- Purpose: to use a stakeholder-led collaborative process to develop a shared understanding

- Brief: a report recommending shared outcomes, goals and long-term strategies for freshwater in New Zealand, and options to achieve them

Land and Water Forum Report



- Released 22 Sep 2010
- LAWF to engage with public 2010 - 11 on the report
- Government to consider response after public feedback

Officials' work programme

- Scoping of issues and options – not development of a government position
- Initial focus on setting and managing to limits & maximising the value of fresh water
- Explicit brief to look beyond the RMA
- Only targeted & technical discussions with stakeholders during LAWF process

RMA instruments under NSFW

- Water measuring devices
  - regulations operative 10 Nov 2010
- Ecological flows NES
  - referred to LAWF; on hold
- NPS on Freshwater Management
  - consideration of LAWF recommendations by end 2010

Officials' work programme

- Ten project areas across:
  - governance, quality and flows, allocation, supporting measures, rural water infrastructure, science and monitoring
- Leading to a series of technical working papers later this year

‘Indicative direction’, 2009

Main elements of expected new direction:

- More central government leadership & direction
- Contribution of water infrastructure / storage
- Filling technical / information / capability gaps
- Limits shaping action on quality and quantity
- Allocating to ecological & public uses, then maximising $ value from remaining water
- Supporting measures underpinning management

New Start for Fresh Water:
Freshwater Science

10 main areas limiting the effectiveness of science in freshwater management:

- **Research not led by clear national level objectives or direction for freshwater outcomes**
- **Insufficient social & economic research (& integration with biophysical science)**
- **No clear 'map' of all existing research, how it links together, & the links to outcomes**
- **Competition for science compromises research outputs and uptake**
- **Research outputs disparate in location, with sporadic promotion to end-users**

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Freshwater Science: ***cont.***

- **Research funding & priority changes undermine NZ's freshwater science research capacity & the long-term science itself**
- **Variable capacity at regional level affects science uptake into policy**
- **Current shortage of skilled, qualified freshwater scientists and policy analysts, with limited integration between the two disciplines**
- **Science uptake by resource users inhibited by a traditional focus on 1-on-1 technology transfer, and industry drivers that focus on maximising production**
- **Role of Mātauranga Māori in freshwater management is inhibited by poor understanding of the concept, & governance arrangements for Māori to exercise their kaitiaki role.**

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Primary Policy Areas…

- Limits (quantity and quality)
- Allocation (quantity and quality)
- Governance

Future management…….

- Crystal ball
- Decisions made / implemented at the Catchment or zone
- The Challenge

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Questions?