

Community held values of rivers, lakes and streams in the Waikato and Waipa River catchments



- collate and summarise a range of information on the values people hold for the Waikato and Waipa rivers
- range of sources and methods of data gathering
- share an overview of the findings with CSG
- one input to values conversation

Approach

- Document review
 - Research from last 15-20 years
 - Eg WRISS, submissions to RPS
- Qualitative assessment - focus groups
 - Hamilton, Te Awamutu, Putaruru and Huntly in 2012
- Quantitative assessment - telephone survey
 - 1002 residents of Waikato Region in 2012



Key themes

- Water quality underpins a range of values



Environmental values

- Essential part of natural environment
- Cleanliness single most important aspect
- Water pollution/quality consistently most important issue
- Looked to indicators to decide
 - Clarity, odour, debris
 - Rubbish
 - Weeds and pests
- Naturalness




***“We want a clean, unpolluted environment
which is open to people and the wild life and
the plants that go with it...”***

Focus group participant, Key Research 2012

Community and individual values

- Rivers widely used by community
- Provided for social, cultural and recreational needs of the community
- Sustains community wellbeing
- Shared sense of responsibility
- Opportunities for learning
- Part of family life



“It isn’t just about our life, it is about the future generations in terms of resources and how we use and treat them...”

Focus group participant, Key Research 2012

Iwi and Māori values

- Mahinga kai
- Significant sites
- Taonga species
- Recreation
- Wai
- Unique inter-relationships for each iwi
- Cultural and spiritual relationship with water



Iwi and Māori values

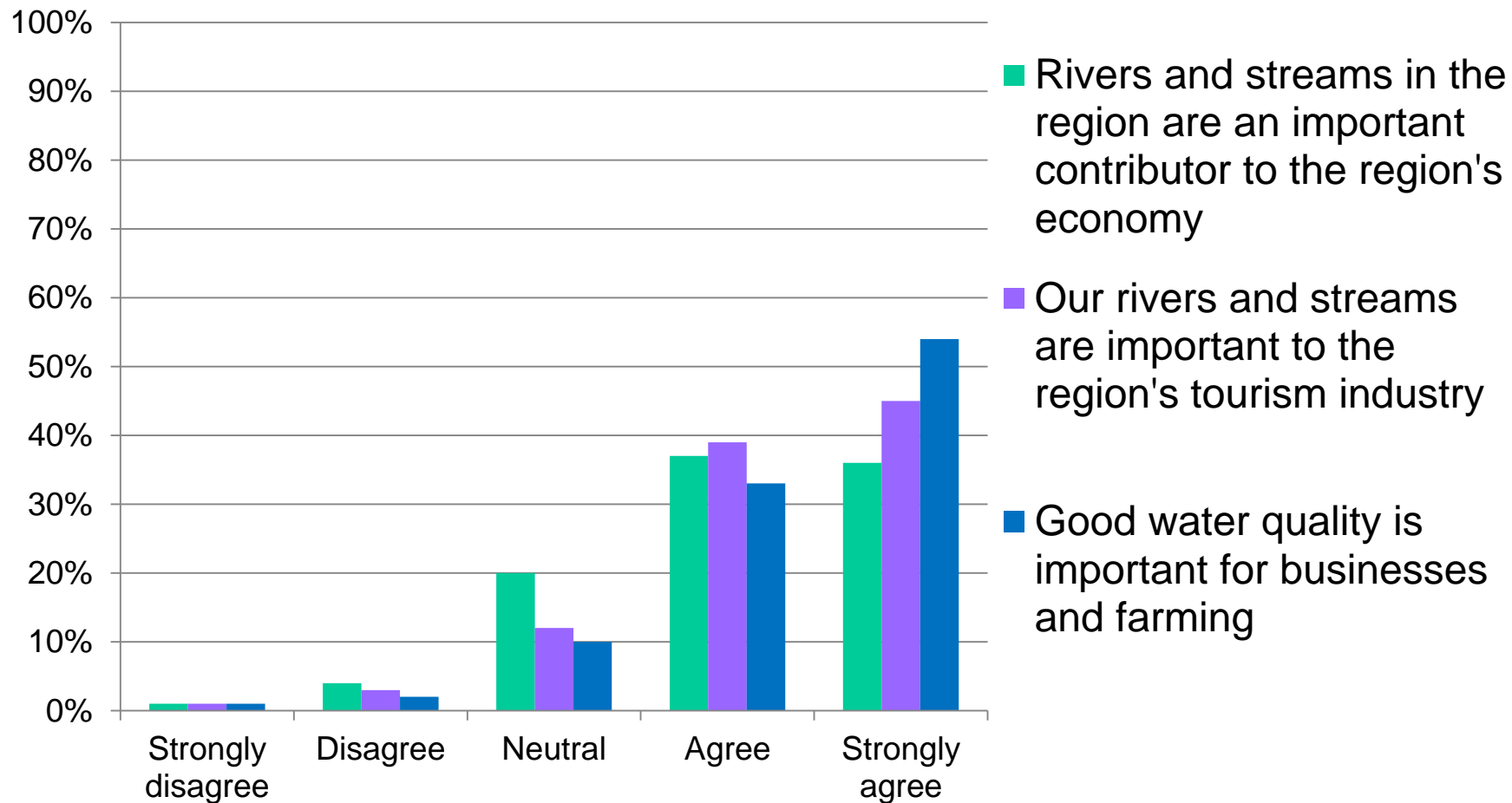
- Māori had higher response ratings than other ethnicities across almost all areas
 - Usage of the rivers
 - Swimming, paddling or fishing
 - That rivers should provide places for recreational activities and exercise
 - That rivers support an active lifestyle
 - That rivers are a source of food particularly shellfish and watercress
 - That the river contributes to overall wellbeing

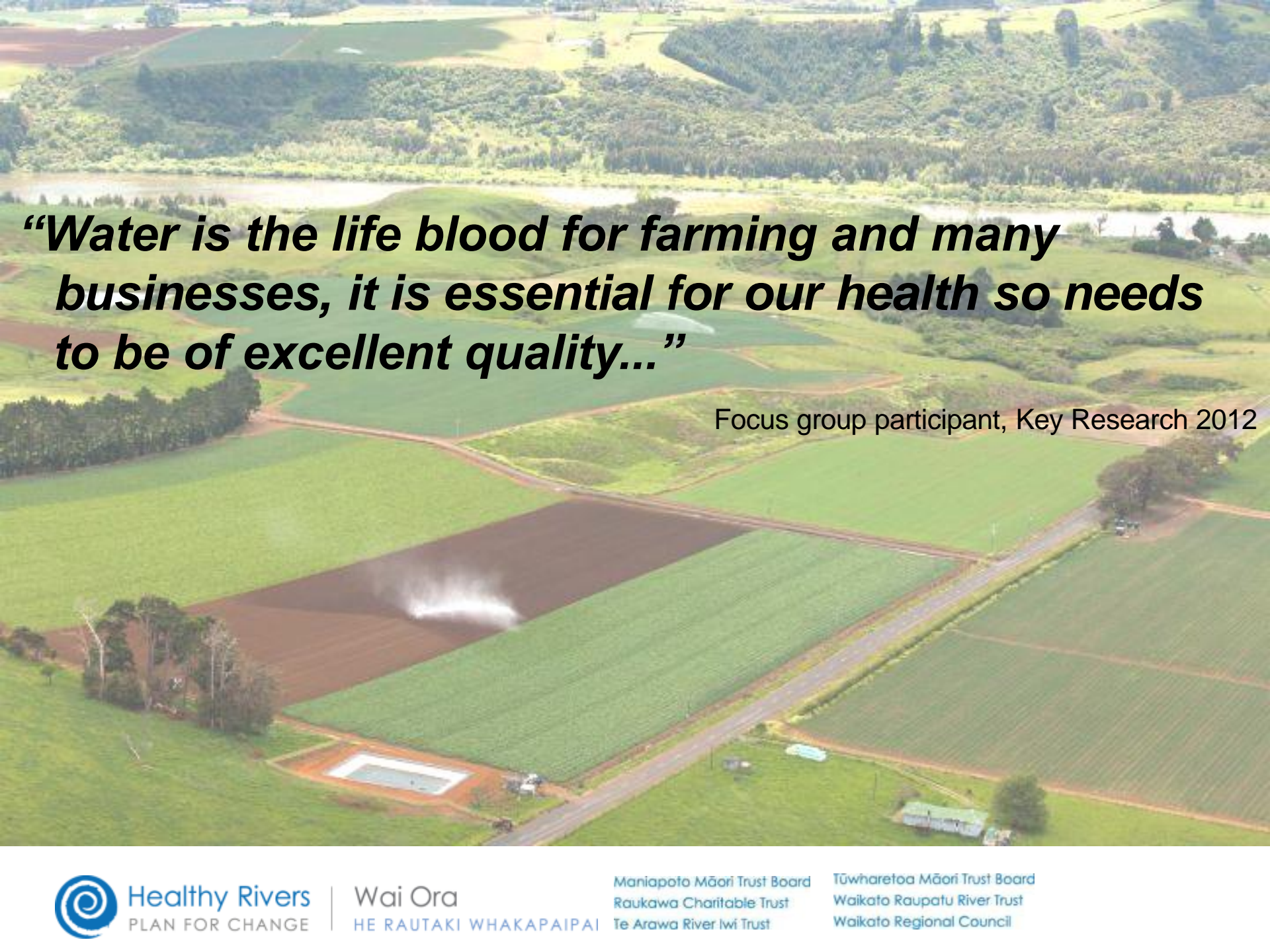
Economic values



- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Economic uses e.g. municipal supply, drinking water, stock water, irrigation, hydroelectricity and geothermal power
- Provides economic opportunities and contributes to economic and social development

Agreement on values: Economic





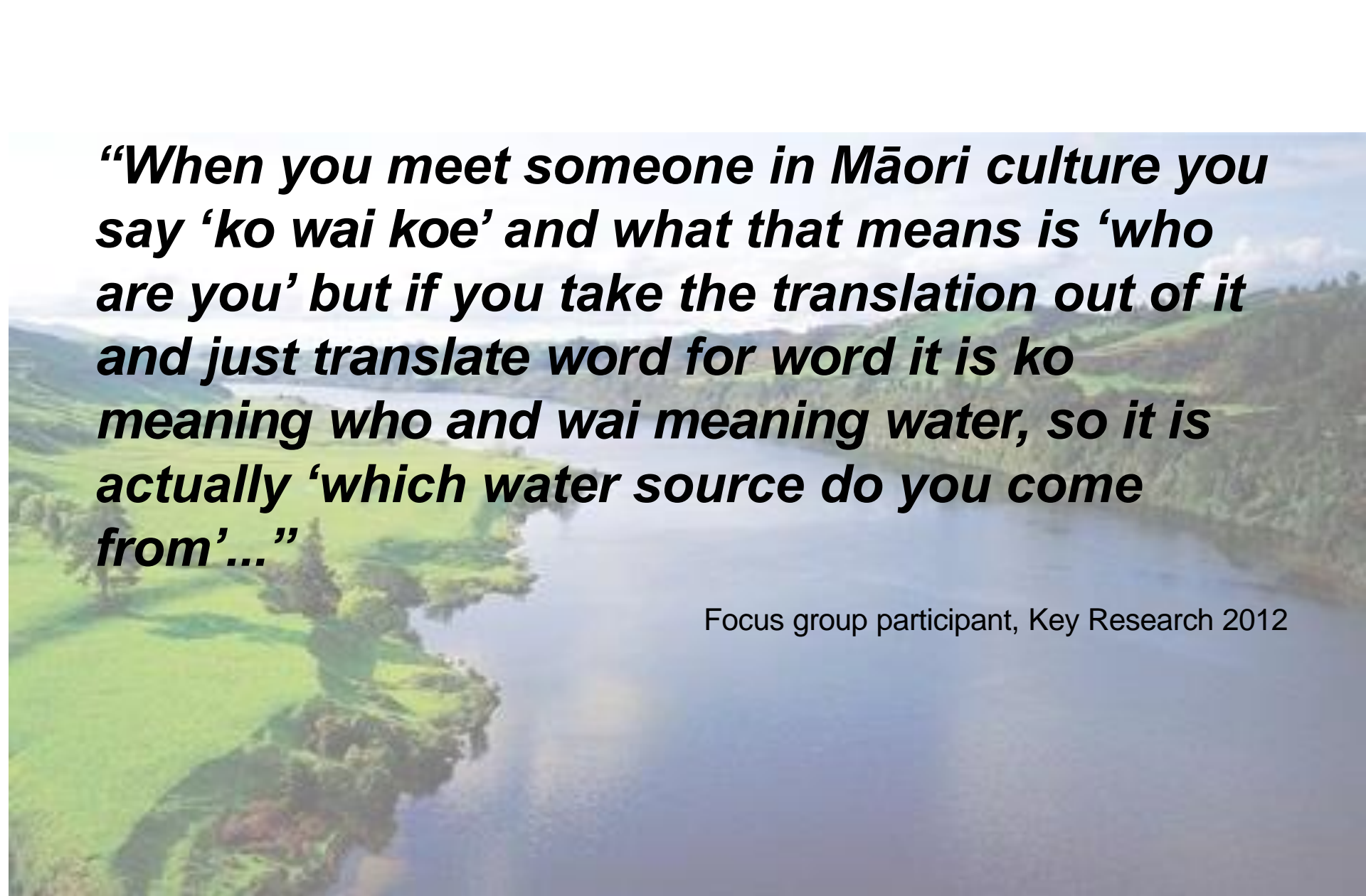
“Water is the life blood for farming and many businesses, it is essential for our health so needs to be of excellent quality...”

Focus group participant, Key Research 2012

Summary

- Stock take of existing research
- Brought together results from a range of research
- Additional research meant:
 - Information is current
 - Research spans a long period of time
 - Values collected directly from the community
- Values are strongly held and consistent over time

One input into the values conversation



“When you meet someone in Māori culture you say ‘ko wai koe’ and what that means is ‘who are you’ but if you take the translation out of it and just translate word for word it is ko meaning who and wai meaning water, so it is actually ‘which water source do you come from’...”

Focus group participant, Key Research 2012



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