

# Report to Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee 17 April 2015 – Decision Required

**File No:** 03 04 14, 23 10 09  
**Date:** 30 March 2015  
**To:** Chief Executive Officer  
**From:** Independent CSG Chair and Director Science and Strategy  
**Subject:** **Collaborative Stakeholder Group progress report**  
**Section** B (for Recommendation to council)

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee on the progress of the Collaborative Stakeholder Group for the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Project.

## Recommendation:

1. That the report **Collaborative Stakeholder Group progress report** (Doc # 3325934 dated 30 March 2015) be received for information.
2. That the Policy Selection Criteria is received and feedback is provided to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group
3. That the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee provide feedback to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group on the Collaborative Stakeholder Group's preferred freshwater management unit option, the draft list of attributes and working list of values.

## Purpose of the Collaborative Stakeholder Group

The purpose of the Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) is to:

- bring stakeholders together early to seek a common path forward
- act as the central channel for community involvement
- intensively review and understand the technical, social, cultural and economic complexity of the project
- inform and guide decision makers.

This report outlines how the CSG is bringing stakeholders together early to seek a common path forward.

The main features of the CSG process are:

- it is an intensive, facilitated process with monthly two-day workshops
- it works intensively with the Technical Leaders Group to ensure cultural, environmental, economic and social knowledge contributes to the process
- nine two-day workshops have been completed by the CSG.

## **Progress to date**

Since the last committee report one CSG workshop (CSG10) was held on March 5/6 at the Cambridge Town Hall, Cambridge. This was hosted by the sheep and beef sector CSG member James Bailey.

The purpose of the workshop was to finalise planning for community engagement and continue exploring the technical and policy mix.

An important outcome of the workshop was the unanimous CSG decision on the preferred option for Freshwater Management Units (FMUs). Other results from the workshop included:

- Receiving further information from the Technical Leaders Group (TLG) with small group work on attributes for the Waikato Objectives Framework
- Confirming key elements of the intensive community engagement period, including the preferred FMU option and agreeing the list of attributes to be discussed with stakeholders
- Introduction and discussion on a plan change template to meet NPS (National Policy Statement) and RMA needs
- With the TLG, discussion of more technical aspects of rivers and catchments in relation to nutrient dynamics in the rivers
- Discussion around feedback from river iwi staff on the CSG's working list of values
- Updating the CSG on progress of the TLG programme of work
- Learning more about the sheep and beef / dry stock sector perspectives and context, including a field trip to Bill Garland's farm on the flanks of Maungatautari to view a variety of successful environmental management efforts made to lessen the effects of farming.

## **The CSG's Policy Selection Criteria**

The CSG draft Policy Selection Criteria has been discussed with Te Rōpū Hautū and feedback was sought from stakeholders at the October Large Stakeholder Forum. The CSG deliberated on this feedback and in December the committee received the draft Policy Selection Criteria for comment. The CSG's finalised Policy Selection Criteria is provided in Attachment 1 for your consideration.

## **Freshwater Management Units (FMUs)**

As noted above a key outcome of CSG10 was the unanimous decision on the option for FMUs. Freshwater management Units are areas that the catchment is divided into for setting freshwater objectives and limits and for freshwater accounting and management purposes.

Under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) identifying FMUs is a requirement. For each FMU the plan change must:

- set objectives and limits for water quality
- identify values
- describe current state and anticipated future state
- establish and operate a freshwater accounting system.

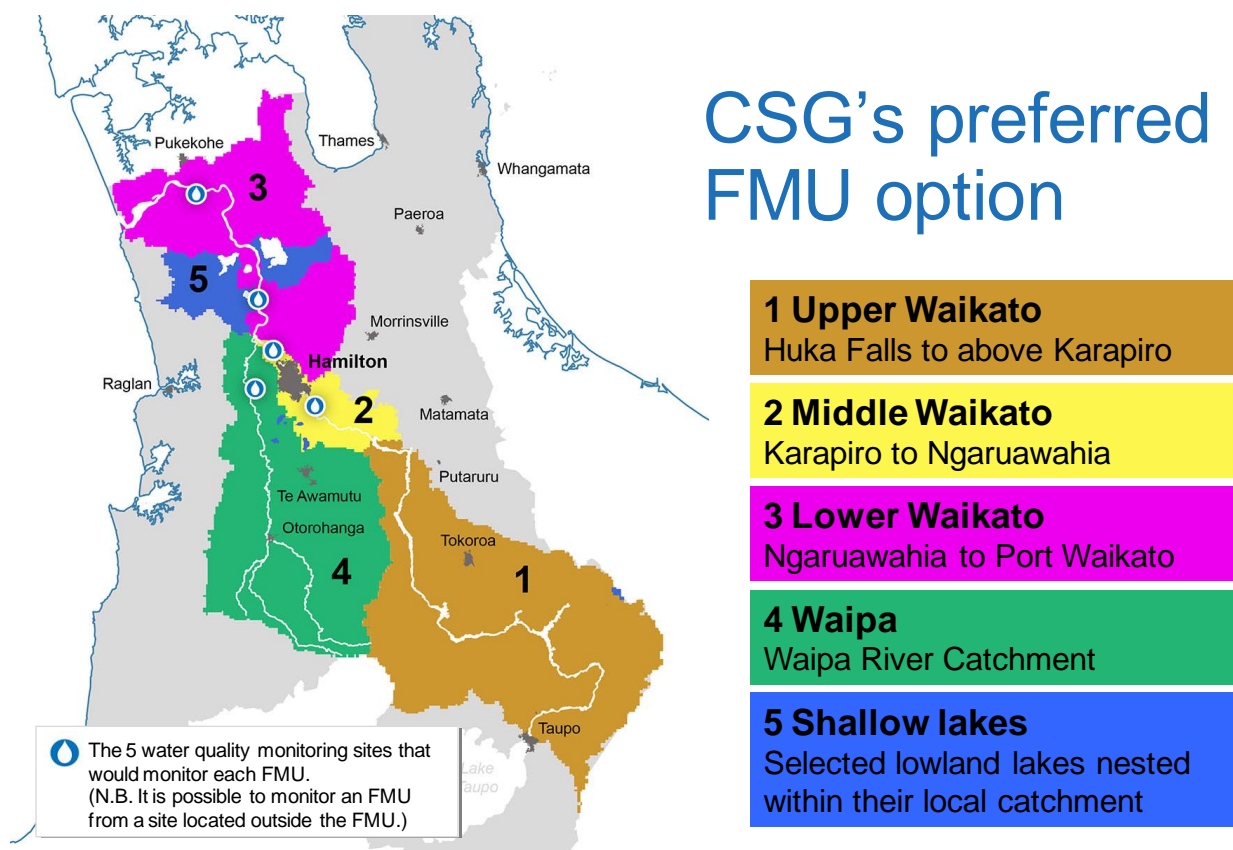
Beyond these requirements nothing in the NPS-FM restricts having the same objective(s) for different FMUs. Also policies and methods may differ between FMUs and for different areas within an FMU.

For consideration by the committee, the following is the CSG’s option for FMUs (see Figure 1), which is also currently being tested with stakeholders via the community engagement events during March and April. Note that stakeholder feedback is being collated as events occur and will be fed back into the CSG decision making process.

The CSG considered a number of factors when deciding on this option, including; does the FMU option:

- have a small number of units? Is it simple?
- identify the main catchments?
- recognise impounded versus flowing water in the Waikato River?
- separate the Waipa catchment from the Waikato catchment?
- allow for selected lakes to be treated separately?
- aligned with catchment management zones?
- have clear boundaries for water quality / attribute state, for the development of policy?
- recognise the Hamilton urban and peri-urban area?
- combine the geomorphic or hydro geological units?
- allow for monitoring sites that are representative of the FMU?
- align with Variation 61 boundaries?
- reflect the policy issues to be managed, e.g. flood management, soil erosion?
- align with WRISS2 sub-regions?

**Figure 1: CSG’s preferred FMU option**



<sup>1</sup> Variation 6 is a variation to the Waikato Regional Plan that deals with water quantity.

<sup>2</sup> The Waikato River Independent Scoping Study (WRISS) was a project completed by a multi-disciplined team led by NIWA that was set up to “identify priority actions and associated costs of those actions necessary to rehabilitate the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River...”

## Draft List of Attributes

Attributes are the indicators that will be used to determine how healthy (or unhealthy) a water body is. Attribute states are the numbers or narrative descriptions that describe what level of an attribute is needed to meet a certain level of water quality health. Attributes are an essential step in the National Objectives Framework (NOF) process.

The process for this project is that the TLG and the CSG are developing a Waikato Objectives Framework (WOF). The WOF will include the attributes contained in the NOF, but the NOF list is not exhaustive. For example, the NOF doesn't have any attributes that specifically relate to sediment. So the WOF will also propose to include other attributes that affect river health and that relate to the 4 contaminants (*E. coli*, nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment).

Following is the CSG's draft attribute table (Table 1), for your consideration. This draft list is also currently being tested with stakeholders via the various community engagement events. Note that stakeholder feedback is being collated as events occur and will be fed back into the CSG decision making process.

**Table 1: The CSG's Draft Attribute Table**

Draft Attribute	Attribute	In NPS-FM	Water body type/s	Importance	Currently monitored by Waikato Regional Council
Human health recreation	<i>E. Coli</i>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lakes</li> <li>Rivers</li> </ul>	Risk of infection/illness from contact/ingestion	Yes
	Planktonic cyanobacteria	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lakes</li> <li>Lake-fed rivers</li> </ul>	Toxic algae, makes people sick. Risks include respiratory, irritation, allergy symptoms	In 5 lakes only
	Water clarity	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lakes</li> <li>Rivers</li> </ul>	Affects peoples': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety</li> <li>Desire to swim</li> </ul>	Yes
Ecosystem Health	Phytoplankton	Yes	Lakes and Waikato mainstem	Excessive algal/plant growth impacts ecological communities	Yes (Waikato mainstem)
	Total Nitrogen				Yes
	Total Phosphorus		Rivers	Affects growth of some species	
	Nitrate				
	Ammonia				
Mahinga kai	<i>E.coli</i>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lakes</li> <li>Rivers</li> </ul>	Risk of infection/illness from contact/ingestion	Yes
	Cyanobacteria		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lakes</li> <li>Rivers</li> </ul>	Toxic algae, makes people sick. Risks include respiratory, irritation, allergy symptoms	

## **Intensive Community Engagement Period: March 25 to April 30 2015**

The Healthy Rivers Wai Ora 2015 community engagement period focuses on consulting with stakeholders via three main methods; the facilitated stakeholder workshop (March 25), the four community drop-in sessions around the catchment (April) and the online survey (March 30-April 30).

All three engagement methods focus on water quality issues and their causes and are being used to update stakeholders on the project and involve them in discussion with the CSG on six key areas:

1. how the CSG proposes to divide the catchment into areas to better manage water quality
2. current water quality and trends in different parts of the Waipa and Waikato River catchments
3. insights into factors driving water quality
4. how we will determine how healthy (or unhealthy) a water body is
5. how the project's modelling and research programme will help develop options
6. the project milestones and timelines

### **A) Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Stakeholder Workshop**

The large facilitated workshop event was successfully held on Wednesday 25 March at the Hamilton Gardens Pavilion, Hamilton. Around 150 external stakeholders were present. The CSG members, with support from project staff and TLG member Dr John Quinn (on behalf of TLG Independent Chair Dr Bryce Cooper), presented on points 1-6 (above).

The workshop format was based on a series of presentations followed by table group discussion on the topic led by CSG members. There were set questions for discussion following each presentation with each table group capturing their thoughts on paper. The workshop finished with a sector discussion session. Tables were organised by sector with each CSG member (and delegates) leading discussion and capturing feedback at their sector tables(s). All feedback is now being collated by project staff and a brief summary will be taken to CSG11 (23/24 April) with a fuller report collating feedback from all engagement events going to the CSG at a later date.

### **B) Community drop-in sessions during April**

As a part of the April engagement period, four engagement events (evening drop-in type sessions) are set to occur around the catchment on April 1, 9, 13 and 15). These sessions follow the six key areas (as per the stakeholder workshop) and provide an opportunity for the community to find out the latest project developments. A number of CSG members will be available at each session (along with project staff) for stakeholders to share their thoughts. There will be tables set out around the room so stakeholders can wander around and talk about the different topics. There will also be feedback boxes and other means for stakeholders to provide feedback back into the CSG process. There will also be a reminder of the feedback opportunity via the online survey.

### **C) Online survey**

The online survey is also based on the six key areas (listed above); although as some of the key areas are less conducive to a survey than others the questions will predominately focus on FMUs and attributes. The survey is now live (March 30 to April 30) and allows a feedback option to the CSG for those stakeholders unable to attend any of the community engagement events.

A link to the online survey is on the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora website. Distribution has occurred (March 30) via the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora newsletter list (500+ subscribers) and via CSG member networks (March 30). A link is also now on Council Facebook page. Stakeholders will be asked to forward the link to others that may be interested to give feedback. Following the April 30 close of the survey, the project team will analyse results and provide aggregated results back into the CSG process for consideration.

### **The CSG's Working List of Values**

At CSG10 (March 5/6) the CSG received feedback from river iwi staff on their working list of values via a presentation by Tim Manukau. There is a session planned for CSG11 (April 23/24) for the CSG to further discuss and make refinements to the working list of values. The list is attached (Attachment 2) should the committee wish to give any feedback to the CSG to add to their discussion at CSG11.

### **Evaluating collaboration - report from The Kinnect Group**

At CSG10 the members received a summary report from the evaluators titled "Evaluating collaboration: a briefing on the evaluation of the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Collaborative Stakeholder Group, March 2015". The report is provided in Attachment 3 for your information.

Evaluation was built into the process during the early stages of the collaborative stakeholder group coming together over the last year. Building evaluative thinking and practice into the beginning of the collaborative process set it up to be responsive as well as accountable. To date the evaluation process has been highly participatory with CSG members being involved at every stage. The first phases involved the gathering of feedback about the process through the use of brief online surveys combined with individual interviews with CSG members. Fast feedback and collective sense-making of the findings with CSG members and Waikato Regional Council staff has been a feature with the learning being rapidly integrated with adaptation of the process occurring in 'real time'.

The next phase of evaluation in the first half of 2015 includes further interviews with CSG members. Interviews are also proposed with Te Rōpū Hautū members, members of the Technical Leaders Group, some Waikato Regional Council project management and support staff, and members of the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee. The purpose of the interviews is to ensure there is evaluative feedback from a number of perspectives that can inform and be rapidly integrated to support the collaborative process.

### **Letter from ACRE and CSG Independent Chairperson response**

The Independent Chair of the CSG has received correspondence from ACRE regarding dairy conversions in the Upper Waikato. The letter and response are provided in Attachment 4 for your information.

### **Recommendations report, Plan Change and Section 32 templates**

The CSG has adopted a draft template as a guide to what the plan change framework may look like and will to be tabled at each CSG workshop as the content is refined. The purpose of the template was for CSG to get an understanding of what one of the outputs of the process will be, and therefore a greater understanding of the task ahead.

The plan change template was accompanied by a report which outlined the requirements the CSG need to be aware of when developing the plan change, including the requirement that Waikato Regional Council and River Iwi partners make a joint recommendation on the general form and content of the plan change<sup>3</sup>. The CSG will need to have ongoing conversations with project partners on this topic, and in the first instance input from Te Rōpū Hautū has also been sought on these matters.

CSG has also requested the preparation of a recommendations report template which will be presented to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee later this year, and the section 32 evaluation template (alternatives and reasons for the content of the plan change) which will accompany the notified plan change document.

Taking the above approach is not pre-empting any particular outcome of the project but it is undertaking work and thinking in parallel so it is not left toward the end of the process.

### **River iwi input**

The CSG wishes to see river iwi advisors attend CSG workshops on a regular basis to provide regular updates and input, to advise if there are information gaps and any emerging issues, and any actions required to address such issues. The CSG has also expressed concerns about any potential lack of alignment in receiving river iwi input in a timely manner in accord with the approved timeline.

### **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.

*Written by:*

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*Janet Amey*  
**Community Engagement Workstream  
Lead**

*Reviewed by:*

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*Bill Wasley*  
**Independent Chairperson of the  
Collaborative Stakeholder Group**

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*Tracey May*  
**Director Science and Strategy**

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<sup>3</sup> S46 Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims Waikato River Settlement Act 2010, s48 Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 and s22 Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012

**List of Attachments:**

**Attachment 1: The CSG's Draft Policy Selection Criteria**

**Attachment 2: The CSG's Working List of Values**

**Attachment 3: Evaluating Collaboration: Summary Report from The Kinnect Group**

**Attachment 4: ACRE Correspondence**

**Attachment 5: List of Collaborative Stakeholder Group Workshops**



# The Collaborative Stakeholder Group's Draft Policy Selection Criteria

31 October 2014

## **Achieves the outcomes of the Vision and Strategy and the RMA (including the NPS Freshwater Management)**

Does the policy:

- give effect to the Vision and Strategy for the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa rivers?
- comply with the RMA (including the purpose of the Act)?
- set out clear and balanced objectives?
- take account of existing policy frameworks?
- achieve the range of values identified?

## **Provides for Māori cultural aspirations**

Does the policy:

- provide for Māori to retain and use their taonga?
- provide beneficial cultural outcomes?

## **Gives positive social and community benefits**

Does the policy:

- minimise social disruption and provide social benefit?
- enhance people's use of the river?
- take account of unique features and benefits?
- result in outcomes people can identify with, own and feel proud of?

## **Acceptable to the wider community**

Does the policy:

- achieve sound principles for allocation?
- recognise efforts already made?
- exhibit proportionality (those contributing to the problem to contribute to the solution)?

## **Optimises environmental, social and economic outcomes**

Does the policy:

- aim for least cost solutions?
- provide confidence and clarity for current and future investment?
- provide realistic timeframes for change?

## **Achieves the restoration and protection of native habitats and biodiversity**

Does the policy:

- support resilient freshwater ecosystems and healthy populations of indigenous plants and animals?

## **Realistic to implement, monitor and enforce**

Is the policy:

- able to be measured, monitored and reported?
- implementable and technically feasible?
- administratively efficient?

## **Allows for intergenerational flexibility**

Does the policy:

- foster innovation?
- encourage positive actions being taken?
- allow for change as new information and issues arise?
- provide flexibility of future land use (including the return of Treaty settlements land)?
- provide flexibility for future review?

## **Supported by clear evidence**

Does the policy:

- take an evidence-based and knowledge-based approach?
- transparently show the costs for meeting the outcomes?
- prioritise efforts to achieve catchment solutions?
- set transparent limits and definitions?



Healthy Rivers  
PLAN FOR CHANGE

Wai Ora  
HE RAUTAKI WHAKAPAIPAI

Maniapoto Māori Trust Board  
Raukawa Charitable Trust  
Te Arawa River Wai Trust

Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board  
Waikato Rauapanu River Trust  
Waikato Regional Council

# The Collaborative Stakeholder Group's Working list of values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers

October 2014

*Hononga ki te wai, hononga ki te whenua/*

*Identity and sense of place through the interconnections of land with water*

*Te Hauora o te Wai / the health and mauri of water*

## **1 Ecosystem health**

The Waikato and Waipa catchments support resilient freshwater ecosystems and healthy freshwater populations of indigenous plants and animals.

*Te Hauora o te Tangata / the health and mauri of the people*

## **2 Human health for recreation**

A place where we can swim and undertake recreation activities in an environment that poses minimal risk to health.

*Te Hauora o te Taiao / the health and mauri of the environment*

## **3 Natural form and character**

Retain the integrity of the river corridor within the landscape and its aesthetic features and natural qualities for people to enjoy.

*Mahinga kai / food gathering, places of food*

## **4 Mahinga kai and fishing**

The ability to access the Waikato and its tributaries to gather sufficient quantities of Mahinga kai that is safe to eat and meets the social and spiritual needs of its stakeholders.

*Mahi māra / cultivation*

## **5 Farming**

The agricultural and horticultural sectors are regionally and nationally significant. They underpin the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of people and communities, and are the major component of wealth creation within the region. These regionally significant industries and associated primary production also provide an anchor to support other industries and communities within rural and urban settings.

The lands encompassing the Waikato and Waipa River systems are nationally and internationally recognised for their productivity, good soils and a benign climate which has allowed the Waikato to become a leader in affordable, safe, high quality food production.

*Wai Tapu / Sacred Waters*

## **6 Wai tapu**

Area of water body set aside for spiritual and physical activities.

*Wai Māori / municipal and domestic water supply*

## **7 Water supply**

Domestic and municipal water from the catchment (both surface and subsurface) is of a quality that can be effectively treated to meet appropriate health standards for both potable and non-potable uses.

#### *Āu Putea / economic or commercial development*

### **8 Commercial, municipal and industrial use**

Economic opportunities to people, businesses and industries.

### **9 Electricity generation**

Electricity is an essential non-substitutable commodity underpinning society and economy. Renewable Hydro and Geothermal energy sources and thermal generation securing national self-reliance and resilience. New Zealand's social and economic wellbeing are dependent on a secure and cost effective electricity supply system. Electricity also contributes to the health and safety of people and communities.

#### *He ara haere / navigation*

### **10 Transport and tauranga waka**

All communities can use the river to pilot their vehicles, waka and navigate to their destinations.

#### *Ngāwhā/geothermal*

### **11 Geothermal**

A valued resource that is naturally gifted to sustain certain activities (meeting spiritual and physical needs).

*Note: Further detailed information on each of the values will be provided as part of the workshop process and input sought from participants.*

## **Attachment 3: Evaluating Collaboration: Summary Report from The Kinnect Group**

### **Evaluating collaboration: A briefing on the evaluation of the Healthy Rivers – Wai Ora Collaborative Stakeholder Group March 2015**

#### **Summary**

In New Zealand, collaborative processes are increasingly being seen as necessary to finding a way forward, in addressing the complexity of managing valuable fresh water resources.

Waikato and Waipa River Iwi and Waikato Regional Council are partners in the Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai project, as set out in settlement and co-management legislation for the Waikato and Waipa rivers. The settlement and co-governance processes recognise that through collaboration, the sustainability, health and wellbeing of the river can be achieved.

The Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) represents stakeholders and the wider community in this project.

An evaluation process has been an integral part of the CSG process from the outset. The evaluation has been designed to be adaptive and responsive to the needs and development of the CSG.

This briefing reports on the evaluation process to date.

**Responsive, real time evaluative  
feedback is supporting the collaborative  
processes**

#### **The Collaborative Stakeholder Group**

In 2014, the Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) representing stakeholders and the wider community in Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai was formed.

The CSG is the central channel for stakeholder and broader community involvement in the project. It has been set up to intensively review and deliberate on technical material (from the Technical Leaders Group) and on stakeholder and community views gathered from consultation, to ultimately propose solutions to decision makers.

In establishing the CSG, sector groups were invited by the Healthy Rivers – Wai Ora Committee to select and put forward representatives. Following a robust selection process, the project steering group, Te Rōpū Hautū, selected the other members of the CSG. Throughout, there has been a deep commitment, to ensuring Iwi and community representation and ongoing participation in the process.

#### **Rationale for the evaluation**

Given the high stakes involved in the Healthy Rivers – Wai Ora project, it was considered important to build in an evaluative process from the outset for two key reasons:

1. In order that a rigorous cycle of feedback would feed into the process in real time – to ensure adaption and effective development.

- To ensure the learning, lessons, strengths and weaknesses would be captured so they could be shared and used by other jurisdictions using collaborative processes in the future.

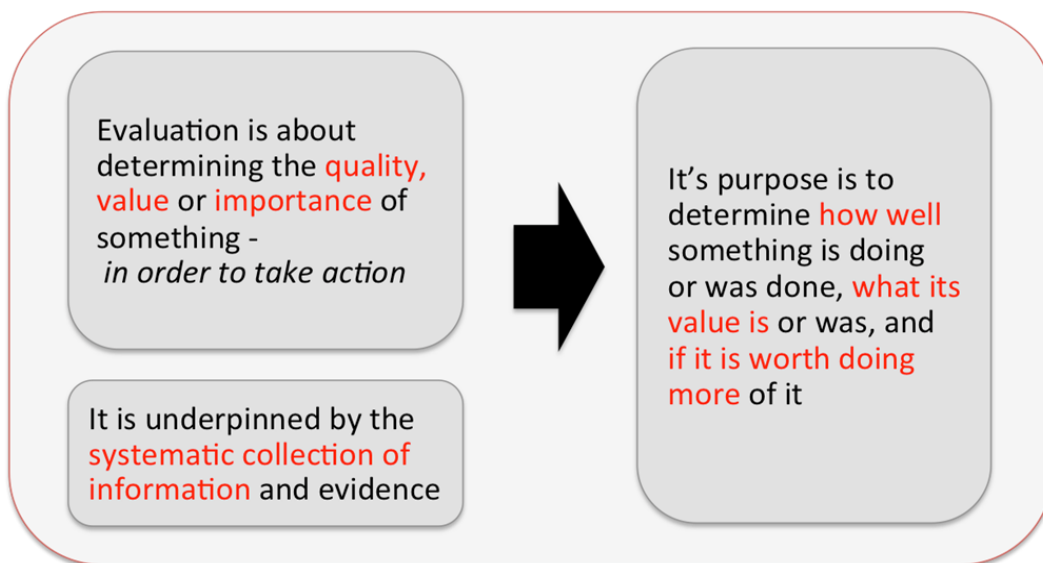
Building evaluative thinking and practice into the beginning of a collaborative process sets it up to be responsive as well as accountable, and more likely to succeed.

It also means that as the process or initiative develops, learning can be fed back as part of ongoing continuous improvement and adaptation.

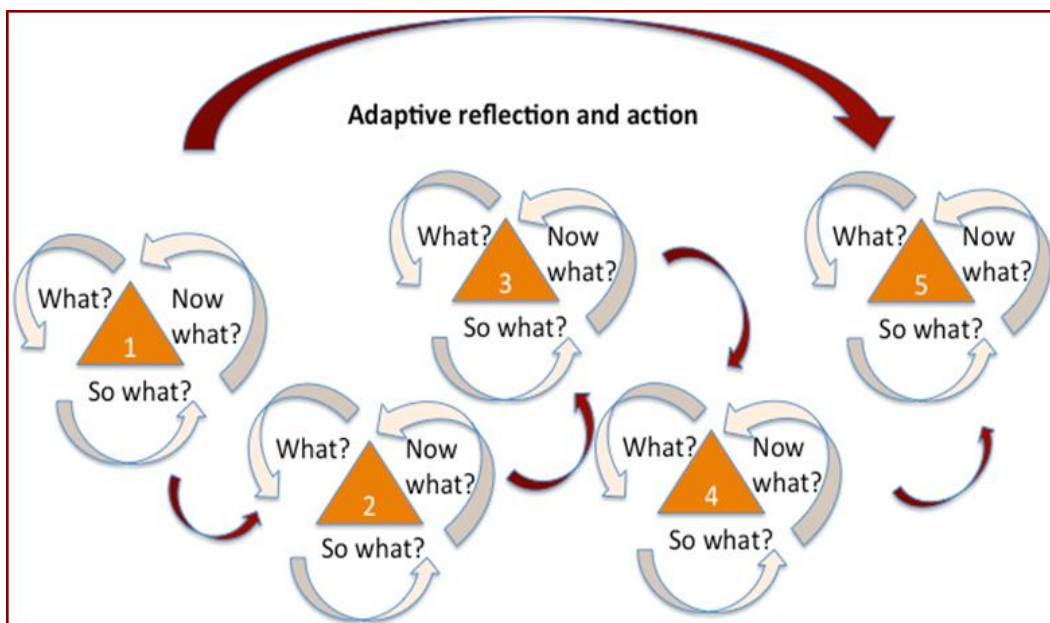
## The evaluation approach

Developmental evaluation (DE) is the approach that is being used for evaluating the collaborative stakeholder process.

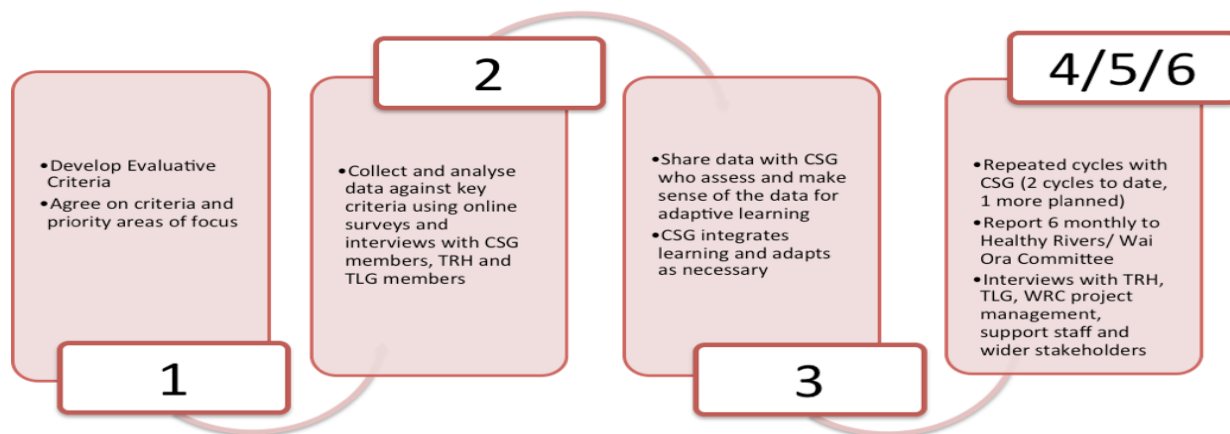
This approach supports the development of innovative processes and initiatives.



DE is designed to ensure there are cycles of systematic data collection, evaluative thinking, adaptive learning and decision making within open-ended, highly complex settings where the processes and activities, as well as the strategies are themselves evolving.



The evaluation process has been highly participatory. CSG members have been involved at every stage.



Data collection has involved the gathering of feedback about the process through the use of brief online surveys combined with individual interviews with CSG members.

The data has then been independently analysed and presented for consideration by the CSG.

Fast feedback and collective sense-making of the findings with CSG members and WRC staff has been a feature of the process to date. Learning has been rapidly integrated with adaption of the process occurring in ‘real time’.

Two cycles of data collection, analysis, reporting and sense-making has occurred, with a third phase to occur in the first half of 2015. The next phase of data collection will include interviews with CSG members, Te Rōpū Hautū, Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora Committee members, the Technical Leaders Group, Waikato Regional Council project management and support staff, as well as wider stakeholders.

### Evaluation criteria

A suite of dimensions (evaluative criteria) were developed with the CSG relating to three high level phases of a collaborative process (i) group forming & establishing; (ii) doing the work; and (iii) outcomes.

A set of consistent dimensions have been and will continue to be tracked over time. Other dimensions will be used in the evaluative feedback process as they apply to the stage of development of the CSG process.

Some of the key evaluation criteria are outlined on the next page.

**Evaluation criteria provide clarity about what the dimensions of success look like**

## Evaluation criteria for collaboration

Group forming, establishing an understanding	Doing the main work - limits, targets, policy mix development	Outcomes
Voluntary participation and commitment: group members participate voluntarily and are committed to the process	Equal opportunity and resources: The process provides for equal and balanced opportunity for effective participation of all group members.	Knowledge understanding and skills: members and project group gain knowledge, understanding and skills through participation in the collaborative process
Self-design: The parties involved work together to design the process to suit the needs of the group members	Principled negotiation and respect: The process operates according to the conditions of principled negotiation including mutual respect, trust, and understanding	Agreement: The process reaches an agreement accepted by all group members
Clearground rules: As the process is initiated, a comprehensive procedural framework is established that includes clear terms of reference, operating procedures, schedule, and protocols	Accountability: The process and its participants are accountable to the broader public and their own constituencies	Perceived as successful: The group, decision makers and sector groups perceive the process and outcomes as successful
	Flexible, adaptive, creative: Flexibility is designed into the process to allow for adaptation and creativity in problem solving	Conflict reduced following plan change recommendations and decisions

### The results so far

The evaluative process to date is providing strong support for the collaborative stakeholder process, highlighting similar and different perspectives among those on the CSG, as well as important issues that need addressing.

Commitment to the collaborative process has increased from 80% to 100% of those completing the online survey.

The group process is considered safe and inclusive and there are high levels of support for the chairing and facilitation of the process.

There are high levels of support for community and iwi membership of the CSG, and there is positive feedback about the Waikato Regional Council's support of the process to date.

**There are high levels of commitment to the collaborative process**

### More results

There is agreement that CSG are gaining knowledge and skills through their participation, and are building a broader understanding of issues faced by different sectors.

There is also growing support among the CSG for collaborative processes and the group is confident to move forward, aware there are some tough issues and challenges that lie ahead.

Feedback has been used to adapt the collaborative process in a timely way, and there are reasonable levels of support for ongoing reflection and evaluation of the collaborative process.

**Agreement that CSG is building a broader understanding of issues faced by different sectors**

## Attachment 4: ACRE Correspondence

Advisory Committee for the Waikato Regional Environment (ACRE)  
C/- The Chair  
Rex Bushell  
7 Carisbrook  
Place Rototuna  
North Hamilton  
3210

16 December 2014

Bill Wasley,  
C/o Janine Hayward,  
Healthy Rivers Collaborative Stakeholder Group,  
401 Grey Street,  
Private Bag 3038,  
Waikato Mail Centre,  
Hamilton 3240.

Dear Bill,

The Advisory Committee for the Waikato Regional Environment, (ACRE) has noticed concern for some time among their members' environmental and scientific networks regarding the dairy conversions from forestry in the upper Waikato basin. The concern is not only that these are extensive, but that it is happening on highly leachable pumice soils. We are sure there is no need to explain the risk factors of nitrogen leaching into the Waikato River to the Collaborative Stakeholders Group (CSG) or the Technical Leaders Group (TLG).

Paula Southgate and Stuart Kneebone attended our November meeting where we expressed our concerns and raised the idea of presenting an unsolicited submission to government requesting a moratorium on further conversions in the Upper Waikato catchment until the Healthy Rivers project has had time to put a management program in place to manage the conversions environmentally and in line with the Healthy Rivers objectives.

The outcome of the meeting was that there had been general discussion by the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) with government and it was felt that this government did not have an appetite for a moratorium as it ran against the government's growth strategy.

Our recommendation was for a more formal approach by way of an unsolicited submission. One advantage of this approach is the strong argument of outlining cause and affect, with scientific endorsement. The other advantage would be that a formal written approach would expect a formal written response.

To ensure due process is followed, ACRE requests that the CSG considers this approach as outlined above. If there is general agreement among the CSG we would suggest the TLG should draw up a submission at the CSG's request to ensure a scientific point of view is presented.



The CSG would then present a draft submission to Waikato Regional Councillors for their consideration, before being presented to government.

ACRE would appreciate viewing any draft submission and, if deemed necessary, we are happy to supply input prior to this submission being presented to WRC.

ACRE members look forward to your reply and/or answering any queries you may have.

Yours faithfully

Rex Bushell  
Chair  
ACRE  
021-237-3857  
07-854-0973

CC: Co-chairs of the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee, C/o Cr Alan Livingston and Roger Pikia, Waikato Regional Council

CC: Waikato Regional Council, Paula Southgate, Stuart Kneebone.

20 March 2015

Rex Bushell  
Chair  
Advisory Committee for Waikato Regional Environment  
7 Carisbrook Place  
Rototuna North  
Hamilton 3210

Dear Rex

### **Land use conversions: Upper Waikato**

At the Collaborative Stakeholder Workshop (CSG 9) held on 9 and 10 February 2015, the CSG considered the correspondence from you in respect of concerns regarding the conversion of land in forestry to dairying.

CSG were made aware that both the Regional Council and river Iwi were considering this matter and that information gathering on this matter, was being undertaken by the Council.

The CSG agreed that at this stage the matter of land use conversions and consideration of any initiatives to address such matters, between now and notification of the plan change, was for the Council and river iwi to progress.

Previously the CSG had drawn this matter to the attention of the HRWO Committee subsequent to the CSG 7 workshop. At that workshop, the CSG resolved as follows:

*“That the CSG Independent Chair take the following advice to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee:*

- *That it does not wish to see the future plan change undermined in the interim prior to its public notification; and*
- *That the CSG recommends that it would like to see a section 128 1(a) condition applied to any consents relating to the 4 contaminants; and*
- *That it be noted that there is a clear intention that existing consents will be brought in line with policies contained in the plan change.”*

Whilst CSG appreciates the concerns highlighted by ACRE and others, the CSG will continue to focus on the tasks before it, and as required by its ToR. That is why at this stage, the matters in CSG's view, should rest with the Regional Council and its iwi partners, to pursue.

Finally, the CSG has requested that the information from the current information gathering work be provided to CSG.

Yours sincerely

Bill Wasley  
**Independent Chair**  
**Collaborative Stakeholder Group**

20 March 2015

Cr Alan Livingston & Mr Roger Pikia  
Co-Chairs  
Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee  
Waikato Regional Council  
Private Bag 3038  
Waikato Mail Centre  
Hamilton 3240

Dear Alan and Roger

**Land use conversions: Upper Waikato**

At the Collaborative Stakeholder Workshop (CSG 9) held on 9 and 10 February 2015 the CSG considered correspondence form ACRE (copy attached) in respect of concerns regarding the conversion of land in forestry to dairying.

CSG are aware that both the Regional Council and river Iwi have been considering this matter and that information gathering on this matter was being undertaken by the Council.

The CSG agreed that at this stage the matter of land use conversions and consideration of any initiatives to address such matters, between now and notification of the plan change, rests with the Regional Council.

Previously the CSG had drawn this matter to the attention of the HRWO Committee subsequent to the CSG 7 workshop, when the CSG resolved as follows:

*“That the CSG Independent Chair take the following advice to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee:*

- *That it does not wish to see the future plan change undermined in the interim prior to its public notification; and*
- *That the CSG recommends that it would like to see a section 128 1(a) condition applied to any consents relating to the 4 contaminants; and*
- *That it be noted that there is a clear intention that existing consents will be brought in line with policies contained in the plan change.”*

Whilst CSG appreciates the concerns highlighted by ACRE and others, it needs to continue to focus on the tasks before it, and required through its ToR.

Finally, the CSG has requested that the information from the current information gathering work be provided to CSG in due course.

Yours sincerely

Bill Wasley  
**Independent Chair**  
**Collaborative Stakeholder Group**

## Attachment 5: List of Collaborative Stakeholder Group workshops

CSG meeting	Meeting Dates	Venue	Location	Sector	Presentation/Field Trip
<b>CSG1</b>	Mar 2014	The Link	Hamilton	N/A	Intro, scope, setting goals
<b>CSG2</b>	May 2014	The Link	Hamilton	N/A	Intro/scope and goal setting
<b>CSG3</b>	Jun 2014	Events Centre	Tokoroa	Raukawa/Dairy	Raukawa Charitable Trust/Dairy
<b>CSG4</b>	Jul 2014	Oparure Marae	Te Kuiti	Maniapoto	Maniapoto/Riparian/Drystock
<b>CSG5</b>	Aug 2014	The Link	Hamilton	Local Govt	Local Govt/Water treatment
<b>Bus trip</b>	<b>Sep 2014</b>	<b>Upper catchment</b>	<b>Upper catchment</b>	<b>Energy, Industry, Forestry</b>	Energy, forestry and industry sectors visit
<b>CSG6</b>	Sep 2014	Tūrangawaewae Marae	Ngāruawahia		Waikato Tainui/Wetland
<b>Large stakeholder forum</b>	<b>23-Oct</b>	<b>Hamilton Racecourse</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>All sectors</b>	
<b>CSG7</b>	Oct 2014	Broadlands Hall / Ohaki Marae	Reporoa		Ngati-Ngati Whaea/Te Arawa River Iwi
<b>CSG8</b>	Dec 2014	Pukekawa/Tuakau Halls	Pukekohe	Horticulture	Horticulture
<b>CSG9</b>	Feb 2015	Don Rowland Centre	Karapiro	Tourism and Recreation	Tourism and Recreation
<b>CSG10</b>	Mar 2015	TBC	Cambridge	Sheep and Beef	Sheep and Beef
<b>Large stakeholder forum</b>	<b>25 March</b>	<b>Hamilton Gardens</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>All sectors</b>	
<b>CSG11</b>	Apr 2015	TBC	Te Kauwhata	Environment / NGOs	Environment / NGOs
<b>CSG12</b>	Jun 2015	TBC	Taupo	Tuwharetoa	Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board
<b>CSG13</b>	July 2015	TBC	Hamilton	N/A	
<b>CSG14</b>	Aug 2015	TBC	Hamilton	N/A	
<b>CSG15</b>	Sep 2015	TBC	Hamilton	N/A	
<b>CSG16</b> <b>CSG17</b>	Oct 2015	TBC	Hamilton	N/A	
<b>CSG18</b>	Nov 2015	TBC	Hamilton	N/A	

