

Report to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group – To be received

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Date: 20 October 2014

To: Collaborative Stakeholder Group

From: Bryce Cooper – Chair, Technical Leaders Group

Subject: **Selecting Freshwater Management Units – a comment from the Chair of the TLG**

Section **Agreement and Approval**

1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a comment from the Technical Leaders Group regarding the Collaborative Stakeholder Group's decision on Freshwater Management Units.

Recommendation:

1. That the report "Selecting Freshwater Management Units – a comment from the Chair of the TLG" (Doc #3194192 dated 20 October 2014) be received for information.

2 Comment

At the request of the Chair of the CSG, I provide the following brief comments on this matter:

1. The report that the TLG provided at CSG5 (Freshwater Management Unit options for consideration by the Collaborative Stakeholder Group) set out factors that might be used by the CSG to determine which FMU option best meets the needs of the project. In that report the TLG then proposed four options that the CSG may wish to further consider.
2. Subsequent to the presentation of that report at CSG5, I understand that the CSG have been discussing FMU options, including whether a preferred option could or should be selected now.
3. From a TLG work stream perspective, if the CSG were to delay a decision on FMU boundaries it would not limit or delay the work of the TLG in filling gaps in information or providing the CSG with scenarios on the implications of various proposed attribute limits.
4. The scenario analysis work the TLG is commissioning will be conducted at the reasonably fine spatial scale of existing surface water monitoring sites and the CSG

will be provided with this non-aggregated analysis. Such information could well inform the choosing of FMUs, as the implications of those choices will be more apparent.

5. The Ministry for the Environment has also recognised that the purpose of FMUs, reasons for their inclusion in the NPSFM, and the implications for councils and stakeholders of establishing FMUs, have not yet been made clear. Preparation of a FMU guidance document is underway and expected to be completed in early 2015. This guidance document may usefully inform the deliberations of the CSG.

Bryce Cooper

Chair Technical Leaders Group