

Report to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group – for Information

File No: 23 10 05CS
Date: 14 April 2015
To: Collaborative Stakeholder Group
From: CSG Chairperson – Bill Wasley
Subject: Priority feedback from the Large Stakeholder Workshop 25 March 2015
Section: **Feedback from engagement events**

1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) on the analysis so far of the feedback from the Healthy Rivers / Wai Ora Large Stakeholder Workshop that was held on 25 March 2015.

Recommendations:

1. That the report “Priority feedback from the Large Stakeholder Workshop 25 March 2015” (Doc 3345429 dated 10 April 2015) be received for information.

2 Report Contents

This summary report presents:

- Information relating to attendance at the March 2015 forum by sector, age, gender and job title. A comparison of attendance between the 2014 forum and the 2015 forum by sector is also shown.
- Feedback on aspects of the 2015 forum from 91 participants who filled in an evaluation form at the end of the day. A summary of data on each question asked or statement made on the evaluation form is presented.
- Section 4 presents analysis of feedback from the forum related to water clarity and the question of ‘*How clear does the water have to be before you would get in?*’
- Section 4 also gives a brief summary of feedback related to the question posed at the forum around timeframes to achieve the values (*‘What timeframes would you think are reasonable to achieve the values by?’*)
- Updates are given on the progress of the online survey and as well as the process from here regarding a full report on the intensive engagement period.

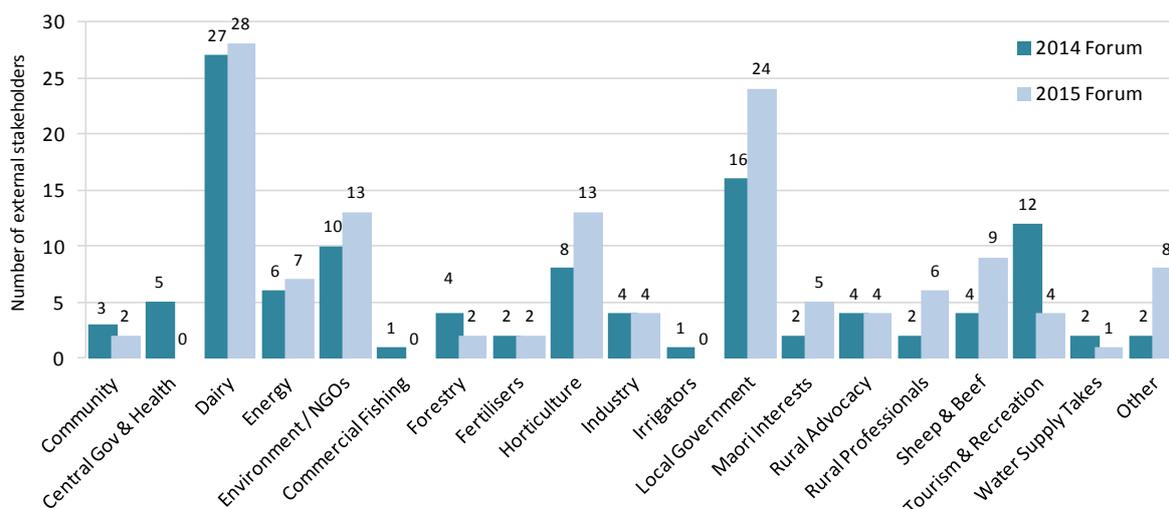
3 Large Stakeholder Forum

3.1 Attendance Information

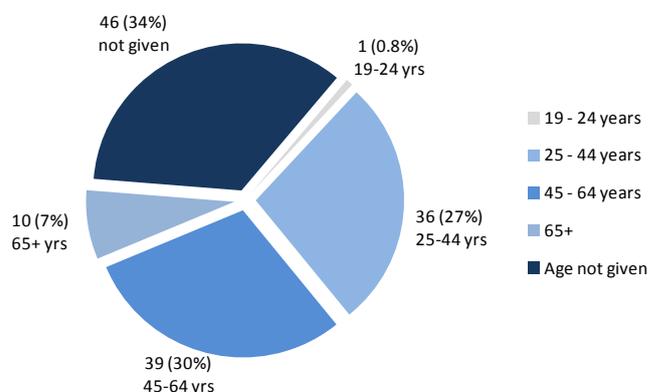
In total 132 external stakeholders attended the forum - excluding WRC staff (project staff and table buddies on the day), CSG, TLG, TRH or HRWO committee members. The count by sector and percentage are shown in the table below with the graph (figure 1) showing a comparison of attendance by sector between the October 2014 forum and the March 2015 forum.

Sector Attendance- March 2015	Count	Percent
Dairy	28	21.2
Local Government	24	18.2
Environment / NGO's	13	9.8
Horticulture	13	9.8
Sheep and Beef	9	6.8
Other	8	6.1
Energy	7	5.3
Rural Professionals	6	4.5
Maori Interests	5	3.8
Industry	4	3.0
Rural Advocacy	4	3.0
Tourism and Recreation	4	3.0
Community	2	1.5
Fertilisers	2	1.5
Forestry	2	1.5
Water Supply Takes	1	0.8
Total	132	100.0

Figure 1: Attendance by sector, 2014 forum numbers compared with 2015 forum



Just over a third (34%) of stakeholders did not indicate their current age (those registering on the day were not asked age). For stakeholders with a recorded age, those aged 45-64 years contributed the largest share (30%) followed by those aged 25-44 (27%). In terms of attendance by gender (no graph); there were 92 males (69.7%) and 40 females (30.3%).



The table below shows the job title of the 132 stakeholders (note some titles have been combined into categories based on registration information – those registering on the day were not asked their job title).

Job Title	Count	Percent
Farm Manager / Farmer	20	15.2
Planning related	12	9.1
Unknown	11	8.3
Manager	11	8.3
Environmental Advisor/ Manager	11	8.3
General Manager	8	6.1
Director	7	5.3
Councillor	6	4.5
Chairperson	5	3.8
Policy Related (job title)	5	3.8
Consultant	5	3.8
Business Manager	4	3.0
President	3	2.3
Scientist	2	1.5
Coordinator	2	1.5
Catchment Committee	2	1.5
Board Member	2	1.5
Sustainable Dairying Advisor	2	1.5
Maori interests	2	1.5
Owner/Director	2	1.5
Field Officer	1	0.8
Committee Member	1	0.8
Media	1	0.8
Engineer	1	0.8
Trustee	1	0.8
Principal	1	0.8
Special Counsel - Environment	1	0.8
Catchment Engagement Leader	1	0.8
Chief Executive	1	0.8
Member	1	0.8
Grand Total	132	100.0

3.2 Evaluation Form Results

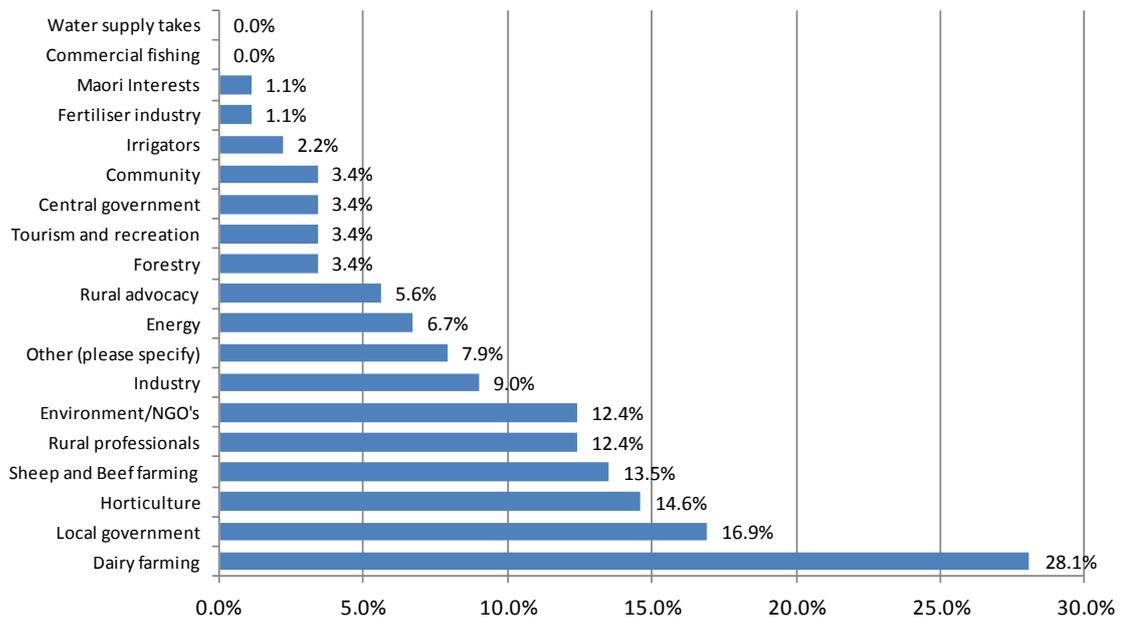
In total 91 workshop evaluation forms were collected at the end of the day. This section provides a summary of feedback from stakeholders.

3.2.1 Sector Representation - Feedback

“Please tick the sector(s) you represent”

89 of 91 people answered this question. As multiple tick box options were offered in total the 89 respondents indicated 129 sectors. Results by sector are shown.

Figure 2: Sector representation (those handing in evaluation forms)



Sector(s)	Response Percent	Response Count
Dairy farming	28.1%	25
Local government	16.9%	15
Horticulture	14.6%	13
Sheep and Beef farming	13.5%	12
Rural professionals	12.4%	11
Environment/NGO's	12.4%	11
Industry	9.0%	8
Other (please specify)	7.9%	7
Energy	6.7%	6
Rural advocacy	5.6%	5
Forestry	3.4%	3
Tourism and recreation	3.4%	3
Central government	3.4%	3
Community	3.4%	3
Irrigators	2.2%	2
Fertiliser industry	1.1%	1
Maori Interests	1.1%	1
Commercial fishing	0.0%	0
Water supply takes	0.0%	0

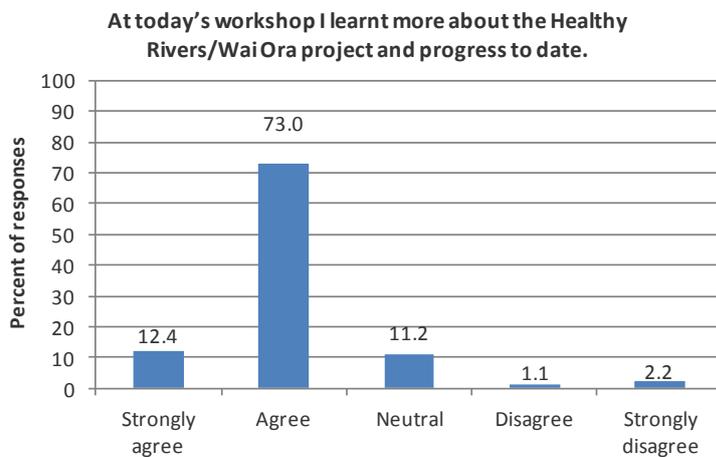
3.2.2 Strengths questions

“Please rate each statement below on a scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree”

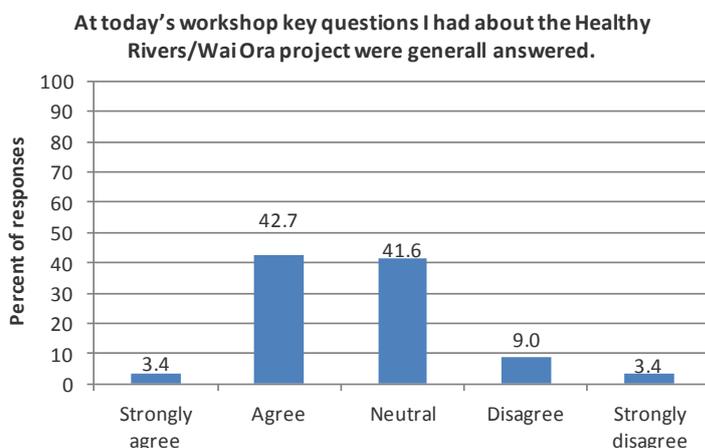
Five statements were made where people could respond by ranking on a scale of 1-5 (with 1=strongly agree and 5=strongly disagree). Responses to these statements are shown below in the order in which they were presented. The rating average and response count for each question are also shown in the table.

Please rate each statement below on a scale from Strongly agree to Strongly disagree. We would also appreciate your comments to understand the rating you applied.							
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
At today's workshop I learnt more about the Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora project and progress to date.	11	65	10	1	2	2.1	89
At the workshop key questions I had about the Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora project were generally answered.	3	38	37	8	3	2.7	89
The workshop enabled me to provide my input on the Collaborative Stakeholder Group's proposed freshwater management units.	19	46	19	4	1	2.1	89
The workshop enabled me to provide my input on the Collaborative Stakeholder Group's proposed set of attributes to measure water quality.	16	44	25	4	1	2.2	90
I am confident my input will help guide the CSG's decision making.	3	38	39	3	3	2.6	86

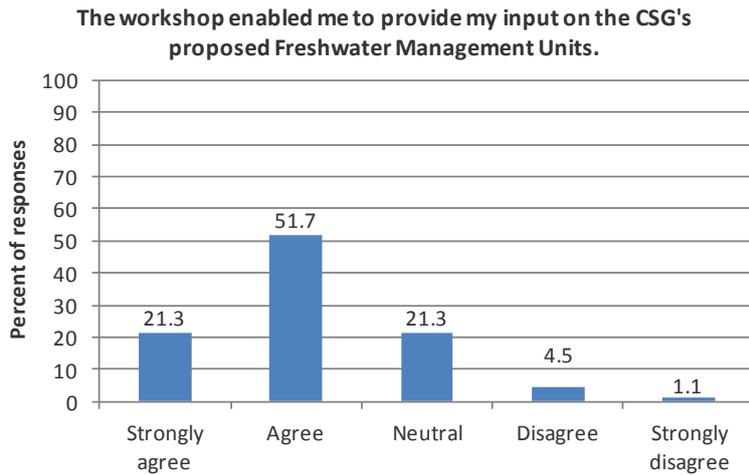
The following five graphs show the rating spread as a percentage for each statement. Alongside each is a summary of the comments written in relation to the score given.



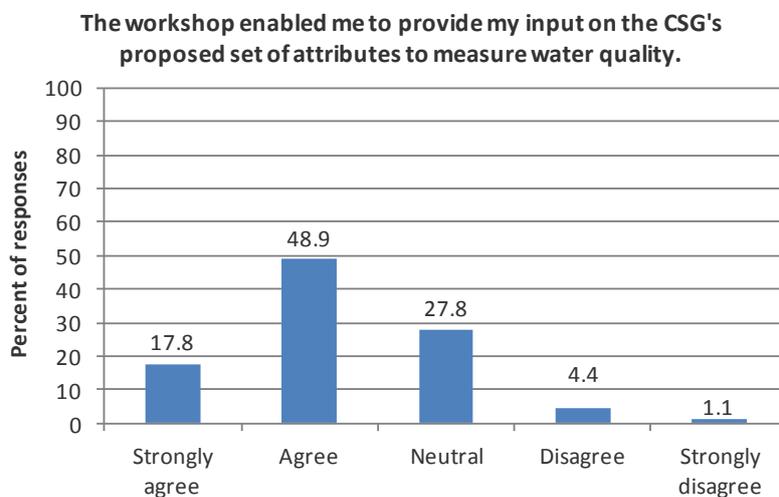
There were 21 comments for this question. Comments were focused around it being good to get an update on project progress and general enjoyment of the day. One person noted the knowledge was a little repetitive as they had already been bought up to speed by their CSG representative. One person commented that with little involvement so far they found the workshop bought them up to date.



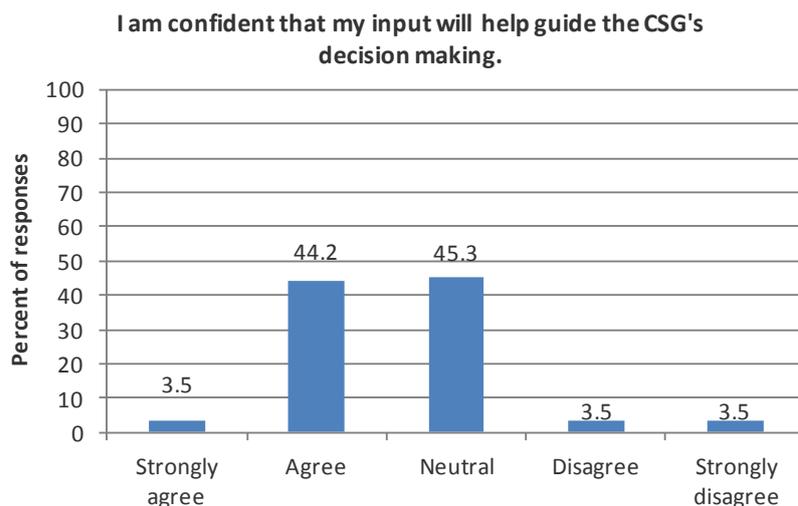
There were 25 comments here. Some people would have liked a question and answer session. Some wanted more technical details, including being able to discuss the attributes with details around proposed limits and information around the actual measurement of contaminants. There were several comments relating to the Vision & Strategy and where that fits with NPS-FM and whether it is well enough understood.



There were 22 comments around FMUs. Several asked why the Whangamarino wetland had been excluded from the shallow lakes FMU. Other comments covered the spectrum of *“they are already decided it seems”* to *“needs more consultation and discussion”*. One noted the concept of units was not discussed just the positioning, another said *“advance release of information would enable representatives to provide more robust views.”*



There were 19 comments recorded. Several noted that there was not enough time for as much discussion as they wanted. The group work approach was appreciated. It was noted that *“most already mandated by NPS”*. Several respondents would have liked more technical information – with one person noting advance release of this information would have been useful.



There were 19 comments here. Some respondents expressed hope that this would be the case. Less positive comments included *“how will we know it will not go into a black hole?”* Also *“there were a lot of views expressed by a large number of people and so I struggle to see how a consolidated view will be obtained”*. Several people noted they would wait and see what happened next.

3.2.3 Main strengths of the workshop

64 written comments were received for the question “*the main strengths of the workshop today were...*”? The main themes were as follows:

Theme	Count
The exchange of individual ideas and opinions	18
Group work, the way the workshop allowed discussion of topics (including sector discussion opportunity)	17
The organisation and facilitation of the day	8
Being informed of what is happening (and the CSG’s progress so far)	8
Good sector representation	8
Other	3
Networking opportunities	2

3.2.4 Ideas for improvement

45 written comments were received for the question “*today’s workshop could have been improved by...*”? The main themes were as follows:

Theme	Count
Needed more science / data or technical information	8
Other	8
The introduction session was too long	7
Needed more discussion time in groups	4
Needed a question and answer session	3
There were issues with acoustics, flies, lawn mowing or the table set up	2
Release information / pre reading before workshop	2
Focus on solutions	2

The “other” category included comments around wanting to hear news of the decisions made so far by the CSG, having a greater focus on balancing environmental and economic considerations and more on iwi perspectives. One person wanted “a commitment by CSG members that they wouldn’t like to appeal any plan change”.

3.2.5 Other comments

People were given the opportunity to provide any other feedback to the CSG they wanted around the workshop day or anything else (in response to the question “*other comments I have include...*”). In total there were 31 comments recorded and they are included below uncategorised.

Response Text
Panel Q and A sessions (with specific guidelines)
Thanks. Appreciate the work that has been put in.
Don't like method of getting feedback from participants in the open forum when we were instructed to provide feedback on each section of river and our use.
Today was all about the water, what we do with the water also effects land and air which has not been incorporated. Other issues that we may face if we change government are not covered.
Need to work on bottom 10 - 15% of people (not only farmers) to improve their river management.
Asking for subjective and un-informed feedback is poor process e.g. How have the waterways changed (subjective). What clarity of water would you swim in (How does this contribute to intelligent decision making?)
Why was sports fish left off fishing as a recreation.
Far too much talk about what is going to happen instead of what has been achieved.
Concerns about dealing with water clarity. Concerns about the swimmability of the whole river being a target. Obviously cleaner up river - from Hamilton.
I came from Auckland and more than pleased I came
Could we have another drop in session close to Taupo, please.
We hope that the information provided is taken in good faith and that one sector is not blamed for what is happening to the water quality.
Great venue. Valuable to listen to all input, whatever ones opinion of those views. Familiarity with the views may eventually shed light on compromises.
There was no discussion about the linkage between water quality and water quantity available for allocation from the Waikato River.
Thanks for the opportunity to participate.
Every person in this community needs to understand how they personally affect water quality, then we can move forward.
Poor positioning of left hand screen in morning (sunlight)
Not so much morning tea.
Need to ensure this goes forward with high priority!
Keep considering the application of bio technology to become part of a viable and economic solution.
Well done A far better process than in other regions. A great inclusive process. Great to see strong stakeholder representation.
Some exercises seemed loaded i.e. must achieve very ambitious targets and/or set more targets.
I look forward to seeing who submits and appeals on plan change. Please don't undermine the work to date.
Be good to have a board that explains:- why scope is limited- seperate 'report card' by WRA - why can't this forum achieve that?
Quality/frequency of monitoring important.
One plan per FMU. Don't confuse the situation - have each FMU working collaboratively towards same goal.
I think that dairy will be weak when a lot of farmers are prepared to make big changes to benefit rivers. We have all benefitted in the last 20 years - lets give something back.
Felt very inclusive - good.
Workshop was valuable in meeting other people but would like to see further dialogue with the technical and stakeholder group.
Consider personal/perception bias that exists with setting clarity values. Does this need/point to a need to keep a suspended solids % measure - which is more scientifically based and aligns with currently used monitoring measures (e.g. CMP's)
WRC staff - please work with district planners to test draft plan writing before taking to decision makers.
I look forward to the next one prior to November.
Stop with the loaded questions! A couple of questions were quite ridiculous - "how clear is water before you swim" and "what more could be done to achieve better water quality outcomes." These were both loaded.

4 Selected Feedback from Forum

The Large Stakeholder Workshop produced a high quantity of quality feedback. A full analysis of this feedback is underway. Results from two key questions are shown below.

4.1 How clear does the water have to be question

One of the questions asked at the Large Stakeholder Workshop was ‘How clear does the water have to be before you would get in?’. This question was posed following the presentation on attributes and was accompanied by a ‘murky man’ picture. The picture had tick boxes at different height levels where stakeholders could tick to indicate their preference for how clear the water had to be. In addition there was blank space for stakeholders to write comments.

Further than toes	Neck to toes	Waist to toes	Knees to toes	Don't mind how murky
11	23	46	30	4

4.1.1 ‘Murky man’ results

The below table shows the aggregated number of ticks on the ‘murky man’ diagram

Over 70% of people indicated that the water would have to be at a clarity of ‘Waist to toes’ or higher before they would get in the water.

An averaged weighting approach (where ‘further than toes’ is 1, ‘neck to toes’ is 2 etc) gives an average number of 2.939 (3dp) – which is closest to ‘waist to toes’.

The results highlight that for the majority of people, ‘waist to toes’ is the bottom line desired for getting into the water.

4.1.2 Comments for this question

In total 59 comments were made in relation to this question. These comments can be grouped into themes, this is shown below:

Theme	No. of comments
Problem with or unclear about the question or approach	13
It depends ... (includes comments saying their answer would depend on: whether the water is flowing or not, if there had been a recent weather event, if we are talking about tribs or the main stem, what you are doing in the water, local knowledge etc)	23
Wouldn't swim regardless of clarity (e.g. due to temperature)	3
Clarity not the defining factor in swimming (some responses included reference to other attributes such as <i>E.coli</i>)	10
Emphasising the importance of safety (e.g. being able to identify hazards)	5
Ecosystem health aspects	2
Other (includes: important to know and consider tradeoffs, is the root cause being addressed, should relate to turbidity not to sediment)	3

The comments highlight that stakeholders recognise that there are other considerations, apart from water clarity, that also are important to consider in relation to 'swimmability'. This has also been recognised by the CSG and TLG as water clarity is one of three attributes for the 'swimmability' value (the others being *E.coli* and planktonic cyanobacteria).

The comments also highlight that whether or not people will swim in a water body depends on multiple factors outside of our attributes, such as local knowledge of a water body.

Finally it is worth noting that this question asked 'how clear does the water have to be' rather than 'how clear would you like the water to be', and some stakeholders highlighted this distinction. Both questions have been included in the online survey. One question could be useful at helping to establish a bottom line, where as the other question could be useful at indicating what water quality the community eventually wants to end up with.

4.2 Timeframes to achieve the values question

One of the other questions that was asked at the Large Stakeholder Workshop was 'What timeframes would you think are reasonable to achieve the values by?'. Answers to this question will allow the CSG to gauge the expectations of stakeholders in regards to timeframes. This in turn could be useful at assisting the CSG to set targets.

Set out in Attachment 1 is a table with different timeframes and what stakeholders have said is reasonable to achieve by those timeframes, as well as a table containing themes of comments that didn't specifically mention a timeframe.

5 Online Survey Update

The online survey for the 1st intensive engagement period runs from March 30 through to April 30. Survey questions are focused on the 5 matters of the new focus for the 1st intensive engagement period.

As at 14 April 2015 there have been 222 responses to the online survey. A full analysis of these responses will occur once the survey has run its course.

6 Feedback – Process from here

A full report on the feedback from all of the engagement events that have taken place during the intensive engagement period will be collated, analysed and reported back to the CSG at their June meeting (4/5 June 2015).

Report prepared by:

Reviewed by:

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Community Engagement Workstream,
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Bill Wasley
Chairperson, Collaborative Stakeholder
Group

Attachment 1 – Tables showing what timeframes stakeholders say are reasonable to achieve the values by and themes of comments

Timeframes to achieve the values

1-5 years	5 years	10 years	10-20 years	20 years	25 years	30 years	20+ years	50+ years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announce immediate moratorium on land conversions in upper catchment stopping development that will have direct impact on contaminants to river develop best practice procedures start implementing Implement best form practice achieved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigations in place Develop system that links farm system with regulatory systems 5-7 years should see improvements from afforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social acceptance Showing positive trends All farms have land and environment plans Bring industry up to standard incl any required mitigations Develop systems around proof of standard N transfer system developments See 10% drop in elemental N, P. measured safe to swim in Huntly 10% drop in sediment loading (esp Waipa) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement best form practice achieved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to swim Biodiversity / ecology Ability to eat e.g. whitebait, eel, watercress Mahinga kai (not sure as some kai appear safe to eat now) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time to adapt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurable improvement Upper catchment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to swim Shellfish to be able to eat raw (lakes longer) Biodiversity / ecology Drinkable in Huntly Put a dam on the Waipa sediment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of mitigations will take generations for the effects to be seen Lower catchment Human Health, ecoli, cyanobacteria, phytoplankton (but with 10 year milestones) achieve 'in river' improvements (10 year milestones)

Comment themes

Theme	No. of comments
The issues will take a long time (e.g. multi generational) to fix	7
Need to have a stepped change process with milestones e.g. progressive KPIs	6
Prioritisation of actions	2
Do it once and do it right (don't want shifting targets/goal posts)	6
Have flexibility (new issues will arise, new technology will be developed)	5
Continuous improvement	5
There should be different timeframes for different parts (both at a FMU scale and within)	5
There should be different timeframes for different values and/or attributes	7
The timeframes should depend on what the 'science' says (including information on groundwater lags)	11
The timeframes should depend on the levels set, options chosen and/or the impacts on activities	5
The timeframes should depend on the affordability to the community and the viability of landowners (including results of economic analysis)	8
The timeframes should depend on what the consent process will be and what is being enforced	2
The timeframes should depend on the planning cycle (i.e. 10 year plans)	2
The timeframes should depend on social/attitude change and getting buy-in	3
The timeframes should depend on the response rate of natural systems (lag between actions and outcomes)	2
The timeframes should depend on the NPS-FM timeframes	1
There should be an immediate moratorium imposed on land conversions	2
Do we need to meet the values in all water bodies?	1
Need to separate outcomes from regulations	1
Timeframes should be reasonable (i.e. not too long)	1