

Key Decision Areas – Pareora Catchment

OTOP Zone Committee workshop 10 July 2017

Minimum flows

Is there a need to change minimum flows, considering the recent flow review under the Pareora Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan ?

- No significant change in values of understanding of the Pareora catchment since the flow reviews.
- A consent review was initiated in 2014 to align all consent in the Pareora Catchment with the minimum flows in the plan.
- Minimum flows have stepped increases 5 years from when plan becomes operative (plan operative July 2012)
- Benefits of the minimum flow regime have not yet been seen.
- Small catchments of Lyalldale, Springbrook and Pig Hunting Creeks are not included in the Pareora Flow plan, or the Land and Water Regional Plan

Surface water Allocation

Do the surface water allocation limits in the Pareora Catchment need to be changed?

- A Block Limit is over allocated
- B Block Limit is under allocated

There are no measures in the Pareora Plan to phase out over allocation of surface water, or to prevent further surface water being allocated. How would you like to phase out over allocation in the Pareora Catchment?

- The A Block is over allocated. Options to phase out the existing over allocation include:
 - Preventing any further allocation of A block surface water
 - Requiring a percentage of allocated water to be surrendered on renewal of a consent
 - Requiring a percentage of allocated water to be surrendered on transfer of a consent
 - Preventing the reallocation of any surrendered surface water
 - Preventing the transfer of water permits in the Pareora Catchment
 - Restricting annual volumes on renewed consents to actual use data, as discussed at the Orari workshop.
 - Time
- These measures can be tailored. How would you like to use them, and over what period of time?

- The B Block currently has allocation available. Options to prevent the B block from becoming over allocated include:
 - Preventing the abstraction of water above the B Block limit in the Pareora Plan
 - Reducing the B Block limit to its current allocation (capping).

Groundwater allocation

Do the groundwater limits need to change?

- The Upper Pareora and Pareora GWAZs are over allocated

How would you like to phase out over allocation of groundwater in the Pareora Freshwater Management Unit?

- Options to phase out the existing over allocation include:
 - Preventing any further allocation of groundwater above the allocation limit
 - Requiring a percentage of allocated water to be surrendered on renewal of a consent
 - Requiring a percentage of allocated water to be surrendered on transfer of a consent
 - Preventing the reallocation of any surrendered groundwater
 - Preventing the transfer of groundwater permits in the Pareora
 - Restricting annual volumes on renewed consents to actual use data, as discussed at the Orari workshop.
 - Time

Nutrients

Are the PC5 rules sufficient to protect water quality? Do these need to be strengthened?

- Plan Change 5 will maintain water quality in the Pareora Catchment
- Do you want to prevent any further intensification?
- Do you want to enable permitted intensification?
- Hunter Downs has a consented load, the effect of this is yet to be seen
- Increased nutrients may lead to increased periphyton growth
- Industrial load limits (Pareora Meatworks)

New Water

Is new water encouraged and enabled in the Pareora Catchment?

Hunter Downs Irrigation

- Restore / improve reliability

Is there any ability to increase load with new irrigation areas?

- Maintain water quality in the Pareora Catchment
- Permitted intensification thresholds (irrigation / winter grazing)
- PC5 Nitrogen Baseline at GMP
- Catchment nutrient limits / catchment loads / water quality limit tables

Upper Catchment Management

Should the current upper catchment water yield be maintained/protected?

- Currently includes a number of flow sensitive catchments (Pareora River upstream of huts, Taiko Stream and St Andrews Stream)
- Risk of tussock conversion reducing flows is low (less than 5% at MALF)

Should the upper catchment biodiversity, aesthetic, recreation and landscape values be maintained/protected?

- Maintain good water quality
- Prevent conversion and intensification

Braided Riverbed Management

What factors should be considered in riverbed management?

- Riverbed birds/ nesting
- Weed control
- Works in riverbeds
- Gravel management