ORARI CATCHMENT GROUP PRESENTATION TO THE OTOPS ZONE COMMITTEE - Briefing Notes

INTRODUCTION

• Introduce Glen – Dairy Farmer, Recreational Fisherman & Adele – Regular recreational river user, Chair of Orari River Protection Group. Together we represent the Orari Catchment Group
• Overall goals of our Catchment Group – to improve & protect the quality & quantity of the Orari river and surrounding ground and surface water bodies
• Aligned to the outcomes identified in the Orari River Catchment Integrated Management Plan, developed with community collaboration in 2008

RECOMMENDATIONS:

• To draw on and continue to align with the collaborative work already encapsulated in the Orari River Catchment Management Plan
• Retain the Orari River Environmental Flow & Allocation Plan
• Preference given to rule based solutions to the key issues to ensure consistent actionability of the solutions (so the majority are not negated by the minority)
• The solutions package to incorporate staged implementation of solutions, mitigations or limits to allow:
  a) Time for development of alternatives to mitigate the flow on effects of the solutions
  b) Time for the solutions to be objectively monitored to assess effectiveness
  c) A clear timeline so all parties have clarity on the implementation eg set deadlines so actions are not deferred indefinitely beyond a fair allowance for a) & b)

(accepting there will be differing views on what these timelines look like)

Glen & Adele will speak to more specific areas or aspects of the catchment as below

Glen
• Irrigation reliability & issues
• Orari flow levels
• Review of consents
• N Hot spots for groundwater
• Better management of riparian planting
• Water monitoring on the Ohapi creek

Adele
• N P & E Coli levels
• Upper catchment – water gathering value
• Gravel extraction
• Weed control
• Bird nesting sites
• Recreation

Conclusion: Much common ground on the desired outcomes but within that there is tension, concern and unanswered questions in the means of achieving in a fair and equitable manner.