

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.