



## Community Feedback from the Current Pathways Workshops

*Below are the key points participants raised during the facilitated session at the public workshops in November*

Key: Fairlie= Blue; Geraldine= black; Timaru= red

### Information, Communication & Awareness

Happy	Concerned	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The information available: the more we hear and the more data we get the better</li> <li>– The modelling looks robust</li> <li>– There is a general hold in environmental/ economic and social indicators</li> <li>– There are some localised positives</li> <li>– Practical actions are shown to be effective and there are good example of farmers working hard</li> <li>– Modelling is on the right track in terms of ‘where to from here’</li> <li>– Issues have been acknowledged and recognised and things are happening on the ground!</li> <li>– A lot of people are working hard and on task to give a thorough explanation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Current pathways causes some major changes for some and not many major benefits for the environment</li> <li>– Accuracy of the science</li> <li>– The modelling shows:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– “Not enough, bugger all!,” little or no improvement against the outcomes and indicators</li> </ul> </li> <li>– There are some small wins but these are unlikely to achieve the zone wide community outcomes</li> <li>– Is the modelling robust?</li> <li>– Concerned that the assumptions used for modelling are not robust enough to confidently forecast outcomes given the recognised holes in data.</li> <li>– The complex interactions in the modelling may well under sell the current plan and its benefits</li> <li>– Concerned about the current constraints in modelling improvements</li> <li>– Generalising an area- it only takes one stream or small area to keep a site red when all others may be yellow</li> <li>– Assumptions lead to stuff ups- we need more assurance around these assumptions</li> <li>– Assumed that GMP results in 5-15% increase in water quality and assumed that everyone is at GMP</li> <li>– Discussions have centred around the farming industry but we have not focussed on the wider community who aren’t farming</li> <li>– We are looking at a small piece of history</li> <li>– Lack of communication on GMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Industry, agriculture and urban are all part of the solution</li> <li>– The farmers say needs to be heard</li> <li>– Communication is really important</li> <li>– We need more research + baseline figures on lag times in GW</li> <li>– It is important for landowners to tell others about the practices that have been adopted to improve outcomes. Ways to address this is through leadership, farmers telling their story</li> <li>– Publicise and promote good key practicable steps</li> <li>– Make modelling accessible and understandable for others to adopt</li> <li>– Impact of science, technology and genetic gain going forward</li> <li>– Do a study for the wider community to see how many FEP’s have been done i.e. through talking to DairyNZ, Beef and Lamb, OWL, Rangitata South and FAR</li> <li>– We need an improved shared understanding between townies and farmers and also for ‘community’ to mean the town and farmers rather than two separate groups</li> <li>–</li> </ul>



Water Quality		
Happy	Concerned	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lake Opuha flushing flows and greater effect with the downstream weir</li> <li>- The Opihi mainstem at Burkes Pass is still swimmable</li> <li>- There is good water quality in the South Opuha + dam</li> <li>- There is good water quality in the Upper Orari</li> <li>- Upper catchment status quo</li> <li>- Local actions can reduce ecoli levels at swimming sites e.g. the Waihi River</li> <li>- Is maintained</li> <li>- Trending in the right direction</li> <li>- We are meeting national bottom lines for secondary contact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uncertainty about lag times in nitrogen and groundwater</li> <li>- Nitrate is a problem</li> <li>- Is water quality increasing fast enough?</li> <li>- Swimmable water is non-negotiable</li> <li>- The Hae Hae Te Moana river low stable flows, heat/ no shade causing didymo and periphyton issue</li> <li>- Cyanobacteria downstream of the Opihi river</li> <li>- Dairy grazing next to waterways</li> <li>- Lower parts of the catchments are declining</li> <li>- The rivers are not swimmable for fish</li> <li>- The Orari river plan does not address water quality standards</li> <li>- River access is an issue in the Orari River- if more sites were swimmable then access would be less of an issue</li> <li>- The whole community bears the cost of water quality deterioration (even low emitters)</li> <li>- Development i.e. changes in landuse are contributing to visual deterioration of the river in a lifetime</li> <li>- The national bottom line should be swimmable water rather than secondary contact</li> <li>- Periphyton growth in the lower reaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There needs to be a change in rules around stock access into waterways and how we enforce this</li> <li>- The need for higher minimum flows or mitigation on-farm</li> <li>- Linking communities with key recreational sites</li> <li>- Identifying hotspots and getting groups of people to rectify these</li> <li>- Flushing flows, GMP, riparian planting, fencing to reduce sediment levels</li> <li>- Need more farm monitoring</li> </ul>



Water Quantity		
Happy	Concerned	Solutions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water is over-allocated The drop in reliability when consents are reviewed to align with new minimum flows</li> <li>- Tributary flows which may be reviewed</li> <li>- The need to address over allocation- A reduction to 90% in over allocated catchments is not good enough</li> <li>- We need to reduce over-allocation so that there is no more over-allocation</li> <li>- Over-allocation is leading to lower noticeable water table and river flows</li> <li>- Is 80% irrigation efficiency achieved now and is that achievable in the future?</li> <li>- Over-allocation and water abstraction does not appear to be significantly addressed in the current path</li> <li>- At the moment the measurement of ecosystem health for rivers is still focused on minimum flows</li> <li>- 90% reduction of over-allocation is not enough reduction when thinking about consents that come in for renewal</li> <li>- We can't address anything without addressing over-allocation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Look at seasonal changes happening and what effect that may have on the environment</li> <li>- Bringing in alpine water</li> <li>- Put a time limit on the expiry of consents for review</li> <li>- Accelerate potential solutions i.e. we need to start thinking beyond the existing scenario and towards possible storage options</li> <li>- Irrigators needs to harvest water at higher flows only, and to retain harvested water in storage on-farm &amp; not double dip</li> <li>- Minimum flow and low flow is only 1 of 3 components of environmental flows. As part of a solution we need to consider environmental flows and then minimum flows</li> <li>- Need to learn more about seasonal climate fluctuations when thinking about water storage</li> <li>- Increasing flushing flows</li> </ul>

Good Management Practice (GMP)		
Happy	Concerned	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GMP leads to (up to 15%) improvement in water quality</li> <li>- GMP having a positive impact is reassuring</li> <li>- GMP shows that we have made a start</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disappointed at the reductions GMP will provide</li> <li>- Disappointed that GMP is not more beneficial</li> <li>- What is GMP if we are not achieving other outcomes? i.e. social, recreational, environmental outcomes</li> <li>- Will GMP realise the 5-15% gains? Some people will already be at GMP and others may struggle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better advice and management to give more benefits associated with GMP</li> <li>- We need more incentives for achieving GMP but also for Best management practice which involves continuous improvement e.g. through increasing \$\$</li> <li>- Innovation through the likes of GPS/ virtual</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FEP's are a great incentive for farmers to undertake GMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of GMP and PC5 are only just holding the status quo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good GMP for the whole community</li> </ul>
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Practical Actions		
Happy	Concerned	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Things are happening!</li> <li>- The funding put into biodiversity enhancements i.e. Immediate Steps</li> <li>- Industry groups/ programmes/ catchment groups working with farmers to improve on-farm management</li> <li>- Biodiversity is trending in the right direction</li> <li>- Current biodiversity projects are occurring already</li> <li>- Practical actions but not much else</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ECan spraying rivers/ trees which are good for providing shade</li> <li>- The lack of monitoring and the ratio of consents to monitor vs the staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We need more local action</li> <li>- Identifying hotspots and getting groups of people to rectify these (<i>if you cut your thumb, you need to put a plaster on your finger</i>). In terms of the 5-15% improvement this will focus effort on the bottom up</li> <li>- We need to ramp up on the ground enhancements</li> <li>- There needs to be changes in how we enforce stock access in waterways</li> <li>- Riparian management with emphasis on native biodiversity</li> <li>- There is the need for more monitoring</li> <li>- River management plans for weeds or riparian planting programmes and co-funding in order to provide for the birdlife and to maintain the braided rivers</li> <li>- Being able to directly link your action to improved water quality</li> <li>- Increase our existing support in terms of the practical actions going on</li> <li>- Encouraging projects such as the Immediate Steps programme</li> <li>- Practical actions need to be encouraged i.e. through Immediate Steps funding</li> <li>- More monitoring of water quality and quantity which is continuous and regular i.e. more than 1 month of the year</li> <li>- Planting supplied by industry groups i.e. Silver Fern Farms, Fonterra</li> </ul>



Planning		
Happy	Concerned	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are some dryland farmers who are happy with natural rainfall (quantity?)</li> <li>- Flexibility around fencing of waterways for high country farmers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The reliability of Overseer as a basis for setting limits</li> <li>- Frustration with the process and current rules</li> <li>- Perceived future limits</li> <li>- There are no figures on nutrient limits yet</li> <li>- Dairy grazing next to waterways</li> <li>- Should dairy farmers winter stock at home?</li> <li>- Managing cumulative effects in a fair way</li> <li>- There needs to be a consistent approach to high country farmers when it comes to setting limits</li> <li>- Restrictions on changing land use and intensification</li> <li>- All of the zone is either red or orange for nutrient management and there is little in the plan about nutrient management</li> <li>- The plans don't address different areas of the zone that have a better or worse current state e.g. Orari, Opihi catchments.</li> <li>- Concerned about whether current pathways picks up on the small blocks of land which are not covered by PC5 (i.e. areas of winter feed, irrigation)</li> <li>- Does the current pathways show that the Orari and Pareora plans have a positive environmental effect?</li> <li>- Clarity on fencing exclusions and winter grazing</li> <li>- Generalising an area- it only takes one stream or small area to keep a site red when all others may be yellow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plans need to take into account dryland intensification</li> <li>- Need to separate the Te Ana a Wai catchment from the Opihi because the flow is not augmented there, unlike the Opuha/Opihi</li> <li>- Equity when addressing nutrient allocations</li> <li>- There is the need for equity among all animals i.e. all stock excluded</li> <li>- River management plans for weeds</li> <li>- Alter the current plan to make it possible to deliver swimmable rivers and streams catchment wide</li> <li>- One way to keep stock out of waterways is to ensure that there is good stockwater systems (TDC responsibility)</li> </ul>



Cultural information		
Happy	Concerned	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The cultural perspective is capturing the wider community perspective &amp; aspirations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The modelling shows little or no improvement which is considered poor against the cultural indicators, particularly in the lower parts of the catchment</li> <li>- The influence from the local Rūnanga is good to have but getting personal preference is an issue</li> <li>- The potential impact of cultural flows if they applied</li> </ul>	

Economic		
Happy	Concerned	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The economic aspects of current pathways are maintained</li> <li>- The economic assessment shows some flexibility to achieve the outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The financial implications of this planning process</li> <li>- Small improvements at a large cost</li> <li>- Business as usual does not allow us to build resilience in our economies/ environment to future proof us from climate impacts</li> <li>- The costs of consents can be a fortune for little to no gain</li> <li>- It's a big price to pay to achieve the economic gain outcome and we have concern about maintaining that in the long run</li> <li>- There is a disconnect between 'community wellbeing' used simply in the context of economic value- are we measuring all dimensions of community wellbeing?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for co-funding trials</li> <li>- Adopting crowd funding within local communities (this can also help to build relationships)</li> </ul>