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Focussing On What Matters



**Enabling farmers to achieve
excellent freshwater outcomes**

E McGruddy, Federated Farmers, March 2015

Outline



- EIANZ position statements
- NPS/MfE guidance

- Framing the problem (*opportunity*)
- Catchment accounting (*understanding*)

- Partnerships on the ground
- Opportunities going forward

Enabling, meaning of



- Give (someone) the authority or means to do something
- to make able; to supply with the means, knowledge or opportunity (to do something)
- to make possible, practical or easy
- enabling" references patterns of interaction which allow individuals to develop and grow. These patterns may be on any scale, for example "enabling acts" designed to empower some group

How can EIANZ practitioners enable farmers?



EIANZ Position Statements

Empower communities



- Those involved in the problem and its outcomes have the right to be consulted & involved in decision-making
- Empower communities through participation in decision-making, monitoring and evaluation of outcomes
- EIANZ encourages community involvement **at the earliest stages**, including the setting of objectives
- Not just information but access to appropriate technical tools and expert knowledge required to understand technical reports
- Communities represent a **huge pool of valuable knowledge** that should be tapped in the problem solving process

Community ownership



- Co-design and ownership of a problem and its solutions is most successful when the right people with the right skills are brought together to **shape the problem definition and solutions from the outset**
 - it is very difficult to bring people in halfway through and expect ownership for delivery
- A collaborative approach by a group of purposefully targeted individuals created **momentum and enthusiasm** and drove outcomes

People & Partnerships



- **People are the most important asset** and resource for protection of the reef
 - improve the capacity of reef managers, industry, community to better understand the issues and assist with the implementation
- Set out proposals for **actual programs/partnerships**
 - rather than imply these might be created in future

Collaborative governance



Collaborative governance is about **industry/community/government partnerships** to deliver community outcomes

Pahaoa Catchment

- P hotspot, halved within 5 years



- Investigation

- data collection, **catchment report on key issues**

- Involvement

- feeding back results of investigations to land owners, working through options, developing **action plan to address community goals**

- Improvement

- securing funding, undertaking actions, monitoring outcomes, evaluating achievements

NPS for Freshwater/MfE Guidance

Enabling community decision-making



- Collaboration between communities, local authorities and iwi will be important in improving freshwater management
- A collaborative approach emphasises the sharing of knowledge and **working together at the front end** of the planning process
- The mix of approaches can be **tailored to individual catchments** and can be targeted to local issues, interests and parties
- This means that working collaboratively with relevant users and interested parties is important in **setting targets, timeframes and methods at a catchment level.**

FMUs should not just be hydrologically coherent,
but also socially,
so that communities with common interests & values
are contributing to common objectives.

Framing the Problem (*Opportunity*)

“The degree of clarity about the problem will influence the type and range of solutions considered, and the quality of analysis of the options”

Option One



“The Regional Council wants to safeguard water quality.

Currently there is even more pressure coming on from intensive farming.

The Regional Council has an even more important role to play in reversing longterm trends of deterioration”.

Option Two



“In the bad old days, waterways were not much more than industrial drains.

Today we enjoy waterways of mostly acceptable and stable quality.

This improvement has been a community effort, it's come from hard work and serious spending.

We've come a long way, yet our progress can be easily overlooked.

Challenges remain – although they are subtle, they are not intractable”.

Catchment Accounting

(Catchment Understanding)

- Annual accounts will generally be insufficient to inform management
- Model estimates are only complete if accompanied by a statement of the uncertainties

- Pragmatic, prioritised approach to scale and significance
- Initial scoping and low-cost accounting may identify priority FMUs for more accurate accounting
- In high priority catchments, it may be necessary to **reduce the uncertainties in order to provide the necessary confidence** in the outcomes of decisions

Farmer perspectives

- **Taking ownership** of the problem and the solution
 - **you've got to understand what effect it has in your catchment**, your sediment, your sea lettuce
- Knowledge is key
 - access to **real science that farmers can understand**
- Early engagement is key
 - start the discussions in your catchment groups
- **Harnessing collective horsepower**
 - there's a lot of power in not one farmer doing things, but all farmers doing it in a catchment
 - we've done the farm things, now looking at catchment options

Understanding our own rivers

Chlorophyll NOF Bands Medians	Ruamahunga Mainstem	Western Tributaries	Valley Streams	Eastern Tributaries
Excellent < 50		Tauherenik/Websters 8 Waingawa/South Rd 20 Waipoua/Colombo 38 Waiohine/Bicknells 35	Parkvale (Lowes) 30	
Good < 120	Te Ore Ore 51 Gladstone 57 Pukio 54	Mangatarere /SH2 76		
Fair < 200				Huangarua 166
Below B/line >200			Parkvale (Weir) 221	Taueru /Gladstone 515 Kopuaranga /Stewarts 518

Partnerships On the Ground

(action on the ground)

Whareama Partnership Example



Old Planning Focus	New Opportunity
Farming Economy	Community Economy
Disconnect with Water Quality	Own and Manage Water Quality
Stock Access	Recreation – swimming , fishing, boating
Flood Management	Inanga spawning
Erosion Planting	Estuarine Health and Coastal environment

Whareama Community Partnership
OWNS water quality and **BALANCES** the values
Allow in RP Policies/Rules, develop in Whaitua

Waitao Stream Restoration



- Iwi-led restoration
 - **initiated by locals** who are there for the long haul
- Science-supported education sparked broad catchment action
 - **NZLCT facilitator was critical** – getting groups going, good interpersonal skills with farmers, tapping into funding
- Monitoring prompted and encouraged action
 - NIWA \$ to test the idea of **community monitoring**, simple robust tools for measuring clarity, temperature, MCI
- Increased social capital further supporting action

Project Rerewhakaaitu



“Two years ago Bill Bayfield challenged farmers to take control of their own destiny and create a Plan for Farming in the catchment. This is that document.

What keeps the farmers “in the tent” is that they own the tent.

I have always believed that for people to take ownership of any outcome they must have full & total participation of the process.

A key also is our facilitator, Bob Parker. The farming community gained a confidence in Bob and the science providers over the next few years.

It’s the community’s Project, their ideas, science projects etc. They get to see the outcomes first and **debate it with the scientists** before anyone else.”

Opportunities Going Forward



- Empowering catchment communities is a central organising principle for EIANZ, MfE, FFNZ
- Strengthen the space between high-level & on-the-ground projects
 - explicit strategies, priorities, named catchments, eg, RPs/LTPs
- Partnership funding is critical
 - collective commitment, grease the wheels, eg, HCEP, Clean-Up
- Coordination is critical
 - invest in catchment coordinators , eg, NZLCT
- Science support is critical
 - simple tools for baseline community monitoring/understanding
 - coordinated R&D in “flagship” catchments



Farmer/community ownership
and catchment partnerships
enable excellent outcomes for freshwater!