

Kaituna / Maketū Freshwater Futures Community Group

Meeting Notes: Workshop 4: Community view on values in rivers and streams

The Orchard, 20 MacLoughlin Drive, Te Puke

Friday 11 November 2016 commencing at 9.00am

Members present: Barry Roderick (Chair), Campbell Larking, Cor Verwey, Hendrik Metz, Hohepa Maxwell, Ian Schultz, Jessica Dean, Julian Fitter, Manu Wihapi, Maria By de ley, Marc Fauvel, Maria Horne, Mary Dillon, Morgyn Bramley, Murray Linton, Nick Webb, Peter Ellery, Richard Fowler, Warren Webber.

Apologies: Doug Hallberg, Jeff Fletcher, John Fenwick, Councillor Paula Thompson, Vivienne Robinson.

BOPRC Staff present: Pim de Monchy (Relationship Manager), Kerry Gosling (Support Facilitator), Stephanie Macdonald (Facilitator), Janie Stephenson, (Support Facilitator), Nicola Green (Senior Planner – Water Policy), Joanne Watts (Policy Analyst – Water Policy), Clarke Koopu (Māori Policy Advisor), Rochelle Carter (Environmental Scientist) and Lisa Baty (Planning Coordination Officer – Water Programme)

Observer: Rani Dhaliwal (University of Waikato PhD student)

Related documents previously circulated:

1. Briefing note: Workshop 4: Community View of the Water in Rivers and Streams
2. Kaituna Freshwater Futures Community Group presentation 11 November 2016
3. Kaituna Community Group workshop 4 worksheets
4. Kaituna Community Group workshop 4: Brief summary notes: In-river Values (as presented to Te Maru O Kaituna, 29 November 2016)

1 Welcome /Updates/Focus of the day

Manu Wihapi opened with a karakia.

Pim de Monchy welcomed everyone to the workshop and handed over to Barry (Chair).

Barry welcomed new members:

- Richard Fowler: Involved in Landcorp farming for five years and share milking on Te Arawa farms ever since.
- Brian Thomas: Local sheep and beef (S&B) farmer in the Te Puke area for 17 years. Joined our group to bring a S&B farmer's perspective, background in dairy, horticulture, fertiliser, technical advisory roles and business. Chair BOP Farming group through Beef and Lamb NZ.

1.1 Group members' burning issues:

Burning issues raised were:

- Plan Change 9 (Region-wide Water Quantity Plan Change) and Plan Change 12 and the influence of this group on those;
- Allocation methods and nutrient loads from different land uses. Barry requested some information about allocation methods and relative nutrient loads from different land uses. *Some handouts on these topics were provided for those members with an interest. Nicki noted that we have not reached the point of considering allocation options for Kaituna yet.*

- Factory Drain (downstream of Pukepine) was investigated for sediment contamination by Council staff and a consulting firm between June and September 2016, and reported on in October. The investigation also looked at the surrounding farmland to see whether drain dredgings, or sediment from flood events in the drain, might have raised contaminant levels. The investigation found that Arsenic levels were elevated in the drain sediment between Pukepine and the confluence with the Ohineangaanga Stream. The report recommended that future drain de-silting operations remove the material to a contaminated waste landfill rather than spreading onto adjacent farmland. There were some samples on land adjacent to the drains with elevated Arsenic levels, and further work is underway to determine the extent of this. Council staff are separately considering what kind of enforcement response is appropriate. Contact Regional Council Officer Paul Futter for further information.
- The same investigation tested contaminant levels in Centennial Park (upstream of Pukepine) based on information that the site was historically used as a dump site for sawdust. The testing found no contaminants that were elevated above background levels.
- *Pukepine's application for resource consents to discharge contaminants to water and to air have been received by Council and will be publicly notified in December. Everybody will have the opportunity to lodge a submission on this. For further information contact Regional Council consents officer Marlene Bosch.*
- Update on consent process for AFFCO – what stage this is at? *Pim advised that AFFCO are collecting background information and will likely lodge a consent application before the end of February 2017. As yet there isn't a proposal from the AFFCO detailing the kind of treatments available, costs, or quality of discharge water. Councils' consent staff will discuss draft application options with AFFCO.*

Hohepa advised that Tapuika have met with AFFCO and have been quite blunt about the issues and what their expectations are. He is confident that consultation with AFFCO will result in significant change to mitigate damage that has been done to the Kaituna.

1.2 Agenda, purpose and updates

Nicki outlined:

- A brief recap of what we have covered in workshops to date and the work programme. Council have confirmed the draft Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) and draft regional freshwater value set in principle.
- Focus today: 'In-river' values, what's happening to them and how well you think they are provide for.
- Council is investing in building better catchment modelling for Kaituna / Maketū / Pongakawa / Waitahanui and Rangitāiki which will link groundwater and surface water. More sophisticated catchment modelling will help us to estimate effects of likely future demand and use on water quality and quantity and the implications of different objectives and limits.
- National updates:
 - NPSFM: Central government has stated its intention to notify changes to the NPSFM in December. We do not know what these changes look like or what we will have to change in our programme.
 - Regional Councils Chief Executives have agreed in principle to work with industry organisations, the Ministry of Primary Industries and the Ministry for the Environment towards Good Management Practice accords and consistency for things like farm environment planning across the country.
- Healthy Rivers / Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 for Waikato and Waipa river catchments has been notified: We have summary fact sheets should you need more detail. Just remember we are in a somewhat different situation here and have not yet started developing management options.

- Plan Change 9 (PC9): Region-wide Water Quantity: A brief explanation of the PC 9 scope was given by Nicki and fact sheets were provided. This Change had been publicly notified for formal submissions and anybody including group members can submit until 14 December 2016. Freshwater Futures Plan Change 12 will address water quantity and quality objectives, limits and methods for the Kaituna catchment and may replace / supersede some region-wide allocation limits in PC9. We are in the pre-draft stage, working with the community group and others. Group member input will help to inform key decisions for this plan change.

Jo Watts provided an update on the Kaituna River Document:

- Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority (TMoK) is the co-governance authority set up by the Tapuika Claims Settlement Act 2014.
- Purpose of the document – to protect, restore and enhance the Kaituna River and tributaries.
- In draft and now TMoK is considering the feedback received, to work up the proposed version of the document to notify for formal submissions early next year.
- This will be a statutory document. The vision, objectives and desired outcomes in it need to be recognised and provided for in regional and district planning documents.
- Council will keep members posted and will be trying to align Plan Change 12 work with the Kaituna River Document as it progresses in parallel.

Hohepa is a member of TMoK and was invited to add anything about the document. He stated his restraint in enthusiasm here and reiterated the keystone objective is restoration, preservation and enhancement of the river. This is not only a Tapiuka value statement but a community one.

2 Assessing in-river values – for creating preferred objectives -

Steph noted that staff have identified which in-river values exist in each FMU and invited group members to check whether this is correct.

Steph explained the focus of the day: in-river values.

- Swimming and other recreation involving immersion;
- Mahinga kai (kai is safe to harvest and eat) and (the mauri of the place is intact);
- Ecosystem Health;
- Significant / threatened / rare indigenous species;
- Fishing;
- Natural form and character;
- Wai tapu and / or site of cultural significance;
- Transport and Tauranga waka

Freshwater use values including those relating to taking, using and discharging to freshwater were not covered in this workshop. Workshop 5 will have a focus on use values.

2.1 Key comments / questions:

- What do you mean in the river? Water or banks included? Banks are important to me. *Nicki confirmed the values today's will be on values that exist in the river and may depend on a particular range of water quality and quantity to support. We are seeking your view on what is happening to these.*
- When talking about the water, at what end do you want us to talk about - top or lower end? *Nicki confirmed we will look at each Draft FMU (Waiari, mid-upper Kaituna, lower Kaituna) and the estuary in turn. We are still testing these, so if you see big differences within FMUs or from top to lower end, note them.*

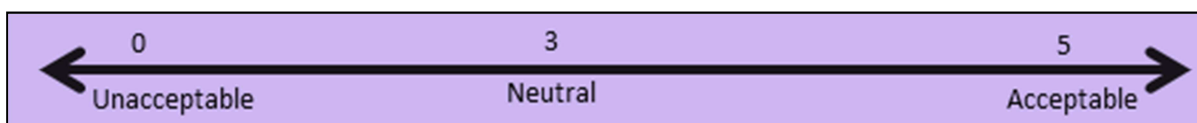
- Will there be different management approaches across the region? *Nicki stated we intend to work towards consistency unless specific differences are appropriate.*
- Concern about inconsistency property owners who live in same region, maybe in the same catchment and imposing restrictions – equity and fairness is most important. Will people only be regulated if the water body needs improvement? *Pim noted that the type of restrictions in areas seen to be ‘good’ would be to ensure we maintain this standard in the future. We want to ensure good water quality is not lost.*
- There is an opportunity to raise the bar across the entire region.
- How are the lines between mid-upper, and lower FMUs drawn on the FMU maps? *Pim confirmed they are draft, indicative and not fully accurate yet – the line between mid-upper and the lower generally follows the boundary of peat soils, reflecting lowland, former wetlands.*

Homework exercise – Steph checked how people found the exercise. Comments included:

- Made me realise how little I understand.
- We haven’t got a stable waterway, potentially major discharges in all waterways.
- Wasn’t interested in completing it as I would have marked sad face all the way through.
- I’m not qualified to make comment. It’s only my opinion which I don’t feel is very educated. *Steph confirmed this is exactly what we are after. We have many other forums providing technical advice, but your observations, experience, and opinions as the people who live in the area is what we are after, with as much explanation as to why as possible.*
- Public opinion is incredibly important but sometimes not well informed.
- Effluent from AFFCO, dairy discharge, Te Puke sewage treatment system – a lot has improved. But wetlands have disappeared – swings and roundabouts.
- Shouldn’t we have an overarching aspirational target? Manage what has happened and future proof on this.
- When you mean the values are present what do you mean by this? Fair, good, really good? *Steph advised that these are the questions we are going to ask you to consider today within the exercise, i.e., what do you think of the state of each value.*

2.2 Group discussions

Context: Sub-groups of 3 – 4 members discussed whether each value is present and provided for within each FMU and responded to questions:



1. Is the value at an acceptable level?
2. Do current conditions of water quality / quantity allow / support the value to be present? (why / why not)
3. Was the value previously here but has since been lost or nearly lost? (when / why)
4. Has the value recently improved? (why, how, where)
5. How would you expect it to be? (when / where / why / by when)
6. What further information would give you greater confidence in making this recommendation? (or are you comfortable with BOPRC setting this)

Where a group couldn’t reach consensus about the scoring, different viewpoints could be expressed as multiple X’s on the scale, with a small number beside to show how many people gave each score. Notes about all viewpoints were to be recorded by participants, also noting when participants felt there was insufficient information to comment.

Groups worked on one value at a time and not all values were discussed by all groups.

Pim talked about the group exercise, explaining the importance of input and knowledge from community group members, the homework within the briefing paper, and how this feeds into the work we need to complete.

Steph and Pim gave background about the process for the exercise, scoring and views, towards drafting preferred objectives.

Members then worked in groups through to approx. 1.00pm.

Analysis and worksheets are included in Attachment 1.

3 Credible future - scenarios - think 2030

3.1 Context:

In workshop 1, the group considered significant current and future trends affecting land and water use in the Kaituna catchment.

The group was provided with a pie graph showing % of existing land cover (see Figure 1) and asked to focus on more specific detail about:

- what big changes you anticipate in land use;
- land use practices;
- and industries that use water;
- where in catchment will these occur;

in the absence of any change in water policy / rules. e.g. based on trends in their industry / sector or changes already occurring. BOPRC will also talk to industry organisations.

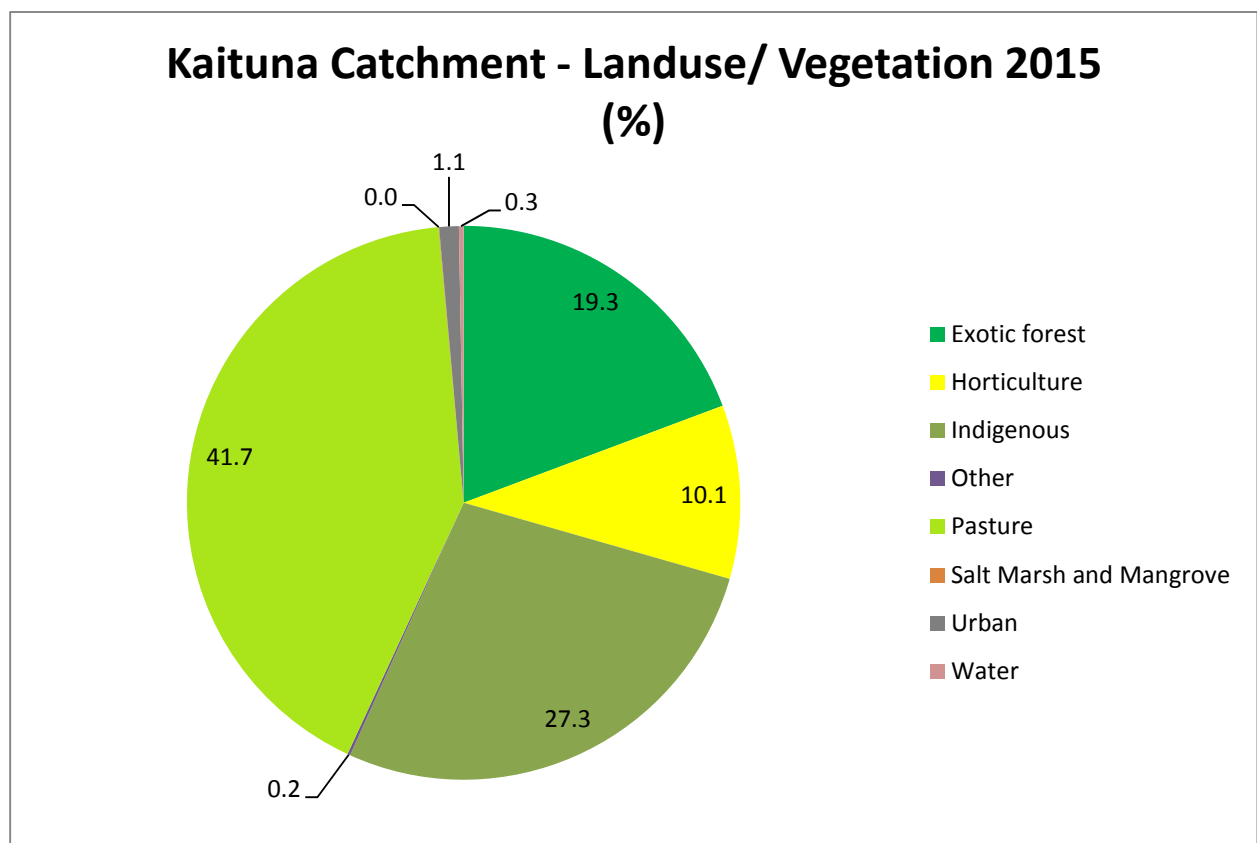


Figure 1: Percentage of Landcover in Kaituna catchment in 2015

The information will be used when working up scenarios about potential future land and water use. Raw notes and summary feedback is attached in Attachment 2.

4 Summary

Steph confirmed Council will prepare workshop notes and distribute for participants to review. Council will work up draft preferred objectives which could be 'written and / or numeric' and credible futures, and is starting to build the catchment model. This will take time but we will advise of our progress along the journey.

4.1 Outstanding – for the group

The Group confirm the Group Chair is Barry

Forming Group agreements on advice for Council. Trialled some consensus tools today (ranking, fist of five). *The group acknowledged that although they are comfortable with fist of five at this stage, an agreement on what level of consensus the group will accept will need to be determined within the next few workshops.*

8 in-river values discussed today. Future workshops will look at freshwater use values both current and future.

- Current boundaries of FMUs – Waiari and Upper East. Mangorewa and Paraiti Rivers maybe the same as Waiari or separate. Consider whether this is an option. Waiari FMU should extend down to the confluence. Pim checked with Ian that he meant the values of the Waiari should apply to the Mangorewa as well, not the other way around.
- FMU grouped into such big areas. It is noted other areas such as Hawkes Bay or Horizons they are smaller which allows actual figures / data to be put against these. *Nicki confirmed every council will have several spatial layers in their plans and maybe calling different layers FMU – some are calling their WMA scale their FMUs.*
- Lower Kaituna scientific data - LAWA website for our latest information.

ACTIONS – Kaituna CG 11/11/2016		
What	Who	Completed date
Homework from briefing note. If not handed in today members are to post or email back to council if they want to.	CG members	
Share Kaituna drone fly-over drone video. Drone video will be placed on youtube and linked to BOPRC Kaituna and Freshwater Futures web pages.	Staff (Katrina K)	
Data about water quality at Okere gates.	Staff (Rochelle)	
Kaituna Estuary with high reading – confirm the data and cause if known	Staff (Rochelle)	
Provide new CG members current state folders.	Staff (Lisa)	

Workshop ended at 2.30pm with a karakia.

Attachment 1: In-river values exercise: Analysis notes

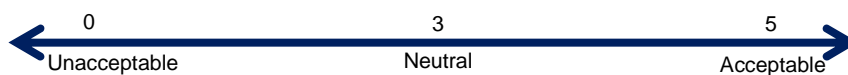
Brief summary notes and copies of typed up worksheets were circulated to community group members by email on 9 December 2016.

In this workshop we asked the community group members to share their thoughts, experience and observations on *whether they think the identified values in rivers in each draft FMU and in the Maketū estuary are provided for*.

The expected outcome for this workshop is that the group identify and broadly agree on which in-river values within each FMU:

- they are generally happy / satisfied with as they are now
- they are generally acceptable, but wish more could be done
- they are unsatisfactory and why
- they hold different views and why.

The table below summarises the range of views expressed by sub-groups of 3 - 4 members by way of a scale of acceptability from 0 - 5. Green indicates small variation in views, yellow shows medium variation, and orange shows a wide range of views). These numbers relate to the range of scores, are relative and indicative only.



	Draft Freshwater Management Unit as at 11 Nov 2016			Maketū Estuary
	Waiari	Mid-Upper Kaituna	Lower Kaituna	
Ecosystem health (5 groups)	2 – 5	2.5 - 4	0 – 2 5 upper	0 - 1
Significant, threatened / rare indigenous species (2 groups)	2 – 4	1.5 - 4	1	1.5 - 3
Mahinga kai (2 groups)	3 – 5	3	1.5 – 4	1 - 1.5
Swimming / immersion (3 groups)	0.5 - 5	0 – 4.5	0 - 1	0 – 1 upper estuary 2 – 5 lower estuary
Fishing (3 groups)	2 – 4.5	2 - 3	1 - 5	0 - 3
Natural form and character (3 groups)	2 – 5	2 – 3.5	2 – 4	
Wai tapu and sites of cultural significance (3 groups)	4 - 5	0 – 3	1 – 2	1 - 2
Transport / Tauranga waka (3 groups)	4 – 5	3 – 4	1 – 4	1 - 4

Summary of 'acceptability' of in-river freshwater values drawn from community group feedback

General

- Need more data and information to inform views.
- For swimming, the general expectation is full immersion without getting sick, all year round, except after heavy rainfall, noting that the Waiari is too cold to swim in winter
- Rising nitrogen and ammonia levels are unacceptable. Hold the line.
- Wai tapu and sites of cultural significance are site specific and further analysis and discussion with tangata whenua is required.
- Mid-Upper Kaituna FMU: Spring fed rivers like Mangorewa and Waiari are similar and are markedly different from Kaituna River.

Waiari draft freshwater management unit

- **General:** Acceptable in upper catchment. Improvement needed in lower catchment.
- **Swimming:** Acceptable above the state highway. Concern about effects of the wastewater treatment plant and farming discharge. Cold, so less popular for swimming. Kids swim at bridge just above wastewater treatment plant discharge and just below it (probably shouldn't). Perception that the treatment plant is not coping / treating sufficiently and will not cope with planned growth.
- **Ecosystem health:** Acceptable in the upper and mid catchment. There should be no deterioration below the wastewater discharge.
- **Significant indigenous species:** Acceptable water quality / quantity. -A sanctuary for giant kōkopu and long finned eel. Decline in eel numbers due to commercial fishery unacceptable.
- **Mahinga kai and fishing:** Acceptable, although some concern over the food safety of watercress. Decline in eel numbers due to commercial fishery. Concern about trout moving into the river in summer from the Kaituna River seeking cooler temperatures and then feeding on native species. Access is limited.
- **Natural Character:** Acceptable in upper catchment. Drainage, channelisation, rock walls and stop banks have reduced natural character in lower catchment. There is significant opportunity for enhancement.
- **Wai Tapu and sites of cultural significance:** Site specific and further analysis and discussion with iwi and hapū required. River has high cultural significance for Tapuika – mahinga kai (eels, black mussels), reserved for chieftains. Lots of sites damaged (Taniwharau). Discharge of effluent is an affront. Customary swimming, ceremonies (baptisms, cleansing).
- **Transport and Tauranga waka:** Acceptable – not easily accessible in upper reaches.

Mid-Upper Kaituna catchment draft freshwater management unit

Kaituna River

- **Swimming:** Acceptable, but should seek improvement below the Maungarangi Road. The swimming value is affected by water quality from the lakes. Swimming at Okere Falls and the Trout Pool, also at Waitangi Bridge and No.4 Road bridge. Unacceptable below Maungarangi Road and Affco discharge.
- **Ecosystem health:** Unacceptable – periphyton growth, rising N and P. Some parts near natural state (at top), with shade & inaccessible due to topography. Erosion concerns. Temperature too high in summer.
- **Significant indigenous species:** Sanctuary for eel and giant kokopu
- **Mahinga kai and fishing:** Quantities of fish and eels have reduced over the years. Lake water quality feeding into the Kaituna a concern. Not particularly popular for fishing but tuna, koura and watercress are still harvested.
- **Natural Character:** Drainage, channelisation, rock walls and stop banks have reduced natural character in lower catchment. There is significant opportunity for enhancement.

- **Wai Tapu and sites of cultural significance:** site specific and further analysis and discussion with iwi and hapū required. Christian baptism no longer practiced due to water quality. Maungarangi Rd, Kaituna River junction, on left side (Williams Farm - Pakatore). Old Māori occupation village and riverside camping – no access now. Right hand side – burial site in orchard (Tapuika working with landowner).
- **Transport and Tauranga waka:** Generally acceptable. Navigable quite along way past Long Ridge at Paengaroa. Difficulty launching between SH & Affco. Navigable from Ōkere Falls to Sun Valley Station from top for rafting / kayaking. Topography the limiting factor.

Spring fed rivers including Mangorewa Stream – similar (but less) feedback as for Waiari:

- **Swimming:** Acceptable. Swimming at confluence of Mangorewa and Kaituna.
- **Ecosystem health:** Acceptable.
- **Significant indigenous species:** Acceptable. Sanctuary for eel and giant kōkopu in the gorges.
- **Mahinga kai:** Acceptable.
- **Fishing:** Acceptable.
- **Natural Character:** Drainage, channelisation, rock walls and stop banks have reduced natural character in lower catchment. There is significant opportunity for enhancement.
- **Wai Tapu and sites of cultural significance:** Site specific and further analysis and discussion with iwi and hapū required.

Lower Kaituna catchment draft freshwater management unit

- **General:** In-river values in decline. Significant opportunity for improvement – colour, smell, flow, temperature, pollution.
- **Swimming:** Unacceptable. Improve from wade-able to swimmable in the next 10 years. Colour, smell, clarity
- **Ecosystem health:** Unacceptable. Improve. Temperature too high, lack of shade, low DO, high nutrients, unstable bed, high erosion.
- **Significant indigenous species:** Unacceptable. Improve.
- **Mahinga kai and fishing:** Unacceptable for eels and īnanga. Acceptable quantity of watercress but question food safety. Acceptable for salt water species.
- **Natural Character:** Drainage, channelisation, rock walls and stop banks have reduced natural character in lower catchment – there is significant opportunity for enhancement.
- **Wai Tapu and sites of cultural significance:** Three historic occupation sites on oxbows were battle grounds. Te Kopua and Te Kapapa sites of significance to Tapuika within 20m of BOPRC pumping station.
- **Transport and Tauranga waka:** Definitely navigable, good access at the cut and Kaituna River Road. Annual Waitangi Tapuika rafting race.

Maketū Estuary (receiving environment)

- **Swimming:** Unacceptable in upper estuary. Acceptable where there is tidal flushing.
- **Ecosystem health:** Unacceptable. Improve. Loss of habitat. Siltation, weed growth, sea lettuce, gut weed, filamentous algae problems.
- **Significant indigenous species:** Unacceptable. Improve.
- **Mahinga kai and fishing:** Unacceptable. Improve. Very significant mahinga kai source, populations need to be restored and safe to eat. Dramatic loss of pipi, cockles, flounder, whitebait and tuangi.
- **Natural Character:** Unacceptable. Dramatically altered. Re-diversion will help.
- **Wai Tapu and sites of cultural significance:** Unacceptable. Very strong cultural significance for Te Arawa. Food bowl. Highly significant for Ngāti Whakāue. Re-diversion and return of flow is culturally very important. Where the diving board is, the rock is sacred.
- **Transport and Tauranga waka:** Unacceptable – not navigable except boat ramp at Maketū provides access for boats going out to sea. Sedimentation & silt restricting channels in estuary.

Attachment 2: Potential changes in land use by 2030: Summary and raw notes

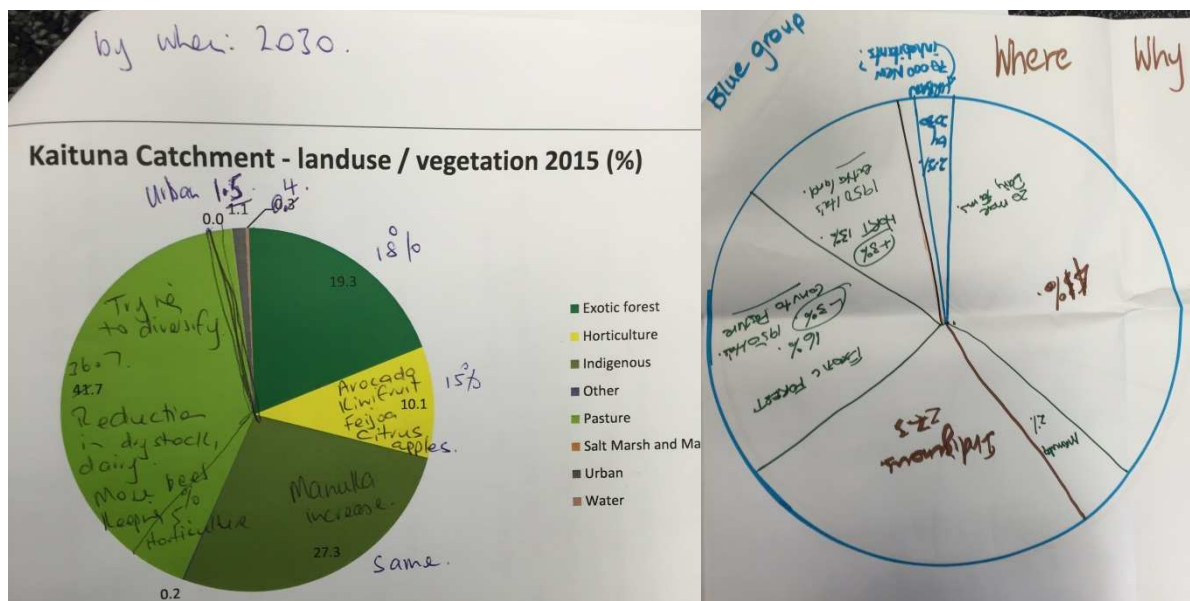
Summary

Feedback was quite consistent and is summarised as follows:

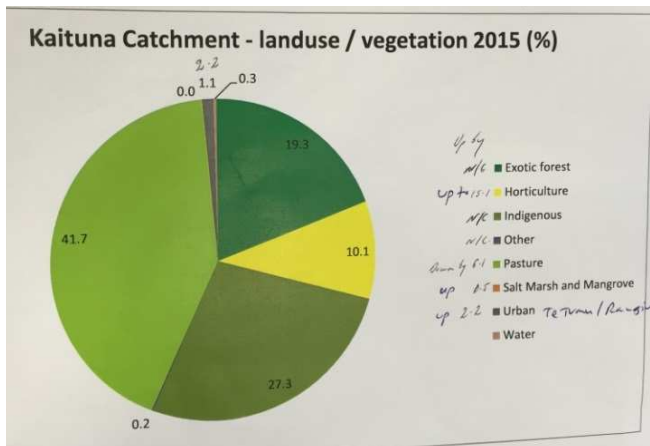
- Reduction in total pasture (estimated reductions range from 4 to 19% of catchment)
- Reduction in dry stock.
- Reduction in dairy farming (replaced by horticulture in lower catchment), but potentially a shift from some exotic forestry to dairy farms.
- Increase in horticulture (estimated increases range from 3 to 10% of catchment) – kiwifruit, avocados- dependent on water availability.
- Increase in urban area (at least double) area and associated stormwater and wastewater discharges, and increasing demand for water – Papamoa, Te Tumu, Papakainga at Maketu. Possible growth of Paengaroa.
- No industrial increase?
- Most see no change or increase in exotic forestry. Some note potential shift of a small amount to Manuka (2% of catchment) Some note potential)
- No change or some loss of indigenous forest, but some increase in wetland restoration and riparian (2 - 3% of catchment).

Percentages *indicate* the relative scale of change anticipated by community group members, based on current knowledge / impressions.

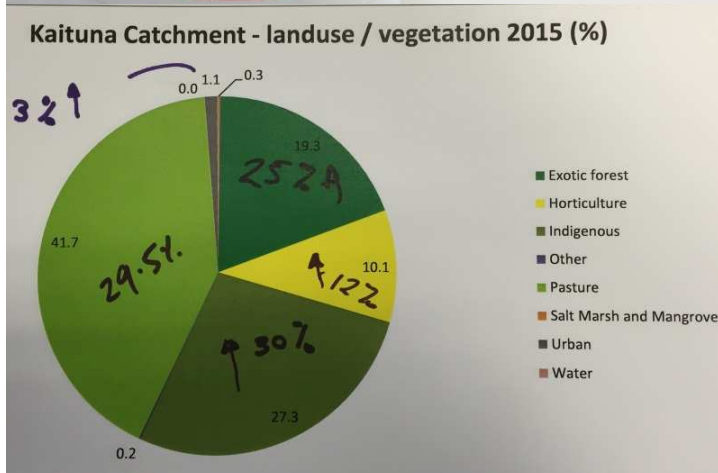
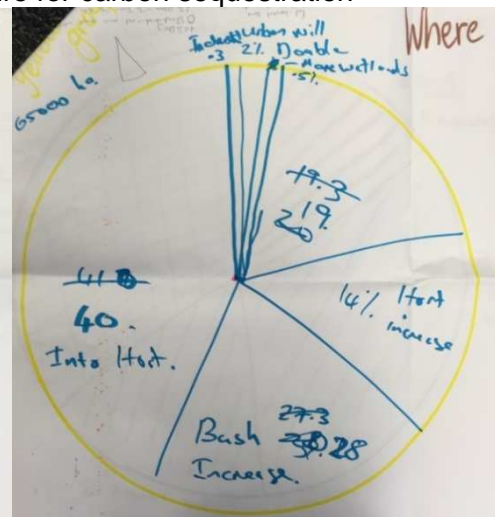
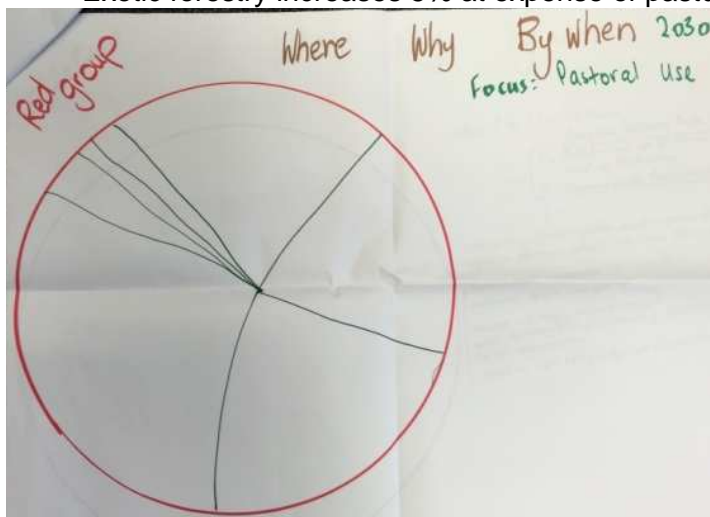
Community Group notes



- Dairy conversion to horticulture - less dairy and drystock
- Increase urban area (Papamoa)
- Land owned by Maori – trying to diversify pastoral land to increase economic output.
- Re-diversion of Maketu estuary
- Water metering and increasing cost of water will drive water economy and change of behaviour.
- Under PC9, consents required for bore water, and restrictions will impact on land management practices.
- Lakes – change in lake water quality.
- Likely increase in water demand for urban growth will impact Waiari and other water sources. Wastewater and stormwater discharges from growing urban area.
- Climate change – see NIWA predictions



- Urban – increase up to 3% - Te Tumu, Rangiuru Business Park (240ha), Papakainga on Te Arawa land in Maketu?, expansion at Paengaroa?
- Indigenous forest – possible small increase through riparian planting and wetland restoration: 27.3% - 30%
- Horticulture increases 10% - 12% - relies on there being sufficient allocatable water
- Pasture decreases 41.7% - 39.7%
- Maize decreases – carbon hungry, nutrient hungry.
- Exotic forestry increases 5% at expense of pasture for carbon sequestration



- Post harvest zone is able to change at any time.
- Not anymore industrial area for sale. Packhouse=industrial
- 40% dairy, 0.3% industrial, 2% urban – Te Tumu/Te Puke, 0.5% wetlands, 14% Horticulture – kiwifruit, avocado, 28% native bush