

Mohaka Catchment Plan Workshop 1 Collected Notes

MOHAKA CATCHMENT WORKSHOP 1 VENUES:

Puketitiri Fri 20 Nov 2020 (Farmer only, 5 attendees)
Te Pohue Mon 23 Nov 2020 (8 attendees)
Wairoa Wed 25 Nov 2020 (4 attendees, 1 press)
Mohaka Sat 28 Nov 2020 (19 attendees)
Taharua Tues 1 Dec 2020 (Farmer only, 8 attendees)
Napier Thurs 3 Dec 2020 (25 attendees)

WORKSHOP 1 COMBINED NOTES

These notes collect information gathered from those participating in the first round of Mohaka Catchment Workshops on what is important and what the problems and issues might be.

These notes have been grouped into various Important Matters, and each Important Matter has been summarised by HBRC staff in a few key words and phrases (*shown in italics, below*).

This information is in DRAFT form. Please email Mohaka.Plan@hbc.govt.nz with any comments on these notes.

Discussion 1:

What is important?

What do I want for the next generation?

Important Matter	Detail
Connection <i>Ko te awa o au, ko au te awa – we are the river</i> <i>Supporting a life sustaining connection between place and people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identity• Whanau, people• Whakapapa to awa, reflected in waiata and karakia• Part of who we are, an extension of us• Ko te awa o au, ko au te awa – we are the river.• The river has no voice, we have to be its voice. We all grew up with the river and have a physical connection, but also transcends that.• Spiritually and mentally important to us. Provides us with mental wellbeing. We see in the metaphysical. The river has whakapapa, with taniwha and responsibilities as kaitiaki. Important that the stories live on in our future generations.• Life source• Ours• Respect of environment• Water source• Historical, cultural values• Local place names having meaning• Waterways are a rohe• A large and beautiful river flowing from Taharua to sea which must be protected, kept clean & is the life blood of nga Maunga me nga awa• An historical artery• We need water to live, if we destroy water it will destroy us• We must look after water for our children• Having respect for water and putting it above our needs• We need to give back to the river
River/water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean, clear water

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Important Matter	Detail
<p><i>Flowing clean and clear, with natural flow variability</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimmable • Drinkable quality • Able to boil for a cup of tea • Healthy water • Natural variability of flows • Flows are not too low • Fast, clean river • The Mohaka is a shute – water powers out to sea • Water quality for river life • Water quality wound back to pre-dairy conversions • Quantity (drought stricken), flow • Tributaries – all; headwaters, Te Hoe, Hautapu, Waipunga, Ripia • Sustainable & improving water quality • Awa to be cleaned i.e. cleaned of pollution, dead stock, rubbish • Logs and other debris removed from river • River – large, stable forested catchment • Recognise the significance of the Taharua as a tributary of the Mohaka; on a high volcanic plateau, distinctly different • Water quality • River as good as it is now or better • Good white water • Ownership of the bed of the river (NPDT)
<p>Ecosystem</p> <p><i>Sustaining healthy and diverse ecosystems</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want rivers that live, that have a living force, reflected in the fish, the state of the water etc • The function on the river – it's role in the ecosystem • Corridors and connections • Healthy environment • Healthy & functioning catchment • Species in the awa • Biodiversity • Ecosystem services • Native flora and fauna • A food source & breeding grounds for fish etc, eels • Ecosystem health • Preserve the quality of the ecosystem for future generations • Less silting at river mouth (to enable fish spawning) • Connection to the Wairoa Hard, this is a protected coastal fishery, spawning ground for Hawke's Bay • Biodiversity underpins everything • Diversity of the catchment and each river, from the central volcanic plateau to the coast; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stable, free stone rivers ○ Largely forested catchments ○ Freshwater fisheries – trout and indigenous species ○ Regeneration of the forest following volcanic eruption
<p>Wildlife</p> <p><i>Supporting valued wildlife – whio/blue duck, kahawai, tuna, trout</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whio/ blue duck • Trout • Pest control • Birdlife • No possums
<p>Amenity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing moods of the river • Scenic values, scenery

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Important Matter	Detail
<p><i>Featuring awe inspiring wilderness scenery and natural sound</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awe inspiring river • Wildness • Naturalness • Isolation, silence, natural sounds • Spectacular landscape – Te Hoe • Large wilderness environment and river • Wide range of landscapes and land uses • Outstanding scenic features • NZ outdoors • Conservation qualities • One of the more ‘natural state’ rivers in Hawke’s Bay • Its natural, wild state • Phenomenal amenities value • Unique sense of place and space
<p>Activities (in water)</p> <p><i>Offering fun experiences rafting, swimming, trophy fishing, mahinga kai</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kahawai (at river mouth) ○ Trout ○ Inanga ○ Indigenous fish ○ Unique fishery ○ Outstanding fishery (eel), different to other North Island rivers • Being able to float down the river • Rafting, canoeing • Limited use of jet boating, prefer absence of jet boats • Swimming • Good paddling opportunities & wilderness trips (easy to hard) • Safe paddling conditions – clean water & consistent Kids in the river every day over summer • Sustainable tourism • Use of the river (fun, reunion, create connections, make memories) • Safety of use (fishing, swimming, boating) • Checking water quality and quantity • Gathering food • Internationally recognised recreational values; a great area for user involvement • Control of shingle extraction by NPDT • We need a mix of farming and recreation
<p>Activities (on land)</p> <p><i>Supporting farming, forestry and tourism, recreation and local employment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tramping • Camping, camping on the banks • Camps (whanau) • Farming, food production • Water source for stock • Providing for the community, economic and enjoyment opportunities • Jobs • Places to live • Has sustained people for 1,000 years • Hikoi • Continued use of the catchment but so long as it has a positive effect on the quality • Farming and recreation, farming allowed to continue • Sustainable practices • Enabling productive use within the catchment that does not

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Important Matter	Detail
<p>Access</p> <p><i>Providing access to unique and challenging outdoor adventures</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact on the values • Diversity of uses – mix of recreation, farming, forestry, tourism • Local employment • Accessibility • Accessible but not overly accessible – some remoteness is what makes it great • Good access (for paddling) • Kids getting access to the outdoors • Easy and approachable river in comparison with neighbouring rivers (Ngaruroro, Rangitikei) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Graduated access points
<p>Next generation</p> <p><i>Leaving a legacy of a river system that is in balance and provides a healthy foundation for the ecological systems that support life of all kinds</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is important: the people, the people, the people • Able to be proud of the river • Preservation of the natural resources • A river that is in balance, providing a healthy foundation to the ecological systems that support life of all kinds • Maintain the ‘mighty’ • Honour the history of the river • Activities on the river • A catchment that can support a vibrant community while maintaining the considerable improvements that have been made since the 1980s in improving land management and water quality • Certainty • More trees • Drinkable, swimmable and accessible • That the next generation is able to cherish • Sustainable & improving water quality • Continued use of the catchment land so long as it has a positive effect on the quality • Important to preserve the environmental values • Important to be sustainable both economically and environmentally • A healthy environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soils ○ Water ○ Air • A plan for future management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental outcomes ○ Monitoring (how?) ○ Clear regulations ○ Practical/landscape-based plan • A map of where all the significant events are(?) • Leave a healthy, usable river that people are able to use/swim in/recreate on/gather food • Access for everyone • The ability to access water for people, stock and food production without affecting the river too much • Leave what we have now • Preserve the qualities of the ecosystems • Enable conduit of access through land use
<p>Management</p> <p><i>Consistent management through continuous</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The river has no voice, we (tangata whenua) have to be its voice • Minimal erosion of property rights • Self determination

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Important Matter	Detail
<p><i>improvement, supporting collective action, self-responsibility and accountability</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tino rangatiratanga • Trustworthy measures of health • Fix the existing problems (eg Taharua) • Learn from our mistakes (eg avoiding barren hills, re-grassing practices) • Work with farmers, not against them • Recognise the huge contribution that the Taharua catchment makes economically through farming • Same rules for everyone • Maintain water quality and quantity • Improve/maintain vegetation – soil conservation • Control pests • Control of pesticides along the edge of the river (eg no chemical spraying of kanuka/manuka at the river edge) • Look after the whole spectrum, including riparian margins, use of willows and poplars to stabilise land and achieve cleaner water) • People held accountable • Commercial perspective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roading metal taken (gravel extraction) ○ Return to local community ○ Return what is taken • Make the Water Conservation Order front and centre of the Plan • Maintain the Mohaka Consent Order • No dams • Equal rules – placing blame on individuals/industry isn't fair • Lots of slash traps in Hawkes Bay – through consultation between foresters and Council • Clearly establish the spatial boundaries of outstanding values, not hiding behind wishy washy words and be clear in what an objective is • Relationship between iwi, farming, forestry • Keep/improve water quality while maintaining the farming and forestry industries profitability • Farming allowed to continue, including access to river is necessary • Point source takes of water for stock and people will become more important as farmers fence off waterways and need to reticulate water • Improving water quality, including by reducing nutrient and sediment loads • Sensible, functional, practical (plan provisions) • If we can see actions (with monitoring) we can better manage our actions (responses) • Use the same approach for Taharua farms as under the Taupo (Waikato) Regional Council which is stricter • Put the needs of the Mohaka and its tributaries ahead of our own wants and needs • We need realistic goals • We need to look at the whole – the world doesn't stand still if you only look at doing a small plan change • Continuous improvement • Issues are never fixed: we must always work to maintain what we want; it is every generation's task to care for the land • Support for what we are doing (fencing, planting, Matauranga

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Important Matter	Detail
	<p>etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include the Waihau within the Mohaka Freshwater Management Unit• Any plan must be sustainable economically – farmers must still be in the black to be able to do what needs to be done• Important to be able to see effect of actions and have certainty in taking action

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Discussion 2:

What are the issues?

What are the opportunities?

Issue	Detail
Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine/willow hazards (suspended load in river)
Water use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving water
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the impacts and science • Lack of science to support the efforts of treatments • Lack of timely information and feedback, reporting the issue as it is – such information will assist with the response • Keep the community of landowners informed • Monitor and measure • Lack of current useful information regarding water quality • Data is largely useless – has no influence on day to day decision-making • Having the information to know your influence on water quality, including the effect of any improvements made • Lack of understanding of the issues • Knowing who has control or uses parts of river • More science needed to inform decisions • New farmers in the Taharua are not familiar with the issues • Those at the top of the river don't know the problems at the bottom • Clarifying what wai tapu is • Incorporation of Matauranga Maori
Biodiversity/Pests/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorse, funding help required for gorse on Maori land, endless cycle to control • Blackberry • Goats • Geese damage the river floor and banks, killing our kawa/molluscs – food for native fish (Waihua and Waikari River mouths) • Spray • Weed control starting from the source • Weeds in catchment • Significant weeds along the waterway, starting to choke out the river in places, primarily in the DOC estate
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecoservices • Climate change • Issues with farming on pumice land • Observed increase in sedimentation at Willowflat, but cause is not known • Extreme, localised rain impacts
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellness (mental and physical wellbeing) • Complacency, talk but no action • Turnover of agency staff – loss of continuity, needing to rebuild relationships, not all survey work being done • Poor communication – there should be contact for farmers to say there's trees in the river/my part of the river is dirty. Should be dealt with by people at the time, but hard to see responsibility

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Issue	Detail
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC has virtually withdrawn from the Hawke's Bay re weed control • Rich people flying in to go trout fishing • High run-off from bare ground • Bare ground – from forestry logging, hill country cropping etc • Forestry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ logging ○ pre-planting spray ○ mature trees falling into the river: if not cleared they will build up and in a huge flood, they will take out many bridges ○ In the past 6 years, 10 mature trees have been cleared from the river ○ Slash in the river – major hazard for rafting, hazard to remove safely ○ Slash generation ○ NESPF came in May 2018 – major changes for forestry, controls slash/sediment – need to consider its effectiveness ○ 1st planting right up to the edge of the waterway ○ Pakatutu River – about 40 trees fell into the river, redirecting the river, road covered, drains blocked ○ There will be a problem with logs in the river if there is a 1:20 or 1:30 year flood • Hill country crapping (stock in water) • Spraying too closely to the awa, aerial spray-drift • Legacy damages created historically • On-site wastewater management, particularly for new homes • Do not lose sight of the huge economic contribution the Taharua Catchment makes to the economy • Expansive Taharua catchment • Dairy runoff – Taharua (big algal beds/weed mats below the Taharua) • Better environmental practices • Dairy runoff • Dairy conversions have resulted in a proliferation of sludge, weed and fishing issues • Sediment • Limiting soil loss and associated nutrients • Stop long term activities that are creating issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water quality ○ Sediment ○ Slash generation • Fencing along waterways doesn't stop everything – additional actions may be needed (eg silt traps, tree planting, reversion of some land to swamp) • Access
Stock drinking – bore water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm along the Mohaka was fenced and reticulated with pipes and troughs – the first 2 bores drilled were too salty, the third bore was good, but it has now failed.
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No rules that fit • Unsure what is needed by law • So many different people, places • Enforce the Water Conservation Order – that will resolve most issues. Monitor and measure • Consents – how come consents are granted without

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Issue	Detail
Expectations	<p>appropriate consultation? Catchment committees should be formed that can be consulted on matters pertaining to the river</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We need useful specifics rather than national rules• Some people's expectations are unrealistic• Start now. Progress over perfection• Getting a common view – compromise is needed• How to balance all competing issues• Process issues – not how they want to talk about it – should be “we need to create a plan, how do you want to work together to get there?” While understanding the restrictions from central government, need to find a way to work together (co-design). Co-design not clearly defined. The language is so important – not what is important, but why it is important.• A number of matters needs to be addressed, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Biodiversity○ Climate change○ Wellness of people○ Farming succession to the next generation etc
Pollution/ poor state of river	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actual pollution from dairying in Taharua (& Other?)• Cows are in the river• Animals are unfenced• Dairy effects are urgent, other animal impacts less urgent• Pollution, dead stock, rubbish (Mangakopikopiko)• One farm in the Taharua catchment made the river stagnant all the way down to the Te Hoe• Improve water quality• Water quality issue• Major issue Taharua at top of catchment but have to protect OWB• 20 years ago water was stagnant from the Taharua to Te Hoe from one farmer putting all their effluent into the river, this has still not been fixed,• Water quality has continued to deteriorate since the Water Conservation Order 2004 – if this had been followed this plan change would not be needed• Mangawharangi – tributary of the Mohaka and source of drinking water for Raupunga – significant degradation observed and species decline due to sedimentation• Maungakopikopiko Stream - stopped flowing, and whanau picked up lots of rubbish, metal bars, tyres etc and observed significant slash• Putere Lakes – issues with cows in the lake that has largely been addressed but significant problems with hornwort weed that we need to work together to fix• Waihua River – full of scum, geese polluting the waterway, which when blocked in summer turns to sludge – important area for whanau to swim in• Waikari River – river mouth is closed for 3-4 months at the height of summer, with water quality suffering
Sediment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have been improving re sediment since the 1980s• Reduce sediment• Stop long term issues – sediment• Sedimentation along the banks has an impact on whitebait recruitment• Tangata whenua who have lived on the river and tributaries for

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Issue	Detail
Monitoring	<p>all their lives have seen a change in water clarity and the health of fish stocks in the river</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a build up of silt, it needs to be cleaned up • Freshwater crayfish and eels are unable to breed and thrive as the waterways are too dirty and silty • Lack of monitoring on all Outstanding Water Bodies eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waipunga – won't know if making good progress until there is an adequate monitoring network ○ Water Conservation Order is not monitored • More frequent monitoring needed • Water testing in the Taharua was started, but is now finished. What was the point of doing this? Monitoring point at Flemings was removed • Feedback on changing farming practices is needed (Taharua), including seasonal practices eg wintering cows, impact of significant fencing along waterways • There was a big sediment event in the Taharua which had an impact on river ecology – but it didn't show up when data was averaged • Measure and manage based on our (tangata whenua) values • If it is not measured, it is not managed • We need feedback when we change our farming practices – with the changes we made last year – are we still going backwards or improving
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of toilets – for rafters, DOC concessions; the river can take a lot of people but this needs to be managed sustainably
Resourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough management or assessment by HBRC, WDC, DOC, MfE • Funding goes to the north and south, and staff are stretched • Hau kainga are already doing work on the awa – where is the support from HBRC to assist them with that work
Action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving an action plan/outcome that can be agreed upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Which values rank highest? ○ What should be THE goal? • A lack of focus may/is likely to let the degradation continue • Note succession of farms (changing owners, staff) • May need a 100-year plan (eg DOC's 50-100 year plan for habitat restoration for the seabird colony along the Maungaharuru Range) • Include tangata whenua values and indicators for monitoring in the Action Plan • Work with DOC to include them in the action plan – pest control and biodiversity/biosecurity monitoring lacking • There will not be a time when we can say 'this is done' – we will always need maintenance
Participation in this process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern at lack of attendance at meeting – how to ensure that engagement is with the people that can provide the valuable insights & alternative perspectives needed? • Time constraints of individual farmers to participate • Frustration with lack of progress in developing the plan (for the Taharua); note wellness/wellbeing of farming people • Young people need to be given an opportunity to get involved with the process • We've already been doing the work to make the river, to make up for the damage the regional council has done

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Issue	Detail
<p>Queries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the pre-human baseline? • What is the current status after allowing for legacy issues? • What size should our footprint be? • Science around gravel extraction – what is good for the awa? • Science around inanga • How do you ensure that the Waikato RC will adopt what we want in the Taharua? • The balance between environment, recreation, farming and forestry – what are each side’s issues & problems? • How are the stakeholders’ voices heard? • Should coastal (estuary) be in the picture when this is about freshwater (framework)? • PC9 (TANK) rules have taken on NES-PF. Will this be the same case for PC8? • Why is the exercise occurring prior to finalising PPC7 (Outstanding Water Bodies), particularly as at that hearing there was discussion of not including tributaries as an OWB • Where are the consents for work – how come consents are granted without appropriate consultation? Catchment committees should be formed that can be consulted on matters pertaining to the river. • Hau kainga are already doing work on the awa – where is the support from HBRC to assist them with that work?
<p>Opportunity</p> <p>Recognising actions & experiences so far</p> <p>Trout</p> <p>Amenity</p> <p>Water</p>	<p>Detail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of taking action eg fencing, stock drinking water reticulation, erosion control • Taharua Catchment Group has been going for 10 years, ahead of the Mohaka, taking actions voluntarily, agency support requested • Significant investment has been outlaid already, both fencing & talking time by the people involved • Farmers are responding (poles, retirement of land etc) • Recognise work done over past few years and give it time to produce effects. It is mostly very good, so not too fast action is needed • Safe environment • NZ’s experiences with clean water and safe environments • Trout farming • Trophy recreational fishing in wilderness setting • Internationally renown tourism facility (Taharua) – need to continue to be able to generate an economic income • Recreational fishery – mid section of river • Important spawning tributaries – fisheries in their own right • Enhance the natural beauty • Drive by sense of confidence • Bring water quality back to being drinkable • Need to ID where sediment is coming from – forestry, stream banks, overland off farms etc and what sub-catchments are contributing out of the bush • SMACK tests use – give ownership & awareness • Ongoing regular monitoring • Volatility of river flows due to variable rainfall could be

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Opportunity	Detail
Knowledge	<p>mitigated on land by land use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proper research• Invest in science for fencing & planting efforts• To engage with those that have connection to the river and that understand it – and share that• Catchment & development measures• Educating the wider community on our values• Great feedback from groups – chance to develop and excellent integrated catchment management• Compliment science with Maturanga Maori• Use science, temper with practical experience, create intergenerational knowledge• Locals know when you can and can't take gravel from the river• Listen to the river• Use real time monitoring to better understand the rate of sedimentation and drive behaviour change
Economic/ Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market opportunities• Eco-tourism• High quality food production• Grass fed beef• Low spray crops• Move away from phosphate• Sustainable economic development for our rural community• Local opportunity for local businesses eg gravel• Local employment for local young people• Start getting DOC Head Office to work on improving access and usage as well as work opportunity on their estate along the Mohaka Catchment• Work with forestry to remove the historical mature trees falling in the river• Open up forested areas slowly (eg harvest in strips, include 20m buffer to the river, selective logging)• Farm plans should be prepared now rather than waiting for the final plan change• Change future (forestry) harvesting techniques• Forestry & farming self monitoring:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ We plan to test in 2021 before we harvest in 2028 to record any changes in water quality• Look at aerial photos to see vegetation change, land retirement and riparian work• Encourage forestry conversation with WorkSafe about getting mature trees away from the river – this is more than a forestry work safe matter• Change the ways government departments work with tangata whenua, including employment and training
Activities / Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreational resources – rafting, kayaking:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Taharua◦ Waipunga◦ Ripia• Resources for campsites (?utilities?)• Land use should not preclude access to rivers values and enjoyable activities
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities to improve access• Right of way for recreational use – forestry access• Expand access opportunities

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Opportunity	Detail
Maori land development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bring small blocks of Maori-owned land into production, this helps pay for the riparian fencing and planting required
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community on farm days – birdlife, wildlife• Empower local catchment groups & landowners through provision of timely, relevant information. Don't rely on ambulance at bottom of cliff.• Community engagement via schools/community groups/iwi• Opportunity to collaborate with all stakeholders• Community – Industry – Council• Working collectively as a group & personally eg door knocking• Opportunity to learn more about ourselves and our river, teaching the kids, planting trees – this makes us better citizens
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young people given an opportunity• Set vision: Active information: Report• Watertight development of Regional Plan, with restrictions• Know who has control or uses parts of the river
Te Ao Maori	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get the Maori concepts right before trying to tell us what is up• Our values, measures and monitoring need to be embraced
Next generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve for our mokopuna• Capture the hearts and minds of students
Timing of action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Now! We need to utilise all resources and skills to problem solve and communicate to all• The Taharua shows that action should be done sooner than later• Immediate from a water quality perspective• Sequence actions down the river• Need to address what is happening now

NOTE: A separate FAQ sheet is being prepared (Jan 2021) which responds to questions raised by workshop participants.