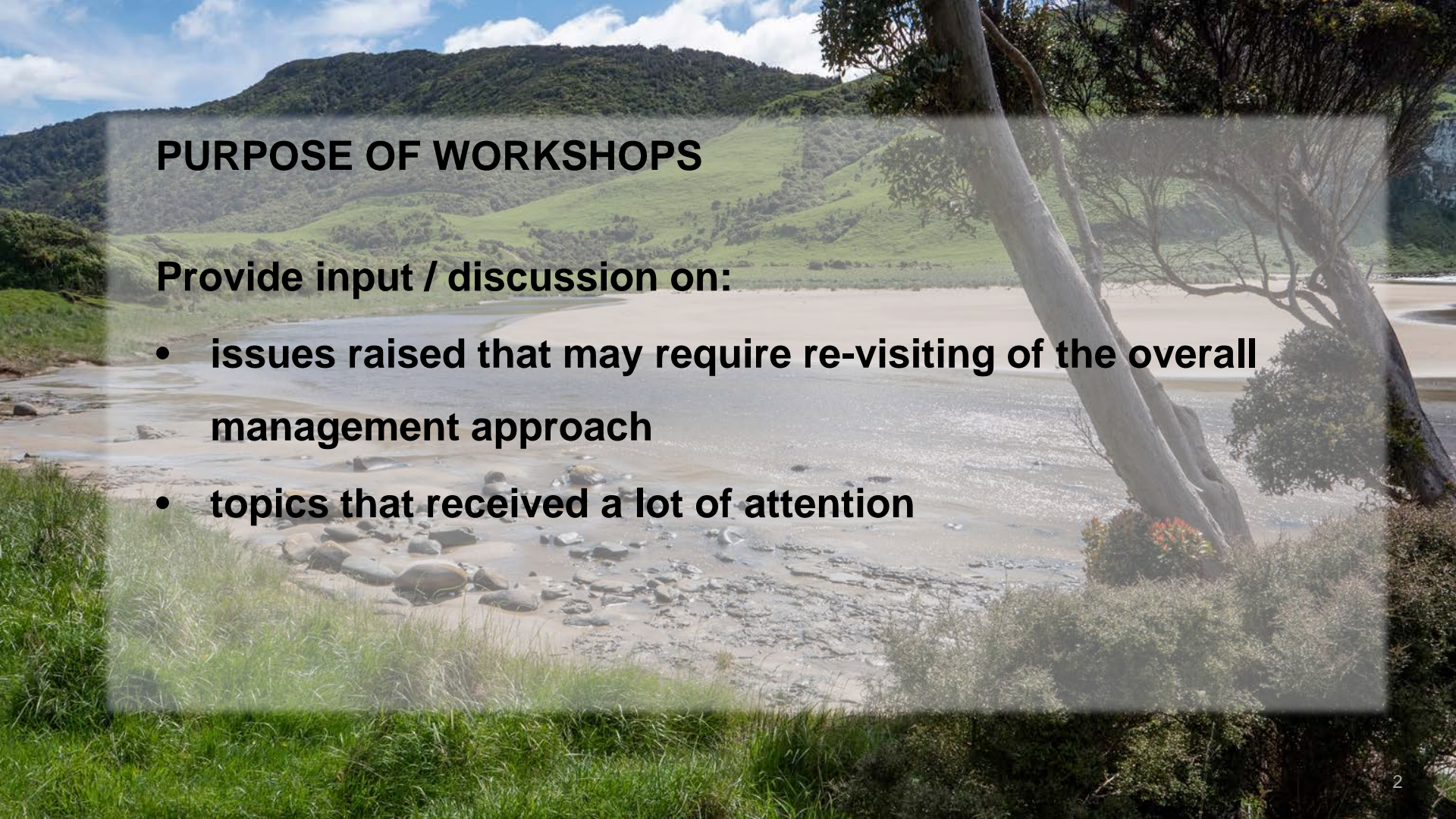




Draft Land & Water Regional Plan

Environmental Science and Policy Committee workshops after
community engagement September – November 2023

22 November 2023

A scenic landscape featuring a wide river or estuary with a sandy beach and numerous rocks. The background consists of rolling green hills under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground on the right, a large, gnarled tree trunk is visible, leaning towards the left. The entire scene is framed by a semi-transparent white box containing text.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOPS

Provide input / discussion on:

- **issues raised that may require re-visiting of the overall management approach**
- **topics that received a lot of attention**

Overview of Topics – 22 November

Activities on the beds of lakes and river

- Management framework for suction dredge mining and gravel extraction

Discharges of agrichemicals and vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs)

- Use of agrichemicals and vertebrate toxic agents for pest control

Strategic direction:

- Principles for resolving over-allocation (water quality / quantity)

Water quantity

- Policy direction for phasing out over-allocation
- Allocation framework for taking water at high flows

Outstanding water bodies

- Provisions for managing activities in outstanding water bodies

Overview of Topics – 29 November

Water quantity

- Management regimes for the Clutha Mata-au, Manuherekia and Waikouaiti Rivers
- Installation of fish barriers

Wetlands

- Management framework for natural inland wetlands and other wetlands

Drinking water protection zones

- Definition/mapping
- Setbacks for activities near drinking water supplies

Overview of Topics – 29 November

Primary production – farming

- **Setbacks from water bodies and stock exclusion**
- **Consenting requirement for dairy/dairy support**
- **Silage and farm landfills**
- **Freshwater farm plans**

Primary production - forestry

- **Setbacks**
- **Consenting requirement**

Vegetation removal

- **Overall management framework**



Draft LWRP provisions

- **All suction dredge mining will require consent, regardless of size, scale or location.**

Consent requirement for suction dredge mining

FEEDBACK

- Mixed feedback with some support, but also opposition.
- Impacts of these activities aren't monitored and are unknown
- Can lead to adverse impacts on benthic communities and trap fish in pipes

SUGGESTED CHANGE

- Option 1: Maintain draft framework
- Option 2: Include permitted activity (PA) rule but reduce scope by reducing extent of mining that can occur as a PA
- Option 3: Include PA but restrict where it can occur – some locations require consent

Permitted activity volume limit for gravel extraction



Draft LWRP provisions

- **5m³/year limit for permitted gravel extractions in all rivers and lakes.**
- **Discretionary consent required for all other extractions.**
- **Policy signalling development of catchment specific guidance and Code of Practice with good management practices for gravel extraction. This direction will be implemented through a future change to the LWRP.**

Permitted activity volume limit for gravel extraction

FEEDBACK

- 5m³/year is too low, permitted activity should be greater
- Permitted activity could be tailored to specific rivers or sites
- Supported outside of spawning season
- More lenient for protecting structures and clearing build-up

SUGGESTED CHANGE

- Option 1: Retain 5m³/year limit
- Option 2: Increase limit to 20 m³/year, in combination with other conditions
- Option 3: Provide straightforward consenting pathway for larger extractions, provided they comply with a (yet to be developed) code of practice for gravel extraction



Other Discharges

Use of agrichemicals and vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs)

Use of agrichemicals and vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs)

Draft LWRP provisions

Discharges of agrichemicals to land permitted if:

- Approved under HSNO and used in accordance with the approval and NZ Standard for managing agrichemicals
- Not discharged within a drinking water protection zone or 20 metres of a river, lake, wetland, the coastal marine area, or any bore

Discharges of agrichemicals to water permitted if:

- Approved under HSNO, not classified as hazardous, used in accordance with the approval and NZ Standards for managing agrichemicals
- After reasonable mixing, meet specified receiving water standards
- Not discharged to a drinking water protection zone, mātaimai reserve, or taiāpure

Otherwise, discharge requires consent as a discretionary activity.

Use of agrichemicals and vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs)

FEEDBACK

- Support for improving water quality and reducing cumulative impacts of discharges
- Opposition to setbacks – obstacle for pest management and biosecurity work
- Confusion regarding discharges to air and resulting pathways to water and land

SUGGESTED CHANGE

- Option 1: Maintain draft framework
- Option 2: Remove 20m setback but require additional controls within the 20m buffer (only use spot-spraying, restrict to application to pest species, limit on discharge volume).
- Option 3: Remove 20m setback requirement but no discharge within drinking water protection zone.



**Strategic direction:
Resolving over-allocation**

Strategic direction for resolving over-allocation (quality and quantity)

Draft LWRP policy direction

Phase out existing over-allocation by providing for needs of current and future generations, recognising investment of existing uses and providing for new opportunities, efficient resource allocation and use

Reduce actual resource use based on following principles:

- Prioritise reductions for uses that are within the third priority in the hierarchy of obligations
- Prefer uses that directly benefit communities within Otago
- Prefer uses that provide the greatest economic return.

Strategic direction: Resolving over-allocation

FEEDBACK

- Unclear how to weigh local vs non-local benefits
- Prioritises economic return over environmental /social benefits
- High consenting costs
- May prevent hydroelectric generation
- May not implement national direction on REG
- “Prioritising” uses can be difficult when a single application is received (no way to compare with other uses).

SUGGESTED CHANGE

- Option 1: Retain prioritisation principles
- Option 2: Revise framework to ensure consistency with higher order documents and refocus the principles on local benefits and economic return.
- Option 3: Revise framework to ensure consistency with higher order documents and remove the principles aimed at prioritising local benefits and economic return.



Policy direction for phasing out over-allocation (quantity)

Draft LWRP provisions

- **Phased approach to achieving bespoke limits**
- **Relevant factors considered, incl. need for transition timeframes.**
- **Reduce over-allocation by**
 - **requiring reductions in take rate/volume to the lowest of:**
 - **reasonable and efficient use, or**
 - **actual use based on historical data; and**
 - **from specified date, a reduction in rate/volume of take proportionate to overall reduction required, unless consent holders put forward alternative approach**

Policy direction for phasing out over-allocation (quantity)

FEEDBACK

- General support for phased approach
- Differing views on appropriate transition timeframes
- ORC must take lead role in reducing over-allocation (do not leave it to community)
- Success will depend on
 - clear goals / policy direction
 - info on water use under different circumstances
 - understanding nature and scale of impacts

SUGGESTED CHANGE

- No changes to the drafted provisions

Provisions do not prevent ORC involvement in community process
Possible changes needed to align with strategic direction re over-allocation.



Allocation framework for taking water at high flows

Allocation framework for taking water at high flows

CONSIDERATIONS

- High flow harvesting for water storage critical for adaptation to:
 - new min flow and take limits
 - climate change
- High flows often play important role in river health
- Quantifying impacts of high flow harvesting is difficult

FEEDBACK

- Need for clarity re framework for flow harvesting
- Need for strong policy that
 - enables taking high flow harvesting
 - sets direction for taking from tributaries
 - maintains flow variability / natural flow patterns

Allocation framework for taking water at high flows

SUGGESTED CHANGE

CATCHMENTS WITH LOW HYDROLOGICAL MODIFICATION

Default method based on:

- 3:1 flow sharing (75% of natural flow stays in river)
- whole of catchment approach

CATCHMENT WITH HIGH HYDROLOGICAL MODIFICATION

Bespoke limits and environmental flows taking into account

- catchment characteristics
- existing takes

Interim regime based on 4:1 flow sharing ratio commencing at median flow

Outstanding water bodies



OUTSTANDING WATER BODIES

FEEDBACK

- **Concerns about**
 - **impacts on landholders, consent holders**
 - **classification of artificial and specific individual waterbodies**
 - **ability for existing activities to continue**

SUGGESTED CHANGE

- **No changes to the draft provisions for managing OWBs**

Further technical work underway to review proposed OWB status of specific water bodies



What other topics would you like to discuss next week?
