



Consultation report:
RPS Long-Term Visions for Fresh Water,
October – November 2020

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Introduction

1. Over a 5-week span through October and November 2020, ORC staff and councillors presented 23 workshops at 18 centres throughout Otago to discuss visions for fresh water with local communities.¹ These discussions, along with results from an online survey, other feedback, and existing information held by ORC, are being used to develop long-term visions for fresh water in Otago that will be included in the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) as objectives.
2. This consultation report describes why the consultation happened and how the workshops functioned. It then summarises all the information ORC received and explains how it will be used.
3. To avoid confusion, this is a separate process from other community discussions ORC has held, and will hold, about implementing the new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM) and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 (NES Freshwater). Although there is some overlap in subject matter, the long-term visions for fresh water are part of developing the RPS and, after that, a new land and water regional plan, as opposed to implementation discussions about the immediate practical changes that will occur due to new regulation.
4. Communities will have further opportunities to contribute to land and water regional plan development and participate in implementation discussions.
5. ORC gratefully acknowledges the time and effort taken to contribute to this process by Kāi Tahu representatives, community members, and stakeholders alike.

Why the consultation happened

6. In November 2019, after a s24A investigation report on ORC's freshwater management and allocation functions,² the Minister for the Environment made several recommendations to the ORC to address its Resource Management Act (RMA) planning framework. ORC committed to a work programme to address those recommendations, which included the review and notification of a new Regional Policy Statement (RPS) by November 2020, in order to make it operative by 1 April 2022, in time to guide land and water regional plan development.
7. In September 2020, the Ministry for the Environment released a new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM). The new NPSFM includes a requirement to develop long-term freshwater visions for each Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) in Otago, or parts of those FMUs if appropriate. These visions need to be included as objectives in the RPS.³ The new NPSFM also now requires community input on FMU boundaries.⁴
8. Prior to the new NPSFM taking effect, creating FMU visions was part of the intended process for developing a new land and water regional plan. The new NPSFM requirement meant that

¹ See Appendix 1

² Peter Skelton *Investigation of Freshwater Management and Allocation Functions at Otago Regional Council: Report to the Minister for the Environment* (Wellington: Ministry for the Environment, 2019)

³ National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, cl 3.3.

⁴ National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, cl. 3.7(1)(a)

this part of the process had to be brought forward so that the visions could be included in the RPS. This necessitated extending the RPS work programme to accommodate a consultation programme and vision development. The new notification date, agreed with the Minister, is now June 2021.

What a Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) is

9. FMUs were required under the previous iteration of the NPSFM. ORC had previously established them, within input from iwi, for Otago through agreement in Council (see Appendix 2), though these had not been formalised through an RMA process.
10. FMUs are defined areas for freshwater management in a region. In Otago, the boundaries were established based on several factors, such as similar land uses, similar water quality or quantity issues, hydrological factors and connections between catchments, communities of interest, and existing monitoring and jurisdictional boundaries.
11. The Clutha Mata-au FMU has been subdivided into smaller units, called rohe, to account for the connectedness of the entire Clutha Mata-au catchment while providing for the wide variety of uses, influences, and environments that occur along the river's path.
12. The interconnectedness of freshwater environments means that, while ORC considers the proposed FMU and rohe boundaries are appropriate, it acknowledges there are other reasonable ways these boundaries could be set.

What a vision does

13. The purpose of long-term visions for fresh water is to articulate the high-level community aspirations for fresh water in each FMU to help guide freshwater management. The detail on water management for each FMU – rules, levels, flows, limits and so on - belongs in a land and water regional plan. The vision workshops therefore begin a longer conversation to develop a comprehensive framework for freshwater management in Otago.
14. Though the new requirement delayed RPS notification, it also created opportunity. Placing a community generated vision in the RPS as an objective means regional and district plans must give effect to it, putting community aspirations at the core of freshwater management.⁵
15. The new approach means that community visions will guide the land and water regional plan development process, creating a necessary strong link between the regional plan and the RPS.

The NPSFM sets parameters for visions

16. Visions for the FMUs must reflect and be developed through engagement with communities and tangata whenua, expressing what they desire those areas to be like in the future.⁶ Other main requirements are:
 - the visions need to take account of local history and environmental pressures;

⁵ Resource Management Act 1991 ss67(3)(c) and 75(3)(c).

⁶ National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, cl 3.3.

- the visions must set goals that are ambitious but reasonable, with a timeframe to achieve them;
- the visions are bound by NPSFM requirements, particularly the te mana o te wai hierarchy of priorities, which may be briefly stated as water health first, human health second, other human needs third.⁷ In application this concept is more nuanced, with significant input on meaning and practice from tangata whenua.

⁷ National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, cl 1.3.

Consultation methodology

17. Consultation on long-term visions had several strands:
 - a series of community workshops covering all FMUs and Rohe;
 - an online survey;
 - written feedback and face to face meetings with iwi representatives;
 - other submissions or reports received as an adjunct to these processes (such as the Shaping Our Future report, prepared by the Upper Clutha community, which represented a significant amount of research and community consultation).
18. Consultation was also designed to recognise and accommodate connections to the upcoming land and water regional plan development process, and other concerns about ORC's wider work that might arise.

Community workshops

19. Twenty-three community workshops were undertaken over the period 27 October to 26 November 2020 at 18 locations across Otago (see Appendix 1). Workshop attendance totalled 237, excluding Councillors and ORC staff.
20. The Manuherekia Rohe of the Clutha Mata-au FMU was not included in the workshop process, because it was already undergoing its own pre-existing comprehensive process. In addition to broader conversations with the community over the past few years, the Manuherekia Reference Group has been operating for some time alongside a dedicated team from ORC to develop a management regime for that catchment, and the new NPSFM requirements will be wrapped into that process. The work that has previously been done lent itself to the drafting of a freshwater vision for the Rohe which was then subject to consultation online.
21. Three to four staff and 2 or 3 regional councillors attended each meeting. They helped answer questions and facilitate breakout groups.
22. At each venue, maps were available of the FMU or rohe (sometimes multiple rohe were discussed), with some time given over as people arrived for discussion and introductions. A facilitator managed the meeting logistics and timekeeping.
23. Also available were short information sheets prepared by ORC staff, summarising what information ORC currently held about the FMU, including scientific monitoring and trend information. The full version of ORC's most recent State of the Environment Report was also available.⁸
24. Each workshop began with a short presentation to explain why the consultation was occurring, the key concepts and regulations involved, and how the workshop would be run, and was followed by a short question and answer session. This session raised several issues across the meetings that, while beyond the scope of the visions development, will be important for ORC to note and act on.

⁸ Adam Uytendaal; Rachel Ozanne *State of the Environment Surface Water Quality in Otago 2006 to 2017* (Otago Regional Council: Dunedin, 2017)

25. The workshop then broke into smaller groups for interactive discussions about aspirations for freshwater in the FMU. Each group was assisted by an ORC facilitator. A worksheet was used (fig. 1) to help facilitate discussion and record ideas. As well as recording community members' long-term aspirations, this also helped with setting out the pathway to reaching long term goals with more specific short- and medium-term goals the community considered important.
26. The worksheet's second column included a series of prompts for discussion, drawing on values identified in the NPSFM. The priorities row was included to facilitate a further prioritising exercise that was proposed, but not used as part of the final workshops.
27. Each group member was then given 5 sticky dots, which they could use to identify the 5 issues or visions their breakout group had discussed that they considered to be the most important. They also had the option of putting multiple dots against a vision or idea if they considered it particularly important.
28. Finally, each breakout group fed back a summary of its worksheet to the workshop as a whole.

		Short term (5years)	Medium term (5-20years)	Long term (20+ years)
Environment	Water quality Water quantity Habitat Aquatic Life Ecological Processes Threatened Species Natural Character			
Cultural / Social	Human contact Fishing Drinking Water Supply Heritage Passive Recreation / amenity			
Economic	Hydroelectric Power Generation Irrigation, Cultivation & Food and Beverage Production Commercial / Industrial use Research values			
Priorities				

Figure 1: Worksheet used for Long-term freshwater vision workshops

29. The NPSFM requirement to establish timeframes for achieving visions was standardised on the worksheets into short (< 5 years), medium (5 -20 years) and long term (>20 years) time frames. Given the broad concepts being discussed and the ultimate goal of creating RPS objectives, staff considered this approach struck a reasonable balance by addressing a level of detail oriented to the level of discussion while setting up a framework for achieving goals as the NPSFM requires.

30. Through the introductory presentation, staff noted the council's proposed FMU and rohe boundaries, and asked attendees to consider whether any change was required.
31. The workshop period was followed by a short email survey to participants to gauge responses to the process. Feedback received during this process will be used to help inform future engagement processes, particularly as it relates to the development of a land and water regional plan.

Online Survey

32. As a parallel process to the community workshops, ORC ran an online survey using Your Say (see Appendix 3). The survey was constructed using the worksheet as a guide to encourage a consistency in the level of detail as to that collected during the workshops.
33. ORC received 216 individual online survey responses (the feedback period ran from 20 October to 27 November 2020).
34. As mentioned previously, community workshops were not undertaken for the Manuherekia Rohe; instead a draft vision was prepared and feedback was sought via an online survey.

Iwi consultation

35. ORC had ongoing discussion with Kāi Tahu through Aukaha and Te Ao Marama Inc, on behalf of affected runaka in Otago and Murihiku. Iwi elected not to attend the individual workshops, preferring to respond separately in a format that suited the values and concerns they wanted to express.
36. Aukaha provided feedback from their runaka on general principles for all the visions, as well as some specific points on each FMU. Te Ao Marama, on behalf of their respective runaka, provided specific feedback by FMU.

Other responses

37. ORC also received a further 10 written responses separate to the online survey process. Some stakeholders preferred to provide feedback as a traditional paper or letter, providing greater scope to discuss a range of issues.

Feedback Summary

Processing the data

38. Through the various channels of feedback, ORC received a considerable amount of information.
39. The information was processed using a qualitative research software package (Atlas.ti), designed for analysing qualitative data.
40. All information received was tagged and collated into the FMU and rohe consultation summaries provided later in this report. For the purposes of vision development, staff focussed on responses to the 20-year time frame, while taking note of shorter-term goals.
41. The information provided for aspirations in the short and medium term will be more thoroughly analysed and utilised as part of the Land and Water Plan development process. As mentioned earlier, the RPS and a land and water regional plan need to work in sequence to facilitate a cohesive land and water management regime. These visions discussions and the information gathered are contributing to this process.
42. Information received that did not belong in the visions process, but was nonetheless valuable to ORC operations, was summarised and raised with ELT to be addressed through internal council processes.

Methodology

43. ORC processed the information using the following methodology:
 - a. Developing a way to categorise the information which helped relate feedback to NPSFM requirements;
 - b. Initially inputting and analysing data based on those categories, and then expanding the categories to account for the feedback received, with a focus on long term (>20 year) considerations;
 - c. Capturing community views on impacts and actions to inform the future development of the Land and Water Plan;
 - d. Identifying key themes across categories and creating a series of consultation summaries for each FMU or Rohe.
44. This approach allowed for consistency across multiple analysts, using both the Atlas.ti software and a unified structure.

What we received

45. The following section summarises the information ORC received through consultation for each FMU or Rohe, based on the methodology described above.
46. The Clutha Mata-au FMU as a whole is not represented, being the summation of the rohe summaries.
47. In each summary, the “Local Context” section describes the way communities see their respective areas and the things that matter to them. It notes some of the key issues raised, and some of the actions people would like to see taken. These elements will inform the visions and are also important to the ongoing development of the Regional Freshwater and Land Plan.
48. The “Long term aspirations to inform freshwater vision development” collates the main goals and visions that came through for each FMU or Rohe. These will have the most influence on the visions’ content. Note that, because the final vision statements will be high level, they may not address all these points directly, or use the same language. They will be informed by the range of feedback received and should reflect the spirit of the range of visions the community has put forward, in the context of NPSFM requirements.
49. Note the section on the Manuherekia Rohe is slightly different in format, as it is undergoing a modified process, as described earlier.

General principles

50. Key themes that appeared across all feedback were
 - fish passage in the Clutha Mata-au FMU;
 - reducing or eliminating stormwater and wastewater discharges to freshwater, and eliminating direct discharges;
 - fit for purpose monitoring;
 - protecting native species and habitat;
 - a need to rethink activities in both urban and rural areas to ensure Otago’s freshwater environments remain healthy;
 - finding ways for communities to retain their integrity and prosper within the envelope of environmental health.

Iwi values

51. FMU specific points are captured in the FMU and Rohe summaries below; however, there were clear general principles in iwi feedback:
 - recognising and honouring te mana o te wai and upholding the mauri of the wai;
 - increasing areas and populations of indigenous biota;
 - connecting biodiversity corridors;
 - restoring flows in waterbodies impacted by abstraction;
 - protecting native fish from the mortal impact of hydroelectricity infrastructure;
 - sustaining the connection of mana whenua with Otago’s water bodies, through recognising rakatirataka and enabling exercise of kaitiakitaka

- providing for practice of mahika kai and other mana whenua aspirations as land and water users;
- enabling mātauraka regarding freshwater and the resources it supports to be retained, kept alive and transferred to future generations.
- no further loss of values;
- ki uta ki tai (mountains to sea) management – treating waterbodies as a whole system;
- restoration achieved within a generation.

Consultation feedback summaries by FMU

Upper Lakes Rohe⁹ (part of the Clutha Mata-au FMU)

52. The following collates community views on the long-term freshwater vision for the Upper Lakes Rohe, which ORC received principally through community workshops at Queenstown and Wanaka, online surveys, and the Shaping Our Future report, mentioned earlier. It summarises the range of long-term aspirations participants provided and seeks to reflect the context given for local views and preferences.

Local context

53. Communities in the Upper Lakes want clean and functioning waterbodies that contribute to a healthy environment, social opportunities, and economic stability. Being able to fish, swim in, and drink the pristine water are valued recreational opportunities and economic attractions. Many respondents saw preserving both the natural character and outstanding water bodies as a shared responsibility across communities, local government, and economic entities, to ensure the source lakes of the Clutha River are kept pristine for future generations.
54. While the lakes are generally considered pristine with significant natural character, several respondents were concerned that current monitoring was not capturing the full picture, especially for water quality at the lakes' edges, where human use impacts are highest. Some noted a perceived decrease in native birds and fish, such as the common bullies around the Wanaka lake edge and called for improvement in monitoring and water quality.
55. There was also widespread unease among respondents about the impacts both tourism and subsequent urban growth were having on local water and wastewater infrastructure, and the surrounding environment. The community was particularly concerned that urban growth will degrade natural outstanding landscapes and waterways, and the increased pressure on already strained water infrastructure will lead to impacts on water quality.
56. Pest species such as didymo and lake snow are also causing water quality issues which affect the environmental, social and, ultimately, economic functions of the water bodies. Valuing, restoring, and enhancing the natural environment and native ecosystems are considered key drivers for securing social and economic prosperity.

Long-term aspirations to inform freshwater vision development

Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freshwater environments reflect their natural state, supporting thriving endemic bush cover and native habitat that is home to a high density of native birds and fish, ensuring no native species are endangered.• Pests are significantly reduced, or eradicated, particularly lake snow and didymo, and endemic native species are the first choice for riparian planting.
Social/Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water bodies are swimmable, and drinkable without treatment, safe for fishing and mahika kai.

⁹ See glossary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban growth and land use are managed to fit within environmental capacities for ongoing ecosystem health, allowing rivers the freedom to move and change naturally. • Water management recognises the strong ties and affinity to the area for many people of different backgrounds, and the need to retain the aesthetic values that underpin them. • All water users share responsibilities and opportunities brought by a pristine environment, with environmental care and low-impact living as intergenerational core values. • An engaged, informed, and knowledgeable community.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic use focuses on best practice, minimising environmental impact and recognising healthy freshwater ecosystems as vital to economic activity.

Dunstan Rohe¹⁰ (part of the Clutha Mata-au FMU)

57. The following collates community views on the long-term freshwater vision for the Dunstan Rohe, which ORC received principally through community workshops at Cromwell, Arrowtown, and Wanaka, and through online surveys. It summarises the range of long-term aspirations participants provided and seeks to reflect the context given for local views and preferences.

Local context

58. Respondents consider the Rohe to have good water quality and special natural character and want to maintain this into the future. The Wakatipu Basin community was concerned about the state of Lake Hayes and plans for improving quality in the lake. Good water quality underpins agriculture (in particular horticulture and viticulture) and tourism, which are key economic drivers. People wanted to see native species back in the rohe, particularly tuna.
59. Pests were identified as a key threat to habitat quality and the economy, particularly wilding pines and lake weeds. Community members were also concerned about the impact of trout and salmon on native fish, especially tuna.
60. To preserve local ecology and water quality, land uses need to be appropriate to the climate, soil types, and resources available, and have appropriate infrastructure servicing them. There was general concern about how climate change will exacerbate adverse effects. Farm Environment Plans were identified as a useful tool, provided they are implemented and audited properly.
61. Respondents emphasised the need for good information about water quality, quantity, and hydrology. They considered monitoring and data is not currently good enough to determine an environmental baseline, and therefore can't provide for adequate management. The monitoring network needs to be fit for purpose.
62. There was a sense that urban communities needed to better understand urban effects on water and be responsible for them. Urban waste, stormwater, and silt run off were raised as particular issues. Rural respondents also wanted rural residential development confined to non-productive land.
63. Community resilience could be enhanced through flexible consenting that provides for actual needs for water (particularly for horticulture, which has variable use across years), support for on-farm water storage in feasible places, and small-scale energy production. Some respondents saw water spilt through the dams as a potential source for harvesting and storage.
64. The community saw improved relationships as key to addressing existing issues, supported by a more transparent regulatory process and more collaboration between agencies on common tasks, making it easy for people to do the right thing. Some communities in the Dunstan Rohe have been independently discussing the future for their part of the area, with groups like Shaping our Future developing community visions. They want to see community led decisions supported and implemented by regulatory agencies.

¹⁰ See glossary

Long-term aspirations to inform freshwater vision development

<p>Environmental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivers, lakes, and their margins are restored and maintained to reflect their natural state, providing a safe haven for flourishing native species, free from pests, and providing ecological services from run-off control to climate change resilience. • The rohe remains attractive; clean and green is a reality, not just a tagline. • Waterways are safe for swimming and drinking, and support the range of environmental and human needs, with substantial riparian areas minimising sediment and nutrient run off. • Flows reflect rivers' natural behaviour, providing ample fish habitat and resilience to climate change effects, with water available for harvesting and storage.
<p>Social/Cultural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing te mana o te wai provides for threatened species, restores mahika kai, and underpins the essential long-term partnership between pakeha and takata whenua. • Trout and native fish are provided for, including a healthy eel population suitable for harvesting. • Sustainable drinkable waterways and lakes. • Otago is a recreation destination for locals and visitors, with all water safe for swimming. • ORC actively facilitates efficient water harvesting for long-term water reliability.
<p>Economic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area is recognised as the world's best producer of fresh produce and wine, underpinned by excellent water quality, the right activities in the right places, and well managed infrastructure, sustainably supporting economies and communities. • Otago is recognised as a world tourist destination, with tourism managed to be within infrastructure capacity and provide economic and environmental benefits for local communities.

Manuherekia Rohe (part of the Clutha Mata-au FMU)

65. As mentioned previously in the report, the process for consulting on the Manuherekia vision was different to that which has been undertaken on the remaining FMU and Rohe. This was due to previous consultations on the values and aspirations for the Rohe in 2019. The feedback from the previous consultation enabled a draft vision to be prepared, and feedback sought directly on that vision.
66. Below is the draft vision which was the subject to online consultation across the consultation period:

“Within the Manuherekia Rohe the health and mauri of freshwater ecosystems is prioritised, whilst achieving and sustaining the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of mana whenua and communities through:

- river and tributary flows and water quality that sustain ecosystem health.
- healthy habitats of all freshwater and avian species;
- no species endemic to the Rohe being in the threatened category;
- all wetlands being highly functioning and protected; and
- sustaining the naturalness and distinctiveness of the waterbodies, their margins and surrounding landscapes;
- Connections between the health of freshwater and the wellbeing of mana whenua and the community are recognised and celebrated.

This will be achieved by ensuring:

- By 31 December 2025, an enduring water management regime is in place, which supports restoration of degraded ecosystems and climate change resilience, through efficient water use, best practice land management and enabling adaptive management; all remaining wetlands and the braided river character in the upper catchment are protected.
- By 2040, water quality and flows sustain a healthy ecosystem, water is suitable and safe for contact recreation, drinking water supply, and access to mahika kai, which supports the visibility of Wāhi Tūpuna and mana whenua connections
- By 2050 the river and tributary flows and water quality have been restored, land uses have adapted or changed to reflect the new water management regime.”

Feedback received

67. The following collates the feedback received on the draft vision.
68. Water in the catchment supports several highly valued and often competing values. Feedback received across the board covered both a desire to see a strengthening of the environmental bottom line and tightening of timeframes to achieve such and a greater focus on enabling the use of water and the economic value it plays in supporting the community. There was also feedback that the river was in good health now and that nothing needed to change.
69. Many in the community felt the economic value and desired outcomes of the community were not appropriately covered in the draft vision. Of particular importance was a secure and reliable supply of water for irrigation; equity between users; more efficient use of available

water; increase to irrigated area and ongoing support for the tourism industry. A stronger representation of the community within the vision was desired by some respondents.

70. Feedback also acknowledged some of the tensions within the draft visions, such as protecting and encouraging native species to thrive, whilst providing for the healthy habitats of avian and freshwater species and sought clarification within the vision to address this concern.
71. There was general support for achieving and sustaining drinkable and swimmable water, and access to mahika kai. Although there was some debate over the appropriateness of the timeframes set, with a number of respondents believing them to be too long, and wanting to see achievement sooner, with a concern being expressed that if we take too long it will be too late for improvements. Additional detail to specify outcomes within the timeframes was supported, as was further clarification on the use of “restore”, with the question being posed, what are we restoring to?
72. The integration of land use and the health of the water was supported in the vision, but that this should be at such a level not to constrain future policy direction within the Land and Water Regional Plan to determine what that would look like for this rohe.

Roxburgh Rohe (part of the Clutha Mata-au FMU)

73. The following collates community views on the long-term freshwater vision for the Roxburgh Rohe, which ORC received principally through community workshops at Clyde and Roxburgh, and through online surveys. It summarises the range of long-term aspirations participants provided and seeks to reflect the context given for local views and preferences.

Local context

74. Respondents largely perceived water quality and quantity to be good. Some community members suggested that there are untapped water resources that could be more efficiently utilised to support both the communities and economy. There was concern about upstream discharges and the lack of information available about causes of water quality issues.
75. Communities felt that the biodiversity in waterways was currently good and it should be the communities that are responsible for keeping these levels stable. This was also the case for natural character.
76. In some cases, modified areas were valued as much as unmodified areas, for example, the ecology and natural character associated with the dams. Some respondents viewed the notion that the environment be returned to a specific point in history as unreasonable and arbitrary.
77. Large scale hydroelectricity generation was acknowledged as important, however there was opposition to increasing the amount of large-scale damming.
78. Food production is a vital part of the Roxburgh Rohe’s local economy. Having flexibility to develop innovative, adaptable, and efficient irrigation schemes is highly valued, and allows the community to continue irrigating within environmental limits. Community level research was encouraged to support a ‘ground up’ approach to understanding local needs. Combining information and education with regional experts and monitoring data would facilitate greater partnership between the ORC and the community to produce tailored and effective outcomes for water management.
79. There was also a discussion about the boundaries for the Roxburgh Rohe, and there was some confusion about why Roxburgh Township was not included. The current boundaries have Roxburgh township in the Lower Clutha Rohe.

Long-term aspirations to inform freshwater vision development

Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities are connected to, and responsible for, thriving and biodiverse ecosystems in partnership with the ORC and across generations. • Stable natural character integrated with realistic and beneficial enhancements. • Clean potable water available for recreational and economic uses, free of sediment. • Efficient, affordable, and secure water supplies to ensure supportive productivity.
Social/Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water is drinkable and free of water-soluble pollutants and other discharges across generations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy numbers of trout and other valued species are present in the waterways for continued recreational fishing. • Water is freely accessible for everyone. • Communal sense of connection to the land and investing into the wellbeing of the environment for economic and social stability. • Everyone has continued access to clean waterways suitable for recreational fishing, swimming, and kayaking. • Resilient, efficient, and secure water stores. • Water treated as taonga, meeting Iwi aspirations for wāhi tapu.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Production: Food producers in the Roxburgh Rohe are recognised as world leaders in environmentally ethical, profitable, and efficiently sustainable food production. • Large scale hydroelectricity generation remains stable. • Irrigation is adaptable, innovative, efficient, and integrated. • Expert and community level research and monitoring data is integrated with community action and education for best practice water management.

Lower Clutha Rohe¹¹ (part of the Clutha Mata-au FMU)

80. The following collates community views on the long-term freshwater vision for the Lower Clutha Rohe, which ORC received principally through community workshops at Ettrick, Tapanui, Balclutha, Roxburgh, and through online surveys. It summarises the range of long-term aspirations participants provided and seeks to reflect the context given for local views and preferences.

Local context

81. Respondents considered that the water quality was good and well maintained by those who use the water. It was accepted that most waterways were drinkable and swimmable and therefore the visions should reflect the desire to maintain current water quality.
82. The community suggested better monitoring, research, and data transparency is needed to determine the natural baseline for water quality and defining more precisely whether and where water issues exist. ORC could then target problem areas with tailored regulatory or non-regulatory approaches, alongside community education.
83. Community members were generally concerned about sewage and other discharges from upstream urbanised areas. They considered urban areas need to understand the effects of urban discharges and take responsibility. It was suggested that education would greatly improve both water quality and rural-urban relationships.
84. Food production is considered the life blood of the community, contributing to local and national identity and economy. Access to water for irrigation is integral to enabling communities to continue farming across generations. Respondents saw family run farms as custodians of the land and were concerned about any changes that would favour a move to an impersonal, corporate approach.
85. Several respondents suggested that flushing by the dams could be coordinated with the need to take and store water lower down the main stem, to increase efficiency of water use.

Long-term aspirations to inform freshwater vision development

Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterways have healthy, functional, and beautiful biodiverse ecosystems across pest free environments. • Attractive and stable natural character integrated with functioning biodiversity. • Future generations have access to reliable and sustainable potable water supplies. • Widely accessible and adaptable water supplies for both the community and economy in the face of hazards and climate change.
Social/Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future generations have easy access to safe, secure, swimmable, and drinkable waterways. • Iwi have access to flourishing mahika kai sites. • Abundant recreational fishing species and access to recreational fishing.

¹¹ See glossary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ORC and local communities working in true partnership to achieve water quality outcomes.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust, resilient, and growing intergenerational farming economy supported by research and best practice. • Stable hydroelectricity power schemes working with the local communities for efficient use of water. • Widely utilised and efficient irrigation schemes for food production. • Farming practices improving the water quality through operation. • Transparent and targeted water quality monitoring reports for the community supported by education facilitated by the ORC.

North Otago FMU¹²

86. The following collates community views on the long-term freshwater vision for the North Otago FMU which ORC received principally through community workshops at Oamaru and Palmerston and through online surveys. It summarises the range of long-term aspirations participants provided and seeks to reflect the context given for local views and preferences.

Local context

87. North Otago FMU communities were concerned about water quality, in particular the Kakanui and its estuary. Respondents generally agreed that water quality should at least be maintained, and ideally improved across the FMU. Memories of swimming, fishing, and collecting mahika kai in rural rivers were common, as was people's desire to enable their children to do the same. Respondents also recognised that each river and catchment would need a bespoke approach, and that people would need to work collaboratively to achieve that.
88. Identified drivers of poor water quality included urban storm water, forestry, and lack of fencing of waterways. Suggested solutions included investment in storm water and sewerage infrastructure along with improved planning and regulation of forestry activities and fencing and revegetation of riparian areas and wetlands.
89. Some respondents were satisfied with current biodiversity health, though many were not. All wanted to see thriving biodiversity and healthy aquatic habitats maintained or improved. Proposed approaches included riparian planting, community education, and supporting landowners to identify, plan and manage biodiversity on their property. Trout present an issue, both having recreational value and posing a threat to native fish species.
90. Feedback showed that agriculture plays a key role in North Otago FMU's economy, making certainty of access to water vital, especially as climate change is expected to make the FMU drier. Irrigation was raised as key to future success.
91. Some community members noted that climate change could provide opportunity for diversification. This included land use practices suitable for a dryer climate and high value recreation development. The latter would rely on good water quality and healthy biodiversity.
92. Feedback provided various suggestions to ensure economic use could co-exist with environmental, social, and cultural values. General suggestions included improved use efficiency, water storage and practices to improve water retention and soil quality. Other points raised included maintaining and further developing irrigation infrastructure, identifying and protecting high value agricultural land from urban development, investing in technology for agriculture, and managing land use to ensure the right activities occur in the right places (e.g. forestry, dairying).
93. Data collection and monitoring were identified as important for all aspects of management – cultural values, water quality and quantity and biodiversity. Respondents considered that achieving long term aspirations will require more collaboration between all parties in the

¹² See glossary

FMU- landowners, businesses, agencies and councils, and more integration of policy, regulation, and spatial planning.

Long-term aspirations to inform freshwater vision development

Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity in North Otago is flourishing - habitats have been maintained and enhanced; rivers and waterways are healthy and can support sustainable recreational fishing; biodiversity needs are considered in each catchment and in farm planning. • North Otago ecosystems are resilient, and their condition has been improving through careful stewardship and sustainable approaches to management. • The natural character of North Otago is maintained. • Management of catchments and water resource uses ensures that all water meets water quality standards. • All water is managed sustainably and there is clarity and transparency in access and administration.
Social/Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community water access is maintained. • North Otago water heritage is recognised and maintained. • Mahika kai is understood by the community and lwi access is maintained • Recreational fishing is enhanced in larger waterways. • A resilient and sustainable North Otago where development is sustainable and considers future generations. The North Otago community is resilient, capable and works together. • The North Otago community is thriving and growing.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term sustainable farming systems and practices support a thriving economy. • Freshwater and marine fisheries are ecologically sustainable. • Irrigation is developed, managed, and maintained to support a sustainable economy. • North Otago has a culture of innovation based on its unique value proposition. • North Otago has a vibrant economy which is connected to the region; the economy is supported by a balance between the economic uses and social values of water. Development is sustainable and considers future generations. • Tourism is a high value contributor to North Otago's economy.

Taieri FMU

94. The following collates community views on the long-term freshwater vision for the Taieri FMU, which ORC received principally through community workshops at Ranfurly, Middlemarch, Mosgiel and through online surveys. It summarises the range of long-term aspirations participants provided and seeks to reflect the context given for local views and preferences.

Local context

95. The Taieri FMU is home to threatened species of Galaxiids, which the community wants to retain. Challenges will include retaining trout, which, despite being a threat to Galaxiids, are still valued for recreational fishing. Didymo was also considered a significant problem for both biodiversity and water quality, and these conflicts require creative ecological solutions.
96. Communities valued the FMU's unique and distinct natural character, including the scroll plains, wetlands, rocky outcrops, and Sutton Salt Lake. These are unique features and will need unique management approaches to maintain them for future generations to enjoy. There was strong opposition to forestry in the Taieri FMU, as a threat to natural character and agriculture.
97. Agriculture is the primary economic driver in the Taieri, and the communities want to see it remain this way across generations. Irrigation ensures the stability of agricultural practices, so needs to be resilient to climate change.
98. Respondents saw several initiatives as possibilities for securing their future. Water storage will be important to secure water supply and support adaptation to climate change and other hazards. Flood protection, and wastewater and water supply infrastructure improvements were seen as logical solutions for inevitable population growth. Small scale hydropower generation and other renewable energy sources could also help make farming practices more sustainable and increasingly economically viable, although the current cost associated with small scale hydroelectricity generation makes it unfeasible.
99. Monitoring and data transparency were key themes in feedback. Some suggested improving water education for the community to increase engagement on water issues across rural and urban populations. Rural and urban populations need to share responsibility for water health.
100. Across the consultation meetings it became apparent that the Taieri is made up of unique and distinct areas that may require different management approaches within the Freshwater Management Unit.

Long-term aspirations to inform freshwater vision development

Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thriving and diverse ecology integrated with attractive riparian zones across a pest free environment.• The unique natural character and features of the Taieri are beautiful and valued, continuing to contribute to the community sense of place.• Local water quality remains pristine and resilient across generations, free of grey and black water discharges.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure and reliably stored water available for the community and economic needs.
Social/Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible, resilient, and valued water stores that are integrated with well-functioning infrastructure to meet the needs of an increasing population. • Community can continue to freely access recreational fishing. • Waterways continue to be accessible, swimmable, and drinkable across generations. • Communities across ages, diversities and users who are well engaged with catchment management in partnership with the ORC. • Communities have a healthy sustained connection to their waterways and both Mahika Kai sites and Wahi Tapu are understood, thriving, and protected for Iwi.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture remains the primary economic driver for the Taieri across generations who utilise sustainable, prosperous, and adaptable agricultural practices. • Hydroelectric power, including other renewable energy sources, is widespread and utilised for innovative, renewable, and sustainable farming practices. • Irrigation is climate change resilient and carried out efficiently and with best practice. • Waterways are monitored to establish tailored targets, and communities have access to education based on transparent water data.

Dunedin & Coast FMU

101. The following collates community views on the long-term freshwater vision for Dunedin and Coast FMU which ORC received principally through community workshops at North East Valley, Orokonui, Milton and through online surveys. It summarises the range of long-term aspirations participants provided and seeks to reflect the context given for local views and preferences.

Local context

102. Many Dunedin & Coast FMU community members felt a connection to the area's natural character and diversity, such as the harbour, peninsula and coastal areas, and their associated natural, social and cultural values, while acknowledging the complexity inherent in managing these alongside the activities necessary to support a growing urban area. This drove a desire to maintain and protect water quality, including connected aquatic and estuary ecosystems, and biodiversity and kai species such as whitebait, eels, and lobsters. Several felt the long-term goal should be to restore the riparian habitats and biodiversity to as close to "yesterday" as possible. Others considered it more feasible to aim for functional and healthy networked habitats and ecosystems with good water quality ki uta ki tai.
103. Community feedback indicated concern about maintaining access to swimmable and drinkable water and to mahika kai. Urban and industrial discharges into urban waterways such as Kaikorai Stream, and the cumulative impacts of these, were mentioned as particular concerns, as was the plan to develop a landfill site on Otokia Creek. Some residents living close to river mouths were concerned about low flows resulting from over-allocation upstream and considered that minimum flows need to be established. Several people also noted the councils' role in providing quality recreation facilities, such as bike tracks, to support people's connection to the environment.
104. Suggested improvements included planning infrastructure to meet population growth needs with minimal impact and controlling land use, for example protecting highly productive land, controlling carbon farming, preventing further irrigation development, encouraging sustainable rural land uses and improving forestry regulation. Some respondents suggested that, to encourage water being properly valued and efficiently used, people should pay for the water they use.
105. Hydroelectricity was discussed with some members of the community continuing to favour it as a sustainable source of energy while others preferred developing alternative sources like wind.
106. Some people called for more data to better inform future management. They considered better information was needed to understand the sources of water quality issues and effects of current actions, and to identify baselines. Cultural mapping was also raised as important to good management.
107. Several respondents wanted a catchment framework and more regular engagement and information sharing to foster stewardship and a shared understanding of issues and solutions, as well as guidance on topics like restoration, weed control, and flood mitigation. People also said councils needed to work better together, with other agencies, and with the community to manage environmental concerns, such as the impact of trout on native fish and heavy metal

poisoning from gunshot in estuaries, and provide integrated approaches to, for example, pest management.

Long-term aspirations to inform freshwater vision development

Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and habitats are thriving from the mountains to the sea - and are protected, enhanced, connected, and restored. Waterways are healthy and accessible and native fish are protected from introduced fish. • Mahika kai is sustainable, safe, and accessible. • Natural character of Dunedin is maintained. • Stewardship by everybody means that future generations have reliable access to sustainable quality water supplies. • Allocations are sustainable and water flows approximate natural flows which support a functional ecosystem. There is stewardship of water. • Long term stewardship approach prevents cumulative impacts.
Social/Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future generations have easy access to safe, secure, swimmable, and drinkable waterways. • Sustainable mahika kai – with access for all. • Recreational fishing is sustainable. • Communities are empowered and engaged across generations to share and address problems in integrated and holistic way in catchments. We all know about and take responsibility for the health of the catchment; healthy environment provides for healthy people. • Rivers swimmable and drinkable, but lower priority than ecosystem health.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming contributes to the local economy. Highly productive land is protected, and lifestyle blocks are restricted to marginal land. Costs of externalities are factored into prices and regulation is workable for all landowners. Opportunities for high value production are explored and supported. • Hydroelectricity generation schemes are sustainable, renewable, and low impact. • Population growth is supported by sustainable, efficient, and renewable infrastructure development. • Irrigation is maintained to support balanced regional wellbeing.

Catlins FMU

108. The following collates community views on the long-term freshwater vision for the Catlins FMU which ORC received principally through community workshops at Owaka and through online surveys. It summarises the range of long-term aspirations participants provided and seeks to reflect the context given for local views and preferences.

Local context

109. People considered maintaining water quality in the Catlins FMU was vital to ensuring a long future for key community values such as fishing, mahika kai and recreational water pursuits such as swimming and kayaking. Community members considered some improvement in water quality was needed and could be supported by investing in proper infrastructure such as sealed roads, constructing flood prevention structures, and regulating forestry to minimise sedimentation.
110. Many people saw maintaining the FMU’s unique natural character and natural and rural landscapes as an important long-term objective, with potential to drive economic growth through tourism. This went hand in hand with maintaining biodiversity, including natural vegetation and iconic threatened species such as yellow eyed penguins. Some community members did note the negative impact of sea lions and seals on habitats and fish populations.
111. Actions proposed to support these values included planning appropriate sites for development so that the landscape is preserved, maintaining heritage values, and carefully managing tourism’s negative impacts (e.g. freedom campers) to minimise impacts on the local community. Access to drinking water supply at Owaka would also need careful consideration under growth scenarios.
112. Proposed approaches to support biodiversity included weed control, riparian protection, farm planning and an integrated approach to possum control on both private and public land. Guidance on best practice land management was seen as something that would benefit biodiversity in the long term. The community wanted better knowledge about how to manage threats to yellow eyed penguins and broader community education about threatened species.
113. The community values the FMU’s rural character and would largely prefer to maintain the agricultural base for the economy. This will require planning to manage extent and location of urban development, along with control of forestry development.

Long-term aspirations to inform freshwater vision development

Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy ocean ecosystems, including fish populations; citizen science is part of research. • The amazing and unique natural character of the Catlins is maintained for children of the future and is accessible. • Water quality maintained and improved. • Water quantity will be sustainable and sufficient for both humans and ecosystem function.
Social/Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational food gathering (mahika kai) is sustainable.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage sites recognised and better used for education and raising awareness. • Community access to fishing is maintained. • Human economy sits within a sustainable ecosystem.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming by NZ families is maintained as an important part of the regional economy. • Zero carbon economy.

Other feedback

FMU boundary changes

114. Workshop participants and people responding to the online survey were also able to comment on the FMU and Rohe boundaries. Feedback suggested some potential alterations:
- Extending the Roxburgh Rohe below the Roxburgh dam and including the township of Roxburgh as well as the lake,
 - Moving the boundary between Upper Lakes FMU and Dunstan FMU up to Lake Hawea's outlet, so that the Hawea River becomes part of Dunstan FMU along with the Kawarau and Upper Clutha Mata-au.
115. ORC is considering these changes and will release the finalised boundaries as part of the notified RPS in June 2021.

General issues arising from consultation

116. Although the primary goal of the survey and workshops was to gather information for constructing FMU visions, and leading the initial work on the Land and Water Plan, they also provided an avenue for more wide ranging feedback and discussion about the ORC's performance, role and functions. Across all discussions and responses, several consistent themes emerged:
- ORC could improve internal information sharing so groups are more aware of each other's work, and to ensure community members get the help they need without hassle;
 - ORC needs to improve its engagement processes to ensure Otago communities are up to date with ORC's activities and so that ORC keeps abreast of community needs and concerns;
 - Consultation processes need to allow time for people to be properly engaged, consider issues and respond fully;
 - ORC's monitoring network needs to be improved to meet community information requirements and support good environmental management;
 - There is a lack of understanding between rural and urban communities in Otago, and ORC can play a role in improving this through education, information, and more consistent engagement.

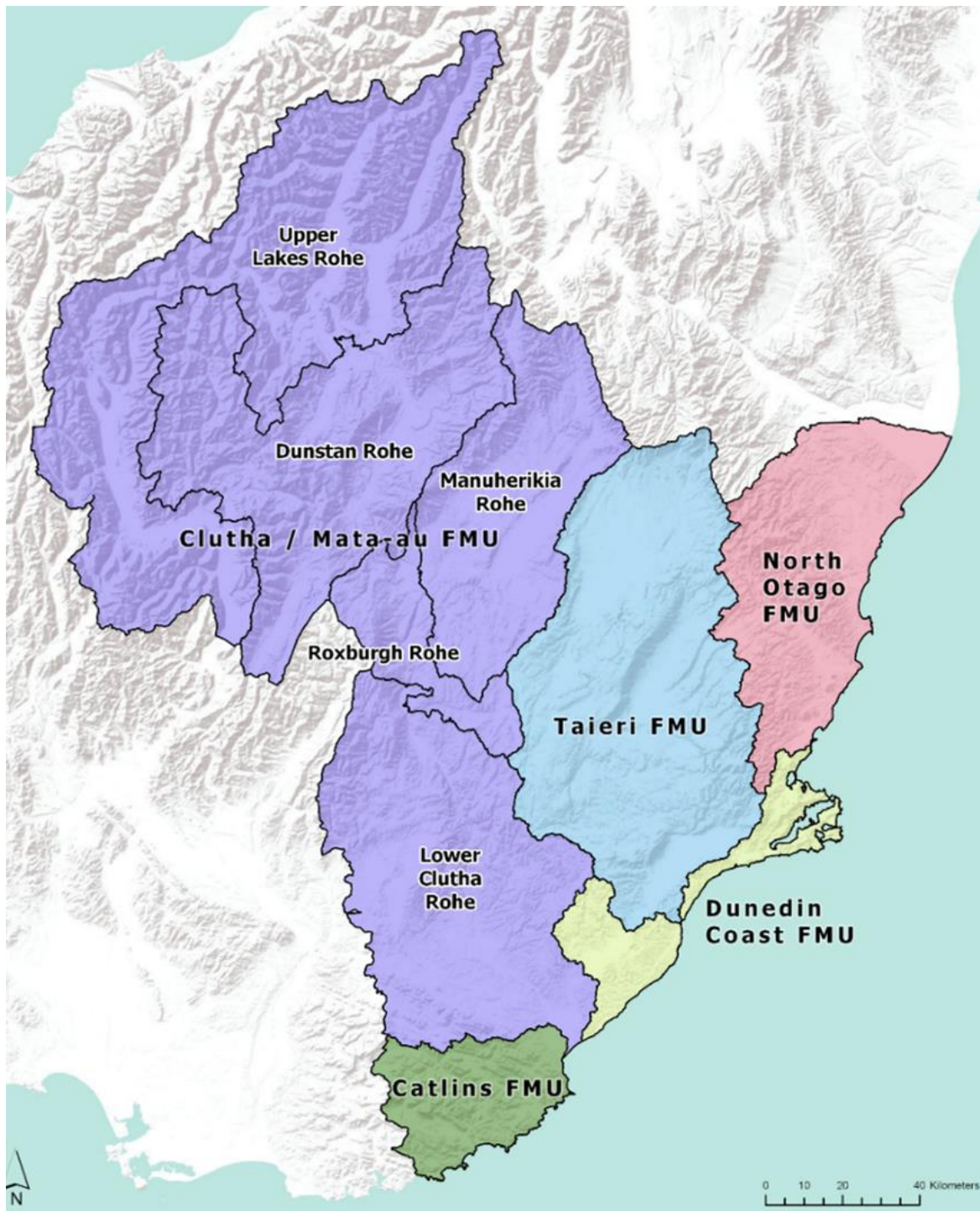
Where we go from here

117. ORC will use the information collected from this consultation process to create vision statements for each FMU and Rohe, which will be inserted in the RPS. Communities will be able to respond to those visions, and everything else in the RPS, when it is notified in June 2021.
118. Visions distil a range of values, aspirations, and thoughts, into relatively brief and broad statements about future goals. While the visions development process will draw on all the information collected, the focus will be on communities' long-term aspirations, combined with scientific data the ORC holds, and the NPSFM's requirements. While the exact language and expression the community has provided may not appear in the visions, the final draft versions should still reflect the spirit and intent of community feedback.
119. The consultation process has provided a wealth of feedback that goes beyond the brief of a vision statement or in some cases, beyond the scope of the RPS, especially concerning specific issues, concerns, and short-term actions. This feedback will help to guide development of the Otago Regional Water and Land Plan and will be the seed for future consultation as part of that process.

Appendix 1: Meeting schedule

Date	FMU / Rohe	Location	Afternoon	Evening	Venue
Tue 27 Oct	Catlins	Owaka	NA	5:30 - 7.00	Owaka Memorial Hall Ovenden St Owaka
Wed 28 Oct	North Otago	Oamaru	12.30 - 2.00	6.00 - 7.30	Oamaru Opera House 90 Thames St Oamaru
Thu 29 Oct	North Otago	Palmerston	12.30 - 2.00	NA	Palmerston Community Hall 104A Ronaldsay Street, Palmerston
Mon 2 Nov	Taieri	Ranfurly	12.30 - 2.00	6.00 - 7.30	Ranfurly Town Hall Northland St Ranfurly
Tue 3 Nov	Clutha/Mata-Au and Dunstan	Cromwell	12.30 - 2.00	NA	Cromwell Presbyterian Centre Elspeth St Cromwell
	Clutha/Mata-Au and Roxburgh	Clyde	NA	5.30 - 7.00	Clyde Hall Fruitgrowers Road Clyde
Tue 10 Nov	Taieri	Mosgiel	12.30 - 2.00	NA	Mosgiel Coronation Hall 99 Gordon Road Mosgiel
	Dunedin Coast	Dunedin	NA	6.00 - 7.30	Salvation Army Hall North East Valley Dunedin
Wed 11 Nov	Dunedin Coast	Orokonui Sanctuary	NA	6.30 - 8.00	Orokonui Sanctuary 600 Blueskin Road Dunedin
Thu 12 Nov	Taieri	Middlemarch	12.30 - 2.00	6.00- 7.30	Middlemarch Memorial Hall
Tue 17 Nov	Clutha/Mata-Au and Lower Clutha	Ettrick	NA	5.30 - 7.00	Ettrick Hall Ettrick
	Clutha/Mata-Au and Roxburgh	Roxburgh	12.30 - 2.00	NA	Roxburgh Memorial Hall Scotland St Roxburgh
Wed 18 Nov	Clutha/Mata-Au and Lower Clutha	Tapanui	12.30 - 2.00	5.30 - 7.00	West Otago Community Centre (Social Room) 3 Suffolk St Tapanui
Thu 19 Nov	Dunedin Coast	Milton	12.30 - 2.00	NA	Milton Coronation Hall 98 Union St Milton
	Clutha/Mata-Au and Lower Clutha	Balclutha	NA	6.00 - 7.30	Cross Recreation Centre 18 Glasgow St Balclutha
Tue 24 Nov	Clutha/Mata-Au and Upper lakes	Queenstown	NA	6.00 - 7.30	St Peters Church Hall 2 Church St Queenstown
Wed 25 Nov	Clutha/Mata-Au and Upper Lakes	Wanaka	12.30 - 2.00	6.00 - 7.30	Lake Wanaka Centre 89 Ardmore St Wanaka
Thu 26 Nov	Clutha/Mata-Au and Dunstan	Arrowtown	12.30 - 2.00	NA	Arrowtown Bowling Club 6 Hertford St Arrowtown

Appendix 2: First proposal for FMU boundaries



Appendix 3: Online survey questions

Note:

- The questions in this appendix have been adapted from the online format to improve reading ease and questions regarding personal details have been removed. Because of this, question numbering may differ from that which respondents to the online survey experienced.
- For each question asking people to provide a vision or goals, there was a supplementary question about timeframes, which asked when they would like to see their vision or goal achieved, with options of short term (5 years), medium term (5-20 years), or long term (20+ years).

Q1: Which FMU do you live in (or wish to comment on)?

Q2: Which rohe do you live in?

Q3: While you are here, we'd like to hear if you have any comments about the boundaries of Otago's FMUs and rohe?

Q4: What is your vision or goal for water quality in waterways near you?

Q5: What is your vision or goal for water quantity in waterways near you?

Q6: What is your goal or vision for the habitat surrounding waterways near you?

Q7: What is your goal or vision for aquatic life living in waterways in your area?

Q8: What is your goal or vision for the ecology of waterways in your area?

Q9: What is your goal or vision for threatened species in your area?

Q10: What is your goal for the natural character of waterways in your area?

Q11: Are there any other environmental values, issues, or topics you'd like to raise?

Q12: What is your goal or vision for mahika kai in your area?

Q13: What is your goal or vision for wai tapu in your area?

Q14: When would you like to see this vision or goal above achieved?

Q15: What is your goal or vision for navigation, launching and landing of watercraft and Tauranga Waka?

Q16: Do you have a connectedness with a waterway or part of a waterway? If so, what is your vision or goal for continuing to have a connection with this waterway?

- Q17:** Are there any other cultural values or topics you'd like to raise?
- Q18:** What is your goal or vision for swimming or recreation in or on waterways near you?
- Q19:** What is your goal or vision for fishing in waterways in your area?
- Q20:** When would you like to see this vision or goal above achieved?
- Q21:** What is your vision or goal for drinking water supply?
- Q22:** When would you like to see this vision or goal above achieved?
- Q23:** What is your vision or goal for heritage and historic water use sites in your area?
- Q24:** When would you like to see this vision or goal above achieved?
- Q25:** What is your goal or vision for recreation and amenity values for waterways in your area?
- Q26:** When would you like to see this vision or goal above achieved?
- Q27:** Are there any other social values or topics you'd like to raise?
- Q28:** What is your vision or goal for hydroelectric power generation?
- Q29:** What is your goal or vision for irrigation, cultivation, and food and beverage production?
- Q30:** What is your goal or vision for commercial and industrial uses of freshwater?
- Q31:** What is your goal or vision for research values?
- Q32:** Are there any other economic values or topics you'd like to raise?
- Q33:** We would like your feedback on the draft vision for the Manuherekia Rohe. Please add your feedback below.