



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Te Manatu Ahuwhenua, Ngāherehere

Report of the Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action Public Meetings

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Executive Summary

The Government established the Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action in 2003 to ensure that the country's freshwater resources are managed to best support New Zealand's future sustainable development. The programme is part of the Government's wider Sustainable Development Programme of Action.

In February 2005, 19 public meetings were held around the country to discuss the issues and options contained in the discussion document *Freshwater for a sustainable future: issues and options*. The discussion document was released for public comment in December 2004. This report summarises the initial comments made on the document received at the meetings, as well as additional issues and actions raised.

There was general agreement that the eight key issues are challenges which New Zealand faces in the management of freshwater resources. Several additional issues were identified which participants felt were not sufficiently emphasised in the discussion document. These included:

- urban use and supply
- integrated catchment management
- links to the biodiversity strategy
- climate change
- biosecurity.

The level of support for each of the 13 actions was dependent on their future shape and form. The following actions received wide support at most meetings:

Action 4: Increase central government participation in regional planning

Central government involvement should include providing information and guidance to local decision-making. Central government participation should not occur at the expense of local involvement in decision-making.

Action 5: Increase central government's support for local government

This action was widely supported. Central government support was regarded as necessary in the following areas:

- funding for storage and infrastructure
- funding for science, research and implementation
- development and dissemination of best practice
- strategic planning for water.

Action 10: Enhance Maori participation

There was support for building effective relationships with Maori for freshwater management. Resources for participation were regarded as essential.

Action 12: Raise awareness of freshwater problems and pressures

There was widespread support for raising awareness in the areas of managing the effects of diffuse discharges on water quality, and efficiency of water use in rural and urban areas.

Action 13: Collaboration between central government and local government, scientists and key stakeholders on pilot projects to demonstrate and test new water management initiatives

Support for this action included recognising the value of communities, sector groups, Maori, local government, central government, and the science community in working together.

For some actions, it is not possible to draw clear levels of support or opposition due to the initial nature of the comments and the need for further development of the actions. There was uncertainty about how the following actions could be developed:

Action 1: Develop national policy statement

There was support for a national policy statement which identified national priorities and values but it should not interfere with or override local decision-making for freshwater.

Action 2: Develop national environmental standards

There was support for a national environmental standard which could establish environmental bottom lines for freshwater; however regional variations must be provided for. A national environmental standard must not override local solutions which are already working well.

Action 3: Address nationally important values

Views on this action were divided. A national strategy for identifying water bodies which have nationally important values could be useful; however, this would need to include a process for identifying and incorporating local values.

Action 6: Develop special mechanisms for regional councils

Tools are already available under the Resource Management Act but they need to be implemented more effectively through increased support and funding from central government.

Action 7: Enhance the transfer of allocated water between users

Transfer of resource consents could provide more flexibility for water users; however, more development of this action is needed. The monopolisation of water should be avoided, and existing user rights should be protected.

Action 8: Develop market mechanisms to manage diffuse discharges

Few comments were made regarding this action. The need for further development of the action was raised along with alternative approaches for managing diffuse discharges.

Action 9: Set requirements for regional freshwater plans to address key issues and challenges

Few comments were made regarding this action. There was support for the adoption of an integrated catchment management approach when developing plans.

Action 11: Enable regional councils to allocate water to priority uses

Support was expressed for improving the current system for allocating water. Councils should not have to determine the highest value use for water. Equitable access to water would need to be ensured and instream values protected if a market-based approach was adopted.

1 Purpose of this Report

This report summarises the feedback received at 19 public meetings held in February 2005. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the issues and options for developing a national framework for freshwater management contained in the discussion document *Freshwater for a sustainable future: issues and options*. The discussion document was released for comment in December 2004 and constitutes the first round of consultation undertaken on the Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action.

This report does not include or express opinions about the responses received. These are more appropriately expressed following comprehensive analysis on the policy implications of the feedback.

2 Background

The Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action

The Government established the Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action in 2003 to ensure that the country's freshwater resources are managed to best support New Zealand's future sustainable development. The principles of the Programme are outlined in Appendix 1. The programme is part of the Government's wider Sustainable Development Programme of Action.

The Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action established working groups to look at three areas: water allocation and use, water quality, and the identification of potential water bodies of national importance. Three technical papers were produced by the working groups and released in December 2004: the papers *Water allocation and use*; *The effects of rural land use on water quality*; and *Potential water bodies of national importance*, and other technical papers on water bodies of national importance, can be found at www.mfe.govt.nz or www.maf.govt.nz.

Discussion document

A public discussion document was developed based on the work completed within the three work streams of water allocation, water quality and potential water bodies of national importance. Because the three areas of focus are closely connected, the discussion document treats them in an integrated way. The discussion document:

- outlines the different ways in which New Zealanders value and use freshwater
- describes how water allocation, water quality and water bodies of national importance are managed at present
- describes the pressures and challenges facing our water management system
- identifies eight key issues that need to be addressed in any reform of the country's water management system
- proposes a package of actions to improve the water management system and overcome the challenges it currently faces. The proposed package is not the only way forward, and other possibilities are also described.

The discussion document did not focus on urban water quality issues. The primary issue addressed by the water quality working group was the impact of diffuse discharges from rural land use.

The discussion document was released for comment on 9 December 2004.

Consultation process

In February 2005, consultation meetings on the discussion document were jointly run by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry for the Environment. Meetings were held with regional councils, Maori, the public, and stakeholder groups in 20 locations across the country. A schedule of meetings is included in Appendix 3.

The purpose of the consultation meetings was to hear what New Zealanders had to say about freshwater management. The government did not have a set policy for participants to react to – the intent was very much to garner feedback on the initial set of ideas developed under the programme. The priority was to listen to feedback on whether the right issues and options had been identified, what other issues and options might exist, and what people thought of the actions presented. Written submissions were also invited from meeting participants and from all New Zealanders.

In addition to this report, separate reports are available which summarise the issues raised at meetings held with Maori and local government. An analysis of the written submissions received has also been completed. Copies of these reports are available by contacting the Ministry for the Environment or by visiting the Ministry's website at www.mfe.govt.nz.

Public meetings

The following public meetings were held during February 2005.

Location	Meeting venue	Meeting date
Whangarei	Kingsgate Hotel	2 February 2005
Auckland	Ellerslie Convention Centre	1 February 2005
Hamilton	Ferrybank Reception & Conference Centre	1 February 2005
Rotorua	Royal Lakeside Novotel Hotel	2 February 2005
Gisborne	Gisborne Hotel	1 February 2005
Napier/ Hastings	East Pier	31 January 2005
Taupo	Millennium Hotel	9 February 2005
New Plymouth	Plymouth International Hotel	8 February 2005
Palmerston North	Palmerston North Convention Centre	7 February 2005
Masterton	Masterton District Council	7 February 2005
Wellington	Duxton Hotel	8 February 2005
Blenheim	Scenic Circle Blenheim Country Hotel	8 February 2005
Nelson/ Richmond	Seifried Function Centre	9 February 2005
Greymouth	West Coast Regional Council	15 February 2005
Christchurch	Christchurch Convention Centre	14 February 2005
Timaru	Phar Lap Raceway	15 February 2005
Dunedin	Dunedin Centre	14 February 2005
Alexandra	Centennial Court Motor Inn	15 February 2005
Invercargill	Ascot Park Hotel	14 February 2005

The notes from these meetings are in Appendix 1.

Next steps

The reports from the consultation meetings and submissions will be used to help guide the Government's decisions about future approaches to freshwater management. This will include making any changes required to the Government's preferred package of options to develop sustainable ways of managing freshwater.

3 Responses to the Issues

Eight key issues for improving freshwater management in New Zealand were identified in the discussion document as follows:

- Issue 1: National and regional strategic planning for water management could be improved
- Issue 2: Nationally important values need to be better addressed
- Issue 3: Setting environmental bottom lines and allocation limits is costly and contentious
- Issue 4: Water is over-allocated in some catchments, is not consistently allocated to its highest value use over time, and can be wasted
- Issue 5: Tension between investment certainty and planning flexibility
- Issue 6: Māori participation in water management could be improved
- Issue 7: A lack of effective action in the management of diffuse discharges of contaminants on water quality, in some catchments
- Issue 8: Development of water infrastructure is not keeping pace with demand

Issue 1: National and regional strategic planning for water management could be improved

Participants commented on the value of having a national freshwater strategy which articulated the national interest and established national outcomes. This would provide guidance for improved strategic planning:

[There is a] need to set priorities for water nationally but need to recognise regional differences. (New Plymouth)

Defining the national interest in water would be useful. (New Plymouth)

At the Christchurch, Timaru and Blenheim meetings participants suggested that a long term strategic approach is needed for water management:

There needs to be a long-term vision and a determination of how much water will be set aside. Planning for water resources needs to be strategic. (Blenheim)

Concerns were also raised at the Blenheim meeting about the time taken to develop and implement regional water plans.

Some central government intervention in regional planning in the form of information sharing, guidance and best practice was supported. One participant at the Napier meeting stated that having more support from central government during the early implementation stages of the Resource Management Act would have been helpful.

Some participants raised concern that communities could be responsible for maintaining outcomes that have been set at the national level. The need for funding for regions and communities to implement a national framework and national outcomes was raised at the Greymouth and Palmerston North meetings.

Issue 2: Nationally important values need to be better addressed

Some support was expressed for this issue, such as the need for a national strategy to identify nationally important waterways. Support was also expressed for the articulation of national values and the important guidance this information would provide for plan development.

However, concerns were raised about how nationally important values would be determined and how local values would be taken into account:

How do you assess local versus national criteria? (Christchurch)

Participants also expressed concerns about the identification of lists of water bodies and how this would be undertaken. Some participants suggested that this work should be undertaken at the local level:

Balances between values need to be found at the local level; we need a system that is transparent and collaborative for identifying national values. (Masterton)

Identifying water bodies of national importance is a subjective thing to do. Small streams could be missed from the lists. (Nelson)

Some participants commented on the need for a more strategic approach than water conservation orders to protect nationally important values:

Review water conservation order provisions; need a more strategic approach. (New Plymouth)

Take out water conservation order processes, they are limiting to the national interest/balance. (Timaru)

Issue 3: Setting environmental bottom lines and allocation limits is costly and contentious

The importance of scientific information in setting environmental bottom lines was widely recognised. A lack of scientific information and data currently available was identified as an issue at many of the meetings:

There is a problem of insufficient scientific information; central government could assist with resources for this. (Dunedin)

The high cost of research required to obtain good scientific information was raised at several meetings. However, generally the need to set environmental bottom lines and allocation limits was recognised as important regardless of the expense involved:

Environmental bottom lines are a must. (Whangarei)

At the Blenheim meeting it was noted that the cost of not undertaking necessary research would be considerably more expensive than the cost of funding research.

Participants at the Palmerston North, Invercargill, Masterton, Hamilton and Christchurch meetings raised the need for consistency of methods for setting environmental bottom lines. Central government was held responsible for providing funding for setting environmental bottom lines and allocation limits. Participants noted however, that implementation was best undertaken at the regional level with guidance and funding from central government:

Councils need consistency in guidelines and approach; implementation must be at the regional level. (Hamilton)

National standards could provide more consistency in administering the Resource Management Act but would need to be accompanied by funding. (Taupo)

One participant at the Palmerston North meeting raised the need for best practice guidelines for water allocation:

We need best practice guidelines for water allocation – the process should be easy if it is carried out within the guidelines. (Palmerston North)

Issue 4: Water is over-allocated in some catchments, is not consistently allocated to its highest value use over time, and can be wasted

Discussion at most meetings on the current system for allocating water reflected the view that over-allocation is an issue that needs to be addressed in some catchments. Participants also discussed the available alternatives to the current system for allocating water such as transferring permits using an administrative approach or a market-based approach.

There were mixed views on whether water is consistently allocated to its highest value use over time. Some participants commented that the first-in-first-served model is incapable of allowing water to be allocated to the highest value:

Greater values can miss out under first in first served; good land-use areas could miss out on having water for production because the water is already allocated. (Blenheim)

Participants at the Alexandra, Timaru and Invercargill meetings also expressed this view. Other views in support of Issue 4 included:

[We] need some way of prioritising uses, primary producers should come first for the allocation of water. (Auckland)

Many views were expressed on the difficulty of allocating water to the highest value use. Several participants commented that councils should not have to ‘pick winners’ amongst uses and values:

Deciding which use of water is more important is impossible, each project must be considered on its merits. (Wellington)

Specific comments were made regarding the use of market-based tools such as auctions and tenders to allocate water to the highest value use (refer to comments on Action 7 *Enhance the transfer of allocated water between users* and Action 11 *Enable regional councils to allocate water to priority uses*).

A clear view was expressed by many participants that water use could be more efficient. The need for support for investigating the development and use of technology which is more efficient was raised at many of the meetings:

Irrigation technology is poorly developed; many water users are unaware of how to be more efficient. (Invercargill)

Many participants commented on the need for compulsory water meters for water users. This reflected the view that it is essential for councils to know how much water is actually being used in order to manage the resource effectively:

Water metering is a good idea, all regional councils should require water metering. (Gisborne)

Raising awareness through information and education programmes was also regarded as an important aspect of using water more efficiently. Some participants felt that urban water users also need education on water conservation. Many suggestions were made for systems for rainwater collection and recycling of water in urban and rural areas:

There should be incentives for people to collect their own roof water. (Whangarei)

Issue 5: Tension between investment certainty and planning flexibility

Many participants expressed the view that existing investments in water infrastructure and permits should be recognised if a new or modified allocation system is introduced. Greater flexibility was regarded by many participants as desirable and could be provided by the increased use of transfer of permits; however, this was not to be at the expense of recognising existing investments.

Concerns were raised about the potential for undermining or taking away of existing water users' rights if a transferable system is implemented:

Security of water is essential to landowners. (Alexandra)

We are concerned about security of tenure – business and enterprise need certainty. (New Plymouth)

Existing consent holders need security and protection. (Timaru)

The current system was regarded by some as offering protection for existing users. In some cases, reluctance to move to a new or modified system was linked to concerns about losing existing rights to use water:

'First-in-first-served' protects existing investments; don't throw the whole system out. (Timaru)

Equity issues and the rights of existing users should be considered. (Gisborne)

Mixed opinions were expressed on the appropriate length of resource consents to provide sufficient investment certainty or planning flexibility. A shorter timeframe was favoured by some participants at the Palmerston North and Gisborne meetings. However, at the Timaru meeting consent duration was thought to be too short, and needed to be extended beyond 35 years.

Issue 6: Māori participation in water management could be improved

There was general agreement that Māori participation in water management could be improved. Many participants raised the need to raise awareness and understanding of the cultural perspective of freshwater, and to involve Māori in decision-making over freshwater resources. One participant at the Hamilton meeting suggested that central government should consider why councils have not exercised legislative powers appropriately to involve Māori. Concern was also raised by one participant at the Invercargill meeting that the discussion document did not articulate the relationship between the Crown and Māori:

The document did not show the relationship between the Crown and Māori; there needs to be a good relationship; central government needs to take a leadership role with building relationships with Māori and other groups, people need to be informed and have knowledge of the issues. (Invercargill)

There was a view that meaningful participation of Māori in decision-making required sufficient resources for Māori organisations and councils. (Refer to Action 10 *Enhance Maori participation* for specific comments.)

Issue 7: A lack of effective action in the management of diffuse discharges of contaminants on water quality, in some catchments

Water quality was a key issue raised at all of the meetings. Some participants raised concern that not enough emphasis was given to water quality issues in the discussion document. One participant at the Hamilton meeting stated that not enough emphasis was given to managing nitrate discharges. Some participants also asked how the recommendations outlined in the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's report *Growing for good* would be incorporated into the Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action.

Some participants supported the development of a national environmental standard to address water quality issues in some catchments. However, a standard was not to be in place of or to override local solutions for managing water quality issues which are already working well. The need to balance local and national objectives links to Issues 1 and 2.

Better integration between regional, district and city councils was regarded as important to some participants for managing the impacts of land-use activities on water quality. Participants also raised the need for the science and policy communities to work together to develop solutions.

Many participants raised the need for education and awareness raising programmes to improve adverse land-use impacts on water quality:

We need a land-use education programme. (Whangarei)

We need education and funding around good land use practices. (Palmerston North)

Local initiatives such as riparian management programmes were discussed at many of the meetings as local solutions that are working well. Participants raised the need for funding for more local initiatives.

Issue 8: Development of water infrastructure is not keeping pace with demand

Many participants considered the development of water infrastructure to be a priority issue:

What is going to happen when water is taken from streams instead of building reservoirs? Water harvesting should be a national priority. (Dunedin)

Participants raised the issue of development of water infrastructure, and in particular, funding for water storage and infrastructure at all of the public meetings. In order to resolve this issue, central government was regarded as having a key role in providing funding and leadership. A participant at the Timaru meeting stated:

There is a need to identify water storage sites for all uses/options. Central government should provide funding for the infrastructure needed. (Timaru)

At the Nelson and Invercargill meetings participants favoured central government providing subsidies to farmers for dams so that the whole country could benefit from their production. Similarly, a participant at the Nelson meeting commented that it is essential for central government to take leadership in this area as individual farmers are unlikely to invest in infrastructure development without support. A participant at the Blenheim meeting regarded all water running out to sea as being under-utilised.

Security of infrastructure was also considered to be an important issue by some participants. The following concerns were raised by a participant at the Taupo public meeting:

Security of infrastructure is an issue. There is a need to provide for the needs of the country over time. It is not an issue that can be solely looked at on a catchment basis. Maybe there is a need for a growth strategy for the country. (Taupo)

Additional issues

Urban use and supply

Many participants raised the need for urban water issues to be explicitly included in the Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action. Questions were asked by many participants why urban use and supply has not been included in the discussion document.

What about urban water quality? The presentation gave the impression that urban issues will not be considered because it is too hard. (Napier)

One participant at the Rotorua meeting stated that there needs to be an urban focus as well as a rural focus when considering water quality. A similar view was raised by a participant at the Hamilton meeting:

[I am] concerned about the land and water interface and land use control. This is an urban issue as well as a rural issue. (Hamilton)

Specific urban water quality issues, such as the need to consider waste water disposal when considering resource consent applications for subdivisions, and the effects of septic tanks were raised at the meetings.

Improving the efficient use of water in urban areas was an important issue for many participants. One participant at the New Plymouth meeting raised concern that the Building Act does not allow for water to be used efficiently. Some regarded urban water users as wasteful.

Why do we need high quality water for washing cars? Urban wastage is huge. (Wellington)

The need for recycling systems to be installed in urban areas was suggested by many participants.

Water in urban areas goes down drains. There needs to be better recycling and storage facilities for water in urban areas. There are opportunities for water recycling. (Invercargill)

The option for rain water collection systems was also discussed.

Better use and efficiency of water in urban communities is needed; for example, collection of rain water. (Dunedin)

Integrated catchment management

The value of whole-of-catchment solutions which recognise the links between water quality and water quantity were discussed by many participants. Some felt that the discussion document did not articulate the links between quality and quantity clearly. One participant at the Masterton meeting stated:

There is a need to deal with all catchment interactions that affect both water quality and quantity. This inter-relation isn't adequately identified in the document or recognised in the community – solutions need to focus on integrated catchment management. (Masterton)

One participant at the Greymouth meeting commented that an integrated catchment management approach could also allow for lagoons and wetlands to be included in the programme.

Biodiversity strategy

Some participants thought that recognition of biodiversity values was lacking in the discussion document. One participant at the Christchurch meeting noted that there is no discussion in the document about the value of wilderness or landscapes for biodiversity. Some participants suggested that the biodiversity strategy should be included in the programme.

Climate change

The effect of climate change on water availability was raised at some of the meetings. Participants suggested that climate change effects should be incorporated into the programme, and that a precautionary buffer in any allocation system was needed. One participant at the Alexandra meeting supported greater flexibility in a water management system to accommodate climate change effects.

Biosecurity

One participant at the Greymouth meeting raised concern about the transfer of aquatic weeds to water bodies. A question was asked whether the programme would address this problem.

4 Responses to the Proposed Actions

Thirteen key actions were identified in the discussion document. The 13 actions were grouped into four main areas for the presentation at the consultation meetings.

- providing national direction
- central government being more involved
- providing more tools to councils
- working together.

The grouping of the 13 actions into four main areas can be seen in the table below.

13 actions grouped into four main areas			
Provide national direction	Central government being more involved	Working together	Providing more tools to councils
Action 1: Develop national policy statements Action 2: Develop national environmental standards Action 3: Address nationally important values	Action 4: Increase central government participation in regional planning Action 5: Increase central government's support for local government	Action 10: Enhance Māori participation Action 12: Raise awareness of freshwater problems and pressures, and promote solutions Action 13: Collaboration between central and local government, scientists and key stakeholders, on pilot projects to demonstrate and test new water management initiatives	Action 6: Develop special mechanisms for regional councils Action 7: Enhance the transfer of allocated water between users Action 8: Develop market mechanisms to manage diffuse discharges Action 9: Set requirements for regional freshwater plans to address key issues and challenges Action 11: Enable regional councils to allocate water to priority uses

Central government direction

Action 1: Develop national policy statements

The general view held by participants was that a national policy statement could identify national priorities and values, and could provide direction and consistency for councils in their management of freshwater. However, a strong theme at all of the meetings was that a national policy statement should not interfere with or override local decision-making for freshwater. Support was expressed for central government to develop an overarching framework and vision for freshwater that incorporates a process for maintaining local decision-making. A framework should also be accompanied by funding, guidance and support from central government to ease the burden of implementation costs on local rate-payers.

Specific views

Many participants supported defining the national interest in freshwater and setting national priorities through a national policy statement. These views were strongly accompanied by the statement that a national policy statement process needs to account for regional and local differences.

One size should not fit all. (Hamilton)

How can people in Wellington decide what is best for the country. (Wellington)

Retaining local decision-making for freshwater was a common theme raised at all of the meetings. Participants also raised concern that the proposals in the discussion document indicate central government encroachment on local government functions for managing freshwater.

A national policy statement was also regarded by some participants as a threat to existing regional planning and policy processes. One participant at the Alexandra meeting stated that the problems are with the implementation of the framework, rather than the framework itself. Changes to the framework, including developing a national policy statement, may not be necessary. Another layer of control was regarded as costly and ineffective, and guidelines were thought to be a better option.

Action 2: Develop national environmental standards

Participants supported the development of a national environmental standard which provides for regional variations. A standard could provide consistent methodologies for regional councils but it must not override local initiatives that are already working effectively. Implementation and decision-making must be kept at the local level.

Specific views

Discussions were held at most of the meetings about setting environmental bottom-lines for water quality and how this could be achieved. Suggestions at the Christchurch meeting included requiring most major rivers to meet world health standards, as well as defining national goals. An example of a goal could be requiring all rivers to be safe for swimming by a certain target date.

A national environmental standard for water quality would be useful. (Timaru)

Participants at meetings held in Palmerston North, Invercargill, Masterton, Hamilton and Christchurch raised the need for consistency of methods for setting environmental bottom lines. Central government could have a role in setting parameters and frameworks, but implementation should be undertaken at the regional level. Implementation would also need to be accompanied by guidance and funding from central government.

National standards could provide more consistency in administering the Resource Management Act but would need to be accompanied by funding. (Taupo)

One participant at the Napier meeting stated that a national environmental standard could also reduce Environment Court costs because it could provide goals and guidance for local government.

One participant at the Christchurch meeting suggested that standards could be set by the community. The point was also made at the New Plymouth meeting that a standard should be flexible to allow for higher thresholds to be set by councils.

The need for a standard to recognise and provide for regional differences was a dominant theme at all of the meetings. Many participants regarded the recognition of the differences in catchments and the different management approaches as fundamental to a process for developing national environmental standards.

Participants at most meetings raised concern about how a national environmental standard would impact on regional plans and policies and other local solutions which are already in place and working effectively.

Regional plans allow the community to develop local solutions; central government may not always know best. (Palmerston North)

One participant at the Dunedin meeting stated that caution is needed when deciding which type of issues are suitable for a 'top-down' rather than 'bottom-up' approach. Participants at the Alexandra meeting thought guidelines were more appropriate than regulation.

Opposition to any form of a national environmental standard or government intervention in freshwater management was expressed by some participants at the Auckland and Timaru meetings:

[I] do not want central government intervention. (Auckland)

One size does not fit all; no national guidance is needed; [I] do not want central government overriding local communities. (Timaru)

Action 3: Address nationally important values

Participants discussed the value of defining national priorities and national values for water bodies; however, views on this action were divided. The theme of maintaining local decision-making and local solutions for local problems was evident at most meetings. Some participants raised concern that central government is attempting to take over regional government responsibilities and that the under-lying principle of local decision-making within the Resource Management Act is not being upheld. Participants raised the need for clearly defined roles between the different layers of government if the water bodies of national importance work is to progress.

Specific views

Some participants at the Alexandra, Christchurch and Blenheim meetings regarded the identification of nationally important values for freshwater bodies as useful. However, the need to involve the public in this process was raised on several occasions:

There is some place for overarching principles on what is more important to the nation, but we want participation in developing this work. (Blenheim)

Participants at the Christchurch meeting raised the need for a national strategy to identify nationally important waterways, as well as the need for flexibility in the way values are considered. Setting priorities for water use nationally was regarded as useful by some participants at the New Plymouth meeting, provided regional differences are recognised.

Some participants raised concern about assessing local versus national criteria, and whether central government would override local community decisions when setting the priorities for water bodies of national importance. One participant at the Masterton meeting suggested that the balancing between values should be determined at the local level, using a transparent and collaborative process:

A national values approach is a way of overriding local views and decisions; local rights should not be overridden by the national interest. (Masterton)

One participant at the Taupo meeting suggested that a comparison of values should be undertaken using a focus group approach, rather than a numerical approach like some of the methodologies developed in the Water Bodies of National Importance sub-projects:

The recreation and tourism water bodies of national importance reports are nonsensical, there is no standard process for comparing the different values which could be done using a focus group approach rather than a numerical approach; need to accompany this work with funding. (Taupo)

Concern was also raised by some participants that communities could be responsible for maintaining outcomes that will have been set at the national level. Participants at the Greymouth meeting raised the need for funding for regions and communities to implement national outcomes.

Central government involvement

Action 4: Increase central government participation in regional planning

Participants generally supported increasing central government participation in regional planning where it involved central government providing information and guidance to local decision-making and implementation. A strong view was raised at most meetings that central government participation should not occur at the expense of local involvement and input. This was regarded as essential, particularly for providing an understanding of local issues and environments. Consideration needed to be given to where central and regional government are best placed to act.

Comments made by participants regarding Action 4 fell into the following subject areas:

- central government input into regional planning
- auditing/monitoring of local government by central government
- whole of government submissions
- central government providing guidance and sharing information.

Central government input into regional planning

Participants generally supported central government input into regional planning as long as it did not override local involvement and decision-making. Co-ordination, leadership and direction should come from central government rather than rules. If there is to be central government input into regional planning, there must be flexibility to allow local interpretation according to the issues facing individual councils.

One participant at the Rotorua meeting expressed the need for central government to provide: leadership, strategic direction, facilitation and catalysts. At the Nelson meeting, a participant commented that deciding on the respective roles of central and local government must be addressed first in order to make improvements.

The view of one participant at the Timaru meeting was that local involvement and input into regional planning and decision making should take priority over central government participation:

Central government should stay out; they should provide basic rules only and leave the decisions to the regions. (Timaru)

A similar view was expressed by a participant at the Napier public meeting:

More central government involvement could blur the lines of responsibility. If the regional council is doing a good job, central government should not interfere. (Napier)

An alternative view was presented by a participant at the Hamilton meeting who suggested that there may be potential for central government to be involved as a stakeholder rather than having a role in running processes and making decisions.

Participants at several meetings stated that decisions are best made at the local level by those who have an understanding of local issues and environments. This view was reinforced at the Rotorua public meeting by the comment that local government has the skills and experience to deal with local issues.

Although some participants felt that local government holds the appropriate skills and knowledge for decision-making, comments were made about the need for improved expertise in water management. Central government was regarded as having a role in facilitating the improvement of knowledge and expertise (as recognised in the comments on Issues 1 and 2). A participant at the Alexandra public meeting cautioned that there is a lack of detailed knowledge of water systems at the regional level and that it could be worse if decisions are made at the national level.

A participant at the Dunedin meeting also questioned whether the necessary expertise in land management was available locally and suggested that expertise in land and water resource management has been lost at all levels of government. The participant stated that central government needs to lead by example to resolve this issue. Likewise, it was noted by a participant at the Invercargill meeting that there is a need for different kinds of knowledge and expertise across all sectors.

Participants commented on the effectiveness of regional plans and whether central government had a role in improving plans. One participant at the Invercargill meeting felt that regional water plans are often toothless and not enough enforcement action is taken.

Similarly, one participant at the Blenheim meeting stated that regional plans take a long time to be developed and implemented and are not given the appropriate power to be effective.

One participant at the Alexandra meeting suggested that where regional councils have not developed water plans, it would be better for central government to require them to develop plans rather than introduce more controls.

Participants at the Christchurch and Dunedin meetings commented on the lack of integration in water resource management. Suggestions were made for the formation of a new government department to manage water issues on a whole-of-catchment basis. One participant at the Nelson public meeting questioned whether central government should consider looking at establishing a central water control agency.

Auditing/monitoring of local government by central government

One participant at the Dunedin meeting commented that central government involvement should focus on a process for auditing council performance. A functional audit of regional councils could be carried out which compares each council's performance in implementing the Resource Management Act. This issue was also raised at the Whangarei meeting by a participant who questioned who monitors the performance of regional councils. One participant at the Alexandra meeting suggested that central government should have a monitoring and mentoring role.

Some participants raised concern at a number of public meetings about the proposed alternative approach in the discussion document for central government to take responsibility for approving regional plans. One submitter at the Nelson meeting felt that central government may need to speed up the process for developing regional plans, perhaps by simplifying the Resource Management Act.

Whole of government submissions

Feedback on the proposal for whole of government submissions varied from full support to concern that the individual views of government departments would be overridden. One participant at the Timaru meeting expressed full support stating:

Government departments should work together to develop one view into submissions.
(Timaru)

A participant at the Dunedin meeting held an alternative view by commenting that whole of government submissions should have the same status as local submissions:

There is no problem with the development of a coherent cross-government view in submissions, but it should stop short of government intervention. It should only have the same status as local submissions. (Dunedin)

Another participant noted that while a whole of government position may be difficult to achieve due to the individual mandate of each department, it would be worth attempting. However, several participants expressed concern that only the strongest voice would be heard rather than each of the different views. A participant at the Nelson meeting stated:

Whole of government submissions could hide the clear roles of government departments. It is a good idea to have separate departments lodging submissions. (Nelson)

Providing guidance and sharing information

Most participants supported increasing central government participation in regional planning through guidance and sharing information. Participants at the Hamilton and Taupo meetings stated that guidance could take the form of leadership and direction to assist local implementation. This view was also shared by participants at the Masterton and Rotorua meetings:

Central government should provide the assistance and guidance but local decision-making is important to allow regional councils to develop best practice that can be picked up elsewhere. (Masterton)

Central government has a role to provide information to enable people to make their own decisions. (Rotorua)

Central government having a role in providing information was supported at several meetings. Participants at the Christchurch meeting felt that more leadership was needed to assist locals in understanding options and issues, while in Timaru participants stated there was a need for more expertise at the local government level.

One participant at the Nelson meeting raised the need for catchment-specific solutions supported by central government which should include improved information to keep up with the rates of change in water use and water quality.

At the Whangarei meeting, a participant commented that scientific statistical information is needed to establish low flows. The participant regarded the establishment of low flows to be the role of regional councils and until they are established everyone will be fighting for water.

Action 5: Increase central government's support for local government

Participants widely supported this action, particularly if support is extended to include funding. Support for science, research and dissemination of information was regarded as highly important at the meetings. Solutions need to be based on knowledge, information and research, and central government should show leadership in this area. There was strong support to investigate options for water storage as a solution and a call for government investment in this area. Overall, central government was regarded as having a role in providing facilitation and support rather than making decisions about local issues.

One participant at the Palmerston North meeting stated that there is a need for support for local government decision-making:

Decision-making skills in local government should be supported by science and research, provision of information, expertise and retention. (Palmerston North)

Funding by central government was generally viewed as essential in order to achieve local results. This view was reflected in the following comment by a participant at the Blenheim meeting:

We want to run our own province but with government funding. Every province has its own problems and can deal with them in their own way. (Blenheim)

Further comments made by participants regarding Action 5 fell into the following subject areas:

- funding for storage and infrastructure
- funding for science, research and implementation
- development and dissemination of best practice
- strategic planning for water.

Funding for storage and infrastructure

Participants raised the issue of funding for water storage and infrastructure at all of the public meetings. In particular, central government was regarded as having a key role in providing funding and leadership.

At the Nelson and Invercargill meetings participants raised the need for central government to subsidise farmers to develop dams so that the whole country could benefit from their production. Similarly, a participant at the Nelson meeting commented that it is essential for central government to take leadership in this area as investment in storage will not happen if left to individual farmers.

While the general view was that central government should take the lead in providing funding for infrastructure, a participant at the Dunedin meeting raised the need for central and local government to come together to address the issue of infrastructure.

Funding for science, research and implementation

Participants regarded research, science and expertise as important at all levels of government. In particular, central government was regarded as having a role in funding science and research to increase the understanding of water systems.

Participants at the Hamilton and Greymouth meetings noted the importance of wetland management. Participants felt that research was required to assist in understanding wetland systems. A submitter at the Hamilton meeting commented that wetlands have not been managed since the introduction of the Resource Management Act and that not enough emphasis was given to wetlands in the discussion document.

The issue of inadequate rating bases and its impact on a region's ability to obtain expert information arose at the Greymouth, Gisborne and Dunedin meetings. Concerns were raised as to whether the cost of implementing new measures was going to be addressed. Participants felt that regions with fewer resources will have difficulty implementing national policies and that central government should have a role in providing funding.

Funding for implementation was further reiterated at the Taupo and Rotorua meetings where some participants felt that if central government is serious about developing national standards and values, then there is a need for this to be accompanied by funding for implementation.

[We should] have national standards/guidelines backed by funding to allow local decision making. (Rotorua)

However, one participant at Whangarei meeting stated that the cost of sustainable development has to be fairly allocated between central and local government. A similar view was expressed by a participant at the New Plymouth meeting who felt that responsibility and information for environmental management should be shared.

Participants at the Whangarei and New Plymouth meetings suggested encouraging riparian planting by providing funding. Participants also suggested that funding for fencing and scientific expertise to assist in the development of national guidelines for flushing water ways to remove sediment would be useful.

Other areas for central government involvement included:

- providing resources to address the lack of scientific information in the areas of monitoring water quality, flows and ecology to find out where the problems are
- providing funding for regional councils to undertake compliance monitoring to see whether consent conditions are being complied with.

Strategic planning for water

Participants at meeting held in Timaru, Rotorua and Blenheim raised the importance of strategic planning for water. One participant at the Timaru meeting raised concern that there is considerable effort for protection, but insufficient effort for allowing development. The participant suggested that central government should develop a long-term strategic approach to resolve this issue. A participant at the Rotorua meeting cautioned that long-term solutions need to be based on knowledge, information and research, rather than a case-by-case approach.

Greater co-operation and collaboration between central and local government was raised as desirable at some of the meetings:

Central government and local government need to come together to develop national direction; need to develop a common vision across government. (Dunedin)

Some participants at the Christchurch meeting raised the need for a closer relationship between central and local government to avoid duplication in approaches across the country. Central and local government could also improve communication and consultation with stakeholders and communities.

Some participants regarded improved integration between regional, district and city councils as important for managing the impacts of land-use activities on water quality. Participants raised this issue at meetings held in Masterton and Alexandra:

A more integrated approach between district and regional councils is needed to address the links between land-use activities and freshwater. (Masterton)

Development and dissemination of best practice

Participants at all of the meetings regarded the development of best practice guidance as highly important. Participants also expressed the view that central government should provide guidance and research to help develop solutions for water management. Many participants at meetings held in Christchurch and Hamilton held this view. One participant at the Greymouth meeting suggested that a national policy statement may be required to assist with dissemination of best practice.

A participant at the Hamilton meeting felt that best practice should be disseminated wider than water users:

Broader dissemination of best practice is required, not only to the industrial and farming sectors but also to the sectors which support these such as the financial sector. (Hamilton)

One participant at the Timaru meeting stated that dissemination of best practice was one of the most effective ways of changing behaviour.

Participants raised the lack of available scientific data and information at several meetings, and stated that information needs to be made freely available to everyone. A participant at the Rotorua meeting suggested that the current model for science funding prevents the sharing of information. Databases for sharing information were suggested by a participant at the Masterson meeting. Similarly, it was noted by a participant at the Hamilton meeting that research, monitoring and access to data is very important.

One participant at the Hamilton meeting also noted a disparity between scientific knowledge and the way it is applied within councils. At the Whangarei, Christchurch and Blenheim meetings, participants cautioned against re-inventing the wheel regarding research regimes and methodologies. Participants also encouraged the research of overseas examples.

Providing more tools to councils

Action 6: Develop special mechanisms for regional councils

Many participants raised the view that tools for managing freshwater are already available to regional councils under the Resource Management Act, but they need to be implemented more effectively through increased support and funding from central government. Some participants at the Nelson and Invercargill meetings stated that regional councils have not utilised their existing tools for managing quantity and quality issues:

There are already tools in place to protect water bodies and to manage quantity and quality issues, but some water bodies are over-allocated, so the tools are clearly not working. (Nelson)

Progressively constrain existing consents (clawback)

Some participants raised the need for tools for councils to manage over-allocated resources. For example, at the Taupo meeting a participant suggested developing a set of tools to aid allocation decision-making. However, few specific comments were made regarding the use of a tool to allow regional councils to progressively constrain existing consents. One of the few comments made was that this tool would not necessarily be supported because people often regard their resource consents as property rights. One participant at the Nelson meeting expressed this view.

Opportunities for reviewing consents already exist within the Resource Management Act and this was regarded as an appropriate method of managing over-allocated resources by some participants. However, an alternative view was stated by a participant at the Invercargill meeting:

There needs to be provision for cutting back at the time of consent renewal. (Invercargill)

Length of consents

Mixed opinions were expressed on whether the maximum duration of consents should be lengthened or shortened. Participants at the Palmerston North and Gisborne meetings thought that the length of resource consents needed to be shorter. One participant at the Gisborne meeting suggested shortening the 35 year term to five years with review. However, an alternative view was raised at the Timaru meeting, where consent duration was thought to be too short, and needed to be extended beyond 35 years.

Resource rental

Few comments were made on the alternative or complementary approach identified in the discussion document of establishing resource rentals for water. One participant at the Whangarei meeting expressed the view that if allocated water is rented, it should be subject to a new assessment process if the use of the water changes.

Views were also expressed about the privatisation of water and charging for the use of water. Privatising the resource or charging for water was not supported by many participants:

We do not want a charge for water itself. (Christchurch)

Support for water metering

Participants at many of the meetings were supportive of the use of water metering. Support was expressed at meetings held in Whangarei, Palmerston North, New Plymouth, Christchurch, Gisborne and Invercargill.

[Having] metering and paying for water increases incentive for efficiency. (Whangarei)

Metering could be used to manage demand. (Palmerston North)

Action 7: Enhance the transfer of allocated water between users

Support for this action was divided. Some participants felt that this action needed more analysis and consideration before definitive comments could be made. Transfer could be appropriate following clearer development of the actual mechanisms of implementation. The key concerns raised by participants for transfer using a market-based approach included potential loss of existing use rights, and the monopolisation of water by wealthy interests.

Specific views in support and opposition

Many participants made suggestions for the systems that would need to be established before transfer of permits could occur. For example, a participant at the Christchurch meeting suggested that technology needs to be developed to allow for a sustainable trading system, as well as a framework for initial allocation. A participant at the Invercargill meeting stated that:

Tradable leases could be allocated annually; trading could occur within an aquifer; the annual recharge of aquifer and surface water volumes would be metered. (Invercargill).

Short-term tradable leases were also raised as an option at the Invercargill meeting.

Some participants commented on the fact that informal trading already takes place in some regions. The Individual Transferable Quota system used to allocate commercial fisheries was raised as an example of how a transferable permit system could work for freshwater. Participants at the Dunedin meeting raised questions about whether a system for transferable permits can be implemented without using a market-based approach.

Some participants raised specific concerns about using a transferable permit system to allocate water and to manage discharges to water. These included the need to recognise and protect instream values before establishing a transfer system. This view was raised by participants at the Whangarei meeting:

Development of market and water rights should only be done once instream values are identified and protected. (Whangarei)

Participants also raised concerns that under a market-based transfer system, water could end up being allocated to the highest bidder. Smaller interests, as well as Māori and community interests could be disadvantaged:

There needs to be restrictions to protect the interests of small players; need to be wary of commercial interests taking over the available water; there needs to be a mechanism in place to provide for iwi interests. (Blenheim)

Protecting existing investments in water permits and water infrastructure was important to many participants. Some expressed concern about the potential for undermining or taking away of existing water user rights if a transferable system is introduced:

Existing consent holders need security and protection. (Timaru)

Some participants raised opposition to any tradable permit system at meetings held in Whangarei and Masterton:

There is no need for trading as regulation can achieve everything you need. (Masterton)

Water should not be a tradable commodity; transfer is a problem. (Whangarei)

Action 8: Develop market mechanisms to manage diffuse discharges

Participants made few comments about this action. The need for further information and analysis on the use of market mechanisms for managing diffuse discharges was raised. Some participants at some meetings discussed the need for limits or standardisation of procedures for application of fertiliser, as well as the use of incentives as alternatives to market instruments.

Specific views

Some participants at the Palmerston North meetings expressed openness to considering the benefits of market mechanisms for managing diffuse discharges:

Nitrogen credits could be traded; this would require nitrogen budgeting. (Palmerston North)

One participant at the Hamilton meeting stated that there was not enough emphasis given in the discussion document to managing nitrate discharges. A suggestion was made for more nitrogen budgets on farms. A lack of analysis on trading discharge permits was also raised as an issue by one participant at the Wellington meeting.

One participant at the Whangarei meeting raised the need for tools to determine whether water quality is actually declining, as well as the need for incentives for riparian planting as an alternative to using market mechanisms.

A concern was raised by one participant at the Taupo meeting that trading discharge permits is an attempt to put an environmental issue on an 'economic footing', which was not regarded as appropriate. Opposition to a system of permits for fertiliser application was expressed by one participant at the Nelson meeting.

Action 9: Set requirements for regional freshwater plans to address key issues and challenges

Participants made few specific comments about this action. Related issues raised included the need for guidance for councils on setting minimum flows, and developing and implementing integrated catchment management.

Specific views

Participants at meetings held in Christchurch, Whangarei and Timaru discussed the option of adopting an integrated catchment management for managing freshwater.

We should take an integrated catchment management approach. (Timaru)

Integrated catchment management could be achieved through developing catchment-scale plans. At the Christchurch meeting participants regarded central government as having a role in determining some of the requirements of catchment management plans. Some participants at the Whangarei meeting supported a requirement for all regional councils to develop soil and water plans.

Some participants raised the need for guidelines and procedures for setting minimum flows and allocation limits, as well information and science for setting the flows and limits:

Methods for setting minimum flows need more science. (New Plymouth)

One participant at the Invercargill meetings raised the need for resources for tools such as Instream Flow Incremental Methodology for setting instream flows:

Tools like Instream Flow Incremental Methodology should be given resources for development. (Invercargill)

Action 11: Enable regional councils to allocate water to priority uses

Many participants raised questions about how allocating water to the highest priority use could be achieved. A general view was that councils should not have to pick ‘winners’; however, many participants felt that market tools might not be an appropriate way of allocating water to the highest value use either. Key concerns raised with using a market-based approach were:

- the need to ensure equitable access to water
- the idea that wealthier interests could have an advantage over smaller players
- lack of protection of instream values and community interests in water, linked to the concern that only economic values in water will be recognised if a dollar value is assigned to water.

Some support was expressed for improving the current water allocation system. Some participants recognised the need for more flexibility especially in regions where water bodies are currently over-allocated. Many participants expressed the need for existing users’ rights to be recognised. Some participants also thought that placing an economic value on water could improve efficiency of use.

Specific views

Some participants supported the determination of priorities for water at the national level. Participants at the Alexandra the Taupo meetings thought it would be useful to have a process for comparing values for water in addition to defined national priorities:

Central government could develop tools to decide priorities and to help allocation decision-making. (Taupo)

Participants at the Auckland meeting also raised the need to have a process for deciding priority uses. One participant expressed the view that primary producers should come first for the allocation of water. At the Invercargill meeting priority was also regarded as important for those undertaking activities with less environmental impacts.

Participants discussed the different models for allocating water to the highest value. Some participants at meetings held in Alexandra, Timaru, Invercargill and Blenheim regarded the current ‘first-in, first-served’ model as incapable of allowing water to be allocated to the highest value:

Greater values can miss out under first-in, first-served; good land-use areas could miss out on having water for production because the water is already allocated. (Blenheim)

Some participants regarded the use of market mechanisms to allocate water as appropriate alternatives:

Allocation of water to highest value use should be market based; [we] must use economics for the balance of allocation for any use; [we] need to move water to where it is needed.
(Timaru)

Support for a market-based approach to allocate water was also expressed by some participants at the Invercargill meeting:

First-in, first-served is not working, use of market mechanisms could be an option; [we] will get best economic use when [we] charge for water, regional councils could set an allocation limit and users decide how to distribute water. (Invercargill)

The value of water was also raised at some of the meetings. Some participants expressed the view that water should have an economic value and should not be free.

Why is water free? It is valuable and should be paid for by rural and urban users.
(Christchurch)

The concerns raised with moving to a market-based approach for allocating water related to equitable access to water and equity of values in water. The need for equity amongst instream and out-of-stream uses and values was raised by participants at all of the meetings. Deciding which use of water is more important was regarded as impossible at the Wellington meeting. The use of auctions and tenders to allocate water and a resulting monetary value on water were concerning to some participants. Participants at the Invercargill, New Plymouth, Taupo and Palmerston North meetings expressed the view that a monetary value on water would not capture the community and environmental values:

A dollar value will not capture all the values; environmental values could be lost sight of.
(Invercargill)

Economic tools are not the best for determining community values. (New Plymouth)

Auctions and tenders raise concerns; there is too much emphasis on the economic uses of water. (Taupo)

Participants also raised concerns about the commercialisation of water if a market-based allocation model was introduced. Some participants were concerned that large companies may have an advantage over other stakeholders and non-consumptive interests. Concerns about the highest bidders gaining access to water above other interests were also raised by participants at the Hawkes Bay and Blenheim meetings:

Smaller players could miss out. (Blenheim)

Concerns of Maori were also expressed at the Hamilton meeting about the potential for corporatisation of water and the possibility for the extension of property rights. Some participants thought this idea conflicted with the other proposals in the discussion document for more consultation and involvement with communities. Many participants expressed the view that water must remain in public ownership.

The need to protect existing investments in water was a common theme at most of the meetings. Some participants regarded the current system as offering protection for existing use rights. In some cases, reluctance to move to a new or modified system was linked to concerns about losing existing rights to use water.

First-in, first-served protects existing investments; don't throw the whole system out.
(Timaru)

The following additional tools were also suggested:

- incentives for efficiency of use in rural and urban areas
- incentives to discourage pollution
- standardisation of fertiliser application including setting fertiliser limits
- systems for rain water collection and recycling
- fencing waterways
- audit of regional council performance.

Working together

Action 10: Enhance Māori participation

Participants were supportive of the need to build effective relationships with Māori for freshwater management. Resources for participation were regarded as essential for this action to be successful.

Specific views

Participants at the Whangarei meeting regarded raising awareness and understanding of the cultural perspective of water as important, and this could be achieved through education and communication. One participant at the Taupo meeting stated that the way in which values associated with water are identified need to be carefully considered because often Māori values can be ‘watered down’. The need to hear Māori views on freshwater and to be able to debate those issues was raised by participants at the Christchurch and Timaru meetings:

Ngai Tahu must be included in the equation; we are a multicultural society and need to understand that and work with it. (Timaru)

Some participants regarded Māori participation as more than consultation and would require significant resources. One participant at the Hamilton meeting raised concern that the current proposals to amend the Resource Management Act will limit Māori participation to iwi only. The comment was made that all Māori agencies need to be resourced to participate and that central government needs to consider why councils have not exercised legislative powers for involving Māori. One participant at the Taupo meeting suggested that a Māori group with representatives from all hapu could provide advice to councillors.

One participant at the Invercargill meeting raised concern that the discussion document does not articulate the relationship between the Crown and Māori.

The document did not show the relationship between the Crown and Māori; there needs to be a good relationship; central government needs to take a leadership role with building relationships with Māori and other groups, people need to be informed and have knowledge of the issues. (Invercargill)

The difficulty for Māori to participate in managing resources where settlements have not been made was also raised at the Blenheim meeting.

An opposing view was raised by one participant at the Alexandra meeting. The participant stated that central government should not be giving Māori ‘special treatment’ and that Māori participation can delay processes.

Action 12: Raise awareness of freshwater problems and pressures, and promote solutions

Participants expressed widespread support for this action. Improving adverse land-use impacts on water quality was raised by many as a key area in need of further education and information. Guidance on efficiency of water use was also raised by some participants as necessary. The existing educational programmes that councils undertake were recognised; however, central government was regarded as having a role in running nation-wide programmes to prevent duplication among councils.

Specific views

Participants recognised the value of raising awareness of water issues through education campaigns. Central government was regarded by some as having a role in developing national education campaigns which target land-owners, water users, schools and communities.

There needs to be national input to raise awareness and concerns. (Alexandra)

Education is important; [we] need to be proactive about the values of water; [we] need education programmes in schools and communities. (New Plymouth)

Some participants also regarded central government as having a role in providing funding for joint campaigns with local government similar to the 0800 Smokey campaign of the Auckland Regional Council. Central government could also provide assistance for education programmes to prevent local government ‘reinventing the wheel’ with similar campaigns.

Increased education and awareness-raising for sustainable land-use practices to reduce adverse impacts on water quality was a strong theme at many of the meetings. Participants raised this issue at meetings held in Whangarei, Palmerston North, Hamilton, Greymouth, Blenheim and Nelson.

[We] need a land-use education programme. (Whangarei)

[We] need education and funding around good land-use practices. (Palmerston North)

Some participants at the Greymouth and Hamilton meetings suggested working directly with farmers and land-users. The point was made that sometimes messages do not reach these sectors. Participants at the Greymouth meeting regarded education as an effective alternative to regulation for managing adverse impacts on water quality.

Some participants highlighted the growing awareness of water quality problems. One participant at the Blenheim meeting commented that landowners are aware of water quality problems, with many having already adopted sustainable practices.

Raising awareness of techniques for efficiency of water use and water conservation for rural and urban water users was regarded as important by many participants:

[There is a need for] education on efficiency of use. (Timaru)

There is a need for urban dwellers to understand the reasons for pressure and the impact that economic drivers and urban lifestyles have [on demand for water]. (Rotorua)

Action 13: Collaboration between central and local government, scientists and key stakeholders, on pilot projects to demonstrate and test new water management initiatives

Participants expressed widespread support for this action. Many participants raised the value of communities, sector groups, Maori, local government and central government working together. The Lake Taupo and Lake Rotorua projects were cited as effective examples of government, iwi, the community, and stakeholders working together.

Specific views

Participants generally regarded more collaboration between different agencies and groups as positive, with the exception of a concern raised by one participant at the Hamilton meeting. The participant stated that reaching consensus could result in a loss of diversity of views. The difficulty of reaching a consensus view from the community was also raised by a participant at the Christchurch meeting.

Participants also raised the need for further community and sector group involvement in policy-making. Involving land-owners and communities in developing objectives and solutions for water management was regarded as important. One participant at the Dunedin meeting suggested developing an overarching vision and objectives in partnership with the community and government:

[There is a] need to develop a common vision across government, land-owners must be worked with to find solutions. (Dunedin)

[We] should be working on a cooperative basis; [there] needs to be cooperation and collective agreement to what appropriate approaches there are. (Whangarei)

Community involvement was also regarded as important by many, through revegetation groups, land care groups and catchment initiatives. Funding and assistance was raised as important for these initiatives to continue. Several participants raised the need for support and resources for groups to participate in submission and consultation processes.

Participants at the Dunedin, Timaru and Rotorua meetings raised the need for the science and policy communities to work together to reach consensus on specific water issues. One participant at the Rotorua meeting suggested that resources of the Crown Research Institute should be combined to develop solutions for some freshwater problems such as water quality.

5 Key Themes

Maintain local decision-making

Participants at all of the meetings signalled the importance of maintaining local decision-making. Concerns were raised that increased central government direction could result in less local involvement in decision-making. Regions and districts were regarded as having the knowledge necessary for managing water resources, although support from central government could be useful.

Environmental bottom lines are important

The need to establish environmental bottom lines for water bodies was raised at all of the meetings, whether these are established through minimum flows, allocation limits, or national environmental standards. Regions were thought best-placed to set bottom lines; however, in some cases central government guidance and support was thought to be needed. Specified methods for setting minimum flows and allocation limits were regarded as useful.

Funding for science and information

A lack of information for managing water bodies effectively was raised as an issue at all of the meetings. Councils were regarded as not having sufficient funds to carry out the necessary research and monitoring of water bodies. Central government funding of research through Crown research institutes was acknowledged; however, comments were made that research should be aligned with government programmes such as the Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action.

Dissemination of scientific, educational and best practice information was also regarded as a key problem. The extent of information already available was acknowledged, but problems with sharing this information and best practice were identified. Raising awareness of how to use water efficiently and reducing adverse impacts on water quality from land-use activities were regarded as key areas in need of more information and education.

Infrastructure and storage

Increased investment in infrastructure and in particular, storage facilities was regarded as important at all of the meetings. Central government was regarded as having a role in investigating storage options and in some cases providing funding for developing water storage facilities.

Allocation of water

Concern was raised at all of the meetings that changing the current allocation system could raise risks for existing consent holders. Although changes to the present system were in some cases supported, many regarded the recognition of existing investments as important. The term 'market-based instruments' evoked a wide range of views. Concerns about the possible privatisation of water and that water rights could end up in the hands of an elite few was raised at many meetings. Concerns were also raised that existing users would lose their access to water supply. At the same time, there were concerns that potential users may be denied access. Equitable access to water was regarded as highly important in any system.

Integrated catchment management

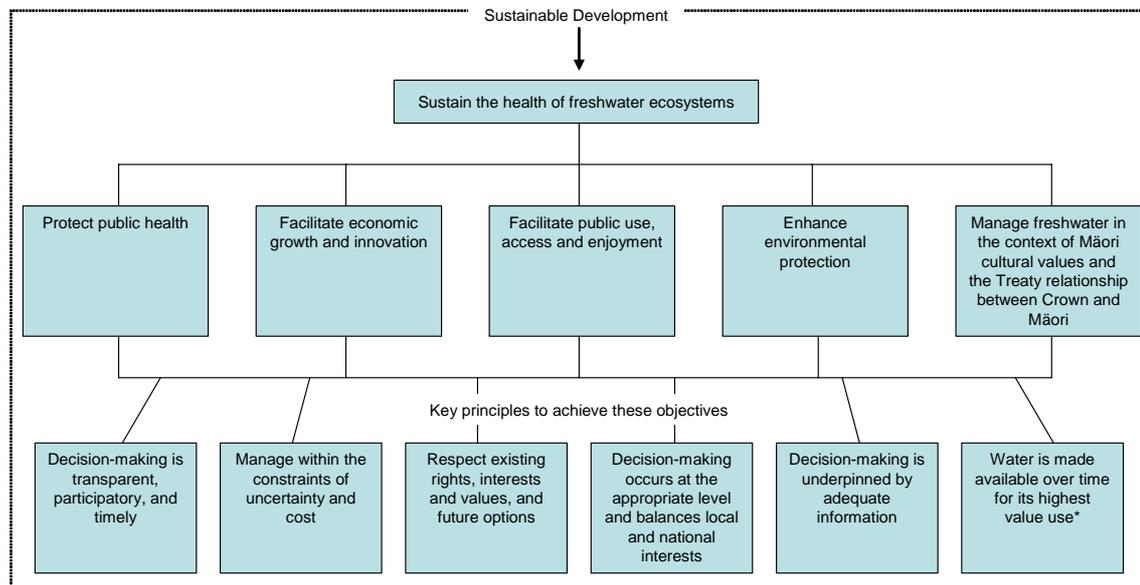
An integrated catchment management approach was suggested at most of the meetings. Developing whole of catchment plans which involve all relevant agencies, community groups and iwi was regarded as an effective approach for managing freshwater. Achieving integrated management of land-use activities and freshwater was also regarded as essential to improve water quality.

Appendix 1: Principles of the Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action

The programme's vision, objectives and underlying principles are:

VISION: Freshwater is managed wisely to provide for the present and future social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of New Zealand

- CHALLENGES**
- Not all expectations and needs for freshwater are currently being met and demands are growing
 - Water quality is declining in many areas and is unacceptable in some catchments
 - Given the range of people's interests in water it is difficult to establish priorities for action



* Value is defined in its holistic sense and not just in reference to economic value. 'Highest value use' encompasses all aspects of sustainable development: environmental, social, cultural and economic.

Appendix 2: List of Consultation Meetings

Table 1: North Island consultation meetings

Location	Public meeting	Local government meeting	Hui
Kaitia	No meeting	No meeting	14 February 2005 Far North Community Centre
Whangarei	2 February 2005 Kingsgate Hotel	2 February 2005 Northland Regional Council	15 February 2005 Whangarei Terenga Paraoa Marae
Auckland	1 February 2005 Ellerslie Convention Centre	1 February 2005 Auckland Regional Council	16 February 2005 North Harbour Stadium
Hamilton	1 February 2005 Ferrybank Reception and Conference Centre	1 February 2005 Environment Waikato	17 February 2005 Waikato Rugby Stadium
Whakatane	No meeting	2 February 2005 Environment Bay of Plenty	21 February 2005 Maungarongo/ Ohope Marae
Rotorua	2 February 2005 Royal Lakeside Novotel Hotel	No meeting	No meeting
Gisborne	1 February 2005 Gisborne Hotel	2 February 2005 Gisborne District Council	22 February 2005 Gisborne Hotel
Napier/ Hastings	31 January 2005 East Pier	31 January 2005 Hawkes Bay Regional Council	23 February 2005 Heretaunga Taiwhenua Administration Centre
Taupo	9 February 2005 Millennium Hotel	No meeting	4 March 2005 Wairakei Resort
New Plymouth	8 February 2005 Plymouth International Hotel	No meeting	No hui
Stratford	No meeting	9 February 2005 Taranaki Regional Council	No hui
Waitara	No meeting	No meeting	31 January 2005 Owae Marae
Wanganui	No meeting	No meeting	1 February 2005 Putiki Marae
Palmerston North	7 February 2005 Palmerston North Convention Centre	7 February 2005 Horizons Regional Council	2 February 2005 Te Manawa Gallery
Masterton	7 February 2005 Masterton District Council	No meeting	No meeting
Greytown	No meeting	No meeting	3 February 2005 Papawai Marae
Wellington	8 February 2005 Duxton Hotel	8 February 2005 Greater Wellington Regional Council	28 February 2005 Waiwhetu Marae

Table 2: South Island consultation meetings

Location	Public meeting	Local government meeting	Hui
Blenheim	8 February 2005 Scenic Circle Blenheim Country Hotel	No meeting	No meeting
Nelson/ Richmond	9 February 2005 Seifried Function Centre	9 February 2005 Tasman District Council	7 February 2005 Whakatu Marae
Greymouth	15 February 2005 West Coast Regional Council	16 February 2005 West Coast Regional Council	No meeting
Christchurch	14 February 2005 Christchurch Convention Centre	14 February 2005 Christchurch Convention Centre	8 February 2005 Te Waipounamu House
Timaru	15 February 2005 Phar Lap Raceway	No meeting	No meeting
Dunedin	14 February 2005 Dunedin Centre	14 February 2005 Otago Regional Council	11 February 2005 Karitane Marae
Alexandra	15 February 2005 Centennial Court Motor Inn	No meeting	No meeting
Invercargill	14 February 2005 Ascot Park Hotel	14 February 2005 Environment Southland	10 February 2005 Murihiku Marae

Appendix 3: Record of the Meetings

Table 3: Whangarei meeting

<p>Central government direction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water should remain in Crown ownership • Concerned about central government control on local government issues. Local government know their own needs best and can deal with it better in their own way. Central government should only play a guidance role • Do not want national controls that impact on primary productivity adversely • Contaminated water has an impact on human health – would be good to have direction from the Ministry for the Environment such as a stream health template • Tie together with drinking water standards • Environmental bottom lines are a must – national standards that account for regional variation are needed
<p>Central government involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money should be made available for riparian planting and fencing from central government • Who monitors the regional council? • Idea of whole of government is a good one • Pilot programmes are a concern because one size does not fit all; conditions are different in Northland • There is a lack of scientifically agreed information that determines water quality • It is the role of regional councils to establish low flows. Until they are established everyone will be fighting for the water. Scientific, statistical information is needed to support what low flows should be • Local government is under-resourced; staff are struggling to monitor. Councils need to look at where plans are directed • Need national guidelines on flushing; central government should provide the scientific expertise for this • Water storage is insufficient in some Northland towns • Cost of sustainable development has to be fairly carried/allocated between central and local government • Need to know how much water is available, transparency is important. This information is not available in all regions
<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work needs to be done on residual flows • When allocated water is rented if the use changes it should go through a new process • Water should not be a tradable commodity • Need to ensure water quality and an adequate supply of good water • Development of market and water rights should only be done once in stream values are identified and protected – low flows are an issue • Need to keep discharges out of water • The process should be results based • Underground aquifers should be protected from overdrawing • Need incentives for riparian planting • Ownership of water is an issue – first in first served is a problem • Auctions/tendering is not the right direction • Transfer of consents is a problem • Should be incentives for people to collect their own roof water • Need to be innovative in the collection of water • Soil and water plan in place for Northland – all regional councils should be required to do this • Metering and paying for water increases the incentives for efficiency – need to think about how to deal with people who don't pay

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be working on co-operative basis • Pilot programme are a concern because one size does not fit all, conditions are different in Northland • Needs to be cooperation and collective agreement to what appropriate approaches are • Need to understand the cultural perspective of water – communication and education is needed around this • How would the Ministry of Transport change their policies to fit in with this programme? • Need a land-use education programme • People who contribute to impacts on water quality need to be identified • Councils here are already working collaboratively with communities over water issues • Awareness raising is a good idea • Awareness raising is a good idea – gets people to think about the value of water • Central government needs to educate, capture hearts and minds first, then tweak policy and then regulate the violators
Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertiliser is having a massive impact on water quality. Leads to an increase in weeds • The more water you take the lower the water quality will be • Councils need to think about water supply and waste-water disposal when considering consent applications for subdivision. Septic tanks affect water quality • Need to look at the relationship between fresh and marine water

Table 4: Auckland meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national policy statement and national environmental standard are major concerns • Do not want central government intervention • There is conflict between the national interest/direction and the local interest/control • Central government direction is a must • Make sure costs are fair – not one size fits all • Central government should create framework/tools so that local communities can do the work on the ground. This needs funding
Central government involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to move to planning/land use • There is a lack of best practice at regional council • There are inconsistencies and absences in regional policy statements. This reflects a lack of competence • The regional council model has not worked. A catchment model would be better • Look overseas for information – need to learn from others, for example, United Nations website • Need to understand the resource we are allocating and how much water we really need: end use efficiency • Do we have to keep spending more money and more time to get 90% acceptance? • Funding needs to be transparent – don't pay for others' water allocation problems • Need institutional strengthening • Need a nationally funded science programme • Need to address the local government capacity issue • Policy needs to be based on proper science foundation • Need to balance conflicting issues • Science then policy then implementation • Needs to be sharing of best practice – data needs to be distributed. This is a role for central government • Data collection and quality assurance guidelines are needed to help local people collect the data • Need an index of compatible and incompatible activities. Should rate these activities/values.

Provide more tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary produces should come first for the allocation of water • Concerned about security of tenure • It is important to remember the importance of enterprise and ensuring business investment. Need certainty around this • Need an overall cost for water • Need some way of prioritising uses • Need to use an intrinsic values/ecosystems approach
Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church is an appropriate channel for consulting and educating people • Need a lot more community education – communities have to take responsibility for water, they are obliged to look after the water for future generations. This will add to the buy in by the community • Need to empower communities
Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm water and waste water could be better utilised • Recycling and reuse of water should be looked at

Table 5: Hamilton meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils need consistency in guidelines and approach. If there is no consistency you are repeating yourself time and time again • Need for consistency in methodologies for determining standards • There has been no overview of catchment management. Decisions need to be made based on understanding of needs of particular catchments rather than 'one size fits all' approach • There is a need to identify priorities from the beginning. Some things are too important to compromise on • Highly opposed to central government taking control of local government, the Resource Management Act and resource consents • The range of tools proposed has the capacity to address fundamental issues. In particular a national policy statement to identify important values and ways in which to identify and provide for these • There needs to be a national vision for New Zealand in the future to provide a framework for decisions and planning at the local level (both top-down and bottom-up) • National direction should focus on finding practical solutions and undertaking the research needed to find these • Supportive of consistent methodology at national level but implementation must be at the regional level • Opposed to central government control. There should be a national policy statement for a broad overview, but local values should be able to be imposed above this • One size will not fit all; unique regional values must be recognised
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Central government involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disparity between scientific knowledge and the way it is applied within councils • Need research to understand systems. Wetlands have not been managed since the introduction of the Resource Management Act. Not enough emphasis given to wetlands in the discussion document • There is a role for central government in supporting long-term research to get better systems about how systems work. It is important to have good long-term data to understand what is happening. Central and local government have roles in ensuring this • Concern about time frame to get actions implemented • Need to provide more guidance on best practice, backed by research to come up with good solutions • Need to look at where the cost of cleaning up important assets should lie • Broader dissemination of best practice is required. Not only to the industrial and farmers sectors but also to the sectors that support these; for example, financial sector • There needs to be national guidelines to prevent more to the sort of problems that are emerging at Rotorua through unsustainable land management • Need to have links into the long term council community planning process • Develop whole of government positions is supported by most but some want to hear views of different parts of government, rather than just the most powerful voice • A best practice approach is important. There are no best practice standards for water • Potential for central government to be involved in consultation as stakeholders rather than having a role in running processes and making decisions • Central government to provide vision but local implementation must occur • Research and monitoring and access to data collection is important • Costs involved in planning must be recognised
Provide more tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough emphasis given to nitrate discharges. A lack of nitrogen budgets on farms results in wastage of nitrogen which is applied when it is not needed • Concern about corporatisation of water and the extension of property rights tied to water. These steps have already been taken with foreshore and seabed and aquaculture. This runs counter to proposals in the document for more consultation and involvement with communities • Discharges are not looked at broadly enough, especially from activities other than dairy farming. Need to look at urban and industrial discharges and runoff from cities • Councils need to be able to control unsustainable land use • Can a similar system to fishing quotas be applied to water allocation? • Water rights for community uses have gone by the time the commercial and industrial users have taken what they want • Not enough emphasis on diffuse discharges • Māori concern about direction of foreshore and seabed and the Resource Management Act review, and the potential for corporatisation of resources and property rights
Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to resource people to become involved in consultation • Messages often don't reach farmers and land users. The same information must be delivered to all key industry groups • Concern about the focus of the Resource Management Act review proposals on limiting Māori participation to iwi. Māori agencies are under resourced to participate. Need to look at the mauri of waterways and ecosystems • There is a danger in trying to achieve a consensus. Diversity will not be heard • Need to ensure that people form organisations have mandate from organisations. Accountability of all organisations involved is important • The consultation process is not effective. Stakeholders must be encouraged to participate in the consultation process. It can be costly for interested parties and many do not have the resources to participate
Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban issues are not included • Concern about the land and water interface and land use control. This is an urban issue as well as a rural issue

Table 6: Rotorua meeting

<p>Central government direction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government should be able to identify priorities but not override Resource Management Act decision-making process • Local government has the skills and experience to deal with local issues. There is a need for standards from central government, but not heavy involvement • Any attempt to set uniform standards throughout the country would need to be treated cautiously because of different environments around the country • The document is patronising. Communities are finding solutions and don't want government telling them how to do it. Government should only get involved where this isn't happening • Have national standards/guidelines, backed by funding to allow local decision-making • There is a problem of too many laws – over regulation and re-regulation. There is a need for simplification • Central government should provide leadership, strategic direction, facilitation, catalyst
<p>Central government involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about government departments (for example, the Department of Conservation) making submissions dictating the way people should be doing things • There is a role for central government in funding science and research. This is important if water quality issues are to be dealt with. Currently the bulk of lake research is funded by the Bay of Plenty region. Research concerns include basic things like an inventory of the current situation • There are questions about whether whole of government submissions are possible and if so, whether this circumvents the planning process • Central government has abdicated the process to local government • Local government has the skills and experience to deal with local issues • There is a need for standards from central government, but not heavy involvement. • The current competitive model for science funding prevents good communication • Central government has a responsibility for Lake Rotorua because it was a government town and adequate sewerage disposal was not provided until 1980 • Set up a 'Sustainable Freshwater Fund' similar to the Sustainable Farming Fund • Solutions need to be based on knowledge, information and research rather than knee-jerk reactions • Water quality and quantity problems need systems. There is a need to pool the resources of several Crown Research Institutes – individually they will not be able to solve problems • Central government has a role to provide information to enable people to make their own decisions • There is a need to encourage and support individual innovation • Have national standards/guidelines, backed by funding to allow local decision-making • There needs to be a process for 'inter-regional' funding. Where one region benefits, another shouldn't have to bear costs (for example, Waikato River – Auckland) • Where things are not being done at the local level, there is a need for central government to play a role – possibly in the form of funding or auditing • Central government could have a role in facilitating local communities to find solutions; making sure rules are applied consistently in different areas and sharing information/best practice
<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The polluter should pay for clean-up but there is no mention of this in the document. There needs to be incentives so that people who use water have to pay for their impacts on water quality • Water efficiency is an important issue. There is no mention of demand and domestic use. What about grey water and water collection systems? • Consider a zone approach – divide New Zealand into five zones?

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives need to be set together but then land-users should be able to decide for themselves the best way to achieve the objectives • Central government needs to learn to engage with small business (for example, farmers/landowners). Land-owners don't have the resources to deal with submissions, communities should be resourced so that there is a balance • Māori want real participation and consultation, participation with local government and the community and support the Rotorua lakes process • Local government has the skills and experience to deal with local issues. There is a need for standards from central government, but not heavy involvement • The current competitive model for science funding prevents good communication • Set up a Sustainable Freshwater Fund similar to the Sustainable Farming Fund • There is a need for urban dwellers to understand reasons for pressure and the impact that economic drivers and urban lifestyles have • Solutions need to be based on knowledge, information and research rather than knee-jerk reactions • Water quality and quantity problems need systems. There is a need to pool the resources of several Crown research institutes – individually they will not be able to solve problems • There is a need to provide greater opportunity for local communities to contribute to government policy-making • People need to be given adequate time for consultation and be treated with respect • How can we speed up improving management of the issues? • The effect of pine plantations on water supply for irrigation is a concern. Something should be done about forestry and water quality. More information is needed on this issue. Some information has already been collected on the effects of pine plantations, and this information should be made available
Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern from farmers about nutrients been seen exclusively as pollutants; there is also a need to look at the benefits of nutrients • There needs to be an urban focus as well as rural in looking at water quality • Taupo Lakes Action Group: the Taupo process is not working, the Rotorua process is much better and much more inclusive

Table 7: Gisborne meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why set procedures at the regional level for national environmental standards – couldn't you have just a base-line standard for all regions? • Could you give an example of a procedure in a standard? • Setting a national environmental standard could be complicated. There could be cross-boundary issues for water bodies in more than one catchment. It could take a long time to develop this. Many values would have to be taken into account • What were the key drivers that produced the document? What relevance does the document have to the Gisborne region? • Action 3: Are there any rivers in the Gisborne District which have been identified as nationally important?
Central government involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could look at putting in infrastructure for storage such as dams • Concerned that the proposals would be dumped in the region with little guidance; for example, water bodies of national importance • What would whole of government submissions mean? Perhaps government departments would get together and have a common voice • Are the costs involved in implementing the programme going to be addressed? Some councils do not have the resources to carry out all or some of the proposals. The proposals will need sufficient funding and a recognition of the capabilities of the regions to be able to do this. Past history has shown that resources have not been given to small, less well-off regions • Perhaps we should be looking at changing the rating system – but we might not have the rating base to draw from

Provide more tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wealth in Gisborne comes from the rural area. Water is vital to the income of the area. Gisborne is a major area where the community relies on the rural sector. Development in rural areas isn't taking the future into consideration. The 35-year consent term is too long – and once it's granted it can't be reversed. Allocation is going to be a problem. Where will the water come from if the town doubles in size? • Will there be problems if you change from first in first served? What about equity issues and the rights of current users? • Is the effects-based purpose of the Resource Management Act behind some of the ideas? • 35-year consent terms should be shortened to 5 years with review • A 35-year consent term might not be too long. The problem is that we are inefficiently using the water. We waste water. We need to be more efficiently using the water • How much does a 35-year consent cost? Administration costs are charged by the council only. The council does require a water metre to determine how much is being used • Meters and charging for water could be an option so that the water goes to the highest value use • There should be an incentive for people to take water from the most available resource – you could get so many credits for fewer impacts to a particular water body • Where the discussion document says 'consents could be required for instream uses' – page 20 Action 6. It would be interesting to see how section 5 would be interpreted and which uses/values would take precedence • Water metering is a good idea. All regional councils should require water meters. Councils need to know how much water is available for planning
Working together	
Additional issues raised	

Table 8: Napier meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of the Tuki Tuki river and closing of the Clyde river because of bad water quality needs to be considered. What is going on in the rest of the country to clean up water quality; for example, Lake Taupo. We need to have a vision for the future for 20 years time. What action is being taken to clean up these rivers? We're not moving forward • At the moment there are clear lines of responsibility in the Hawkes Bay region. There is concern about central government getting involved. More central government involvement could blur lines of responsibility. If the regional council is doing a good job central government should not interfere • A standard could cut down on court costs. Why haven't we got a water quality standard for across the country? A national standard could get rid of debate over methods for setting minimum flows • The Government needs to be commended for tackling the issues and bringing them to debate. Allocation and quality issues are relevant to all parts of the country. This is an opportune moment to determine how well we are managing our water resources. In particular water quality, where we need to address this issue. There is a need for a reality check on where we are and the challenges and questions of where this document is going. Will be letting government know about this. Members of the public need to ask themselves how well they value freshwater. There is a danger that the issues will be over-politicised • The Resource Management Act was passed in 1991. The Ministry for the Environment has a role to assist councils. What is beyond consultation for this programme? Councils have been waiting for 13 years for a national policy statement. There is a need for some clear goals and guidance for local government. Does the government have a political mandate to go beyond consultation? • There is a need for feedback on a national policy statement and national environmental standard and the roles of central and regional government
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<p>Central government involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are problems with untreated sewage going straight into lakes and rivers. There's a need to look at water bodies in the region. Some progress has been made on cleaning up these waterways • At the moment there are clear lines of responsibility in the Hawkes Bay region. There is concern about central government getting involved. More central government involvement could blur lines of responsibility. If the regional council is doing a good job central government should not interfere • The Resource Management Act was passed in 1991. The Ministry for the Environment has a role to assist councils. What is beyond consultation for this Programme? Councils have been waiting for 13 years for a national policy statement. There is a need for some clear goals and guidance for local government. Does the government have a political mandate to go beyond consultation? • Consideration needs to be given to where central government and regional government is best placed to act • There is no reference to storage in the document. • Options for storage have been looked in the region. Some studies have been undertaken at the regional level and the smaller on-farm level • 1960s government gave concession to industry when resources were getting scarce. We could look at using subsidies. Government assistance could apply to some aspects of water efficiency • There is a fine balance between support and interference. Central government needs to be aware of the good work that is going on around the country
<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is going to be difficult to sort out competing uses. Big business might have more resources to push their values over other values • Can look at radio frequency spectrum as a model for auctioning, to manage competing resources • Reluctant to accept a monetary value being attached to water. As soon as you put monetary value on water the highest bidder will win. There is a risk that if business goes through tough times, the water right might have to be auctioned off. Water rights should be attached to land • Page 20 implies that there is scope for taking over certainty for water availability. When making investment decisions certainty is needed. It seems that there is scope to undermine certainty. How do you manage water but provide for certainty of investment in longer term industry? • Water conservation practices are not something that the New Zealand public has a fondness for. Water conservation needs to be promoted. Now is the time for issue to be addressed. New Zealand has one of the highest water uses per capita in the world. • The Government needs to be commended for tackling the issues and bringing them to debate. Allocation and quality issues are relevant to all parts of the country. This is an opportune moment to determine how well we are managing our water resources. In particular water quality, where we need to address this issue. There is a need for a reality check on where we are and the challenges and questions of where this document is going. Will be letting government know about this. Members of the public need to ask themselves how well they value freshwater. There is a danger that the issues will be over-politicised • Water allocation issues are about balance. Each region has to make its own decisions about different values and interests; for example, energy, tourism, recreation. A balanced approach is taken in the Hawkes Bay region. The local community should determine a balance at the regional level. The regions can make their own tradeoffs • What is the difference between owning river water and rain water used by the forestry sector? • We need to look at the broader picture. There's a possibility of a bigger population. The Minister of Immigration should be involved. Water harvesting and water retention options should be looked at. There should be better recycling systems in urban areas. Wise water use is important. Broad thinking is important. • Water allocation is the easier of the issues to deal with. Water quality is the hard issue to deal with. Councils choosing not to use the Resource Management Act tools. Need ideas about solutions for resolving diffuse discharges • Action 11 – allocating to priority uses, is a bold action. It seems unreasonable to ask regional councils to back winners. Action 11 is not a good idea

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water conservation practices are not something that the New Zealand public has a fondness for. Water conservation needs to be promoted. Now is the time for issue to be addressed. New Zealand has one of the highest water uses per capita in the world • Regional and local government puts a lot of resources into education. Could government give financial assistance for some programmes to save reinventing the wheel? A national level of environmental education is needed. More effort is required in secondary schools on educating students on environmental issues • It is easy to tackle the easy things, and is easy to target water users. There needs to be a balanced approach – education for urban and rural users • 0800 Smokey campaign is a good example of a successful education and awareness campaign
Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Ministry of Health involved in the Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action? • What about the urban water quality? The presentation gave the impression that urban issues will not be considered because it is too hard • There appears to be little interaction with long term community plans • The cumulative effects need to be addressed. These are what create bigger problems • Is the rainfall in New Zealand being distributed differently now from 20 years ago? • We have to improve our water quality and cannot afford to fail

Table 9: Taupo meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why has this group come to Taupo at this time? You haven't even got to base one. The Resource Management Act was passed in 1991 and included provisions for national policy statements and national conservation orders. Why has it taken till now to get you people here? State-owned enterprises have had 10 years to renegotiate water rights. Has this process been held off till renegotiations take place? • Why does the government feel the need to get involved at this stage? Is the government not happy with the job that regional councils are doing? • A problem of the Resource Management Act is that it focuses on remedying and mitigating effects and is unable to get to the actual problem • Effects may not be felt for many years – for longer than the Resource Management Act 10-year time frames; for example, time for effects of nutrients to become apparent in Lake Taupo. • Strong inconsistencies in water management exist between regions • Waters of National Importance reports, especially the recreation and tourism reports are nonsensical. There is no standard process for comparing/weighting different values – this could be done by focus group rather than a numerical approach • There are inconsistencies in the way regions deal with hydro-power generation issues across the country; for example, Southland has strict controls while Waikato doesn't • Start with having a national policy statement to provide guidance • If the government is serious about national standards and national values, then this needs to be accompanied by funding for implementation • There is a lack of consistency by councils in administering the Resource Management Act. National standards would help • Concern that national standards/policies might not fit the local environment • Decision-making should take place on a catchment-by-catchment approach, tailored to each individual catchment • There is the problem of potential conflict between local and national values. With local decision-making, would any local community be prepared to give up their valued resource for the 'national good'? • Quality and allocation are two distinct issues which shouldn't be thrown together into the same solution, for example, a national policy statement • Want overall direction about water quality but local decisions • It would be helpful if at the beginning of a process, the government came out and put its cards on the table and identified clearly its view on what issues were of national importance. Any process for doing this would have to address the problem of change of government. It would need to be binding on government and people over time
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<p>Central government involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is naïve to think that it is possible to achieve a ‘whole of government’ approach because different departments have different mandates • If the government is serious about national standards and national values, then this needs to be accompanied by funding for implementation • Concern about imposition of funding on the local community in the future • Leadership and direction from central government rather than lots more rules. If standards are produced, there needs to be flexibility to reflect resource issues for councils – targets rather than requirements? • Would the suggestion about a central government role in approving plans require a new government agency? If there is any existing department, there would need to be a clear separation between regulatory and advocacy roles • Security of infrastructure is an issue. There is a need to provide for the needs of the country over time. It is not an issue that can be solely looked at on a catchment basis (for example, Waikato water going to Auckland); maybe there is a need for a growth strategy for the country • Security of water quality is a major issue; for example, problems from dairy conversion at Reporoa – water quality issues on the Waikato River • What is the starting point for determining base flow for allocation – is it based on existing land use at the time or potential land use? Different land-uses have different effects on this and there needs to be a clear identification of a starting point
<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong inconsistencies in water management exist between regions. There is a lack of tools available • The problem with market mechanisms is that large companies will have the advantage over diffuse ‘stakeholders’. Non-consumptive users (the community) will be disadvantaged by a lack of resources • Market force (competitive power pricing) has had a major impact on lake levels – don’t want more. There is a need for national standards for managing hydro resources • Auctions/tenders raise concerns about • Concern about controls on forest planting • ‘Out’ large multinationals; for example, Monsanto owns rights to a large portion of India’s water. • There is too much emphasis on the economic uses of water • Nutrient trading suggestions try to put environmental issues on an economic footing. This does not treat the issue seriously enough • It would be valuable to have a way of comparing values of water • Is there a possibility of comparing consents across different regions? For example, two separate hydro-power proposals in different parts of the country. • The use of incentives would be a better approach than enforcement; for example, tax relief for sustainable management – water conservation techniques, rainwater tanks. There is a need to be aware of where the issues are coming from. There is a need to look at industrial and agricultural users as well as domestic users in relation to incentives for sustainable management • Central government could play a role in assisting development of tools to decide priorities and to help in the decision making about allocation • The current mix of decision-making levels is about right. The problem is inaction by central government on tools that are available (national policy statement, national environmental standard, guidelines) • Want a set of tools to aid decision-making on allocation • There is a problem in Resource Management Act applications of financial mitigation approach by some companies/developers. Incentives for those in opposition to go away prevent the full issues from being heard • Anti-pollution incentives? In addition, those who pollute should pay to clean up • Concern about controls on forest planting • The discussion document is about the use of water but there is no focus on the instream and conservation value of water

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In working together, there is a need to make sure Māori are involved. Many Māori believe ownership issues should be resolved before looking at management. The way in which values associated with water are identified needs to be carefully considered – often Māori values are watered down • Set up a Māori group with representatives from all hapu to provide advice to councils, because no one councillor can represent all hapu
Additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to differentiate between water from different sources; for example, rainwater, river water, groundwater and deal with them differently • There is a need to look at national standards for urban stormwater management • There is a problem in urban areas of rainwater being diverted by channels and not infiltrating and recharging the water table, as a result it is lowered

Table 10: Palmerston North meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National environmental standards are important in this area • We are behind internationally with regard to national environmental standards • Need a national environmental standard so that methodology is consistent, would need lead time to get agreement. At the moment hearings revolve around scientists disagreeing • Need consistency between regional councils • Small communities are overrun by big cities – they are passing on problems further down stream • Need environmental bottom lines • Regional plans allow local community to develop local solutions to local problems – central government may not know best • Some things still need to be managed regionally but would fit within national guidelines • Central government should provide direction on water quality standards
Central government involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about whole of government submission on resource consents • There is a need for baseline research and funding for the programme • Need goals and funding for action • There has been no encouragement for composting toilets, rain water tanks or using water efficiently. Need to focus on making it easier to develop/implement systems for better use • Cost should be shared for river protection • How accurate is the amount of water estimation regarding underground water – need a more exact measure of water • Need funding from central government • Central government should provide more guidance – need money for jobs and research • Don't reinvent the wheel especially regarding methodology • Information sharing and data sharing should be encouraged • Fish and Game need funding because they are managing the water • Need best practice guidelines for water allocation – the process should be easy if it is carried out within the guidelines • Need government funding for a nationally driven strategy • Need support for local government • Decision-making skills in local government should be supported by science and research, provision of information, expertise and retention

<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need effective tools for measuring water quality. The current tools are not indicating that water quality is declining • It would be hard to set water priorities fairly – highlights the issue that you don't know what is there • The cost of consents and monitoring should be shared fairly. Currently with the water monitoring change everyone is paying the same even though some people are using less • Transfer of water rights is a good thing, but how do you set it up? Rivers would be easier than aquifers. The Resource Management Act would put people off as it is too cumbersome • Does owning the water make a difference? • Would be better to take water for part of the year – less water for longer time effects ecology • A water market would make the value of water higher – this will be reflected down the line, farmers affected by the cost of water • Hard to put a dollar value on water; water is important just being there, we don't pay to look at the river • There is an advantage in punishing people for doing environmental damage • Pricing water would affect processing plants and urban people • It is a massive cost to farmers to fence • Allocations for stock use need to be secure • Concerned about the allocation of underground water • 'First in first served' is a concern • More stringent rules necessary • Be cautious around the issue of tendering • How do you value water? Who's value? • Should water still be free? • Need incentives for energy conservation • There is a role for dual water systems • Nitrogen credits could be traded – would require nitrogen budgeting • Need incentives to change behaviour • Need a green label on produce • Need equity amongst all water users, both instream and out of stream • Metering could be used to manage demand • Need equity from a monitoring charge point of view. Don't get a say in the research that is carried out with the money • Need certainty for consents • Auctioning and tendering would need good infrastructure around it • Have a polluter-pays system • Length of consents could be shorter • Need to increase the value of water • Need a water metering system • Need separate tanks for toilets • Need to limit the amount of fertiliser and time of fertiliser use • Should have bidding on environmental values • Protect instream values • More discussion is required around prioritising and trade-offs for water use
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Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need education and funding around good land use for water quality • How do we change our behaviour? • Need to educate those using fertiliser • Need local community involvement through revegetation groups, land care groups, wetlands and catchment initiatives – need funding assistance for these. • Need education around land use/integration – with good management for water quality • Need public education on water demand, sewage disposal and options for efficiency
Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document doesn't address environmental issues • There is a role for integrated catchment management

Table 11: New Plymouth meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsure of central government directing local government – based on past experiences • No one disagrees with national policy statements • National environmental standard for water quality – how would the standard be set? If the standard is met, it should be flexible to have a higher standard • Need to set priorities for water use nationally but need to recognise regional differences • There is an issue with narrative versus quantitative standards for water quality • Define the national interest in water
Central government involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is local government equipped to deal with sustainability? • Concern that all government departments make one submission on regional plans • Storage of water – be good to save it rather than lose to sea. Would be interesting to address this issue • There is a huge problem with getting a whole of government position when statute government departments have different focuses under law • There should be shared responsibility and information for environmental management, for example, Occupational Health and Safety versus regional council • Need to provide storage to lessen the in stream out stream effects on streams/rivers • Get more practitioners in the Ministry for the Environment and in local government • Riparian planting should be encouraged and subsidised • Invest in good science

<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there road blocks to using Resource Management Act tools? • Questions around ownership are an issue • Transfer of consents is a good place to start • Need higher protection of use of water by local government • Concern that water resource will be sold overseas in bulk – sale of water is a very real issue of concern • Economic tools aren't the best for community values • Will transfer permits just be money and not solve problems? • What will central government add? Taranaki has locally sufficient tools • Councils should promote green guides for water use • Tools are available and are now being used by the Ministry for the Environment – well done • A standardised measurement is required to judge council performance • There should be consequences for water misuse • Need incentives to use water more appropriately – make users pay • The tools are available now • Organic or natural fertiliser consents regimes vary in New Zealand – this is a consultation issue. Cumulative environmental effects are an issue for fertiliser and wastewater. There needs to be standardisation of fertiliser application • Should encourage the use of zero discharge policy – use overseas experience • Water is chronically undervalued in New Zealand – there is no sensible market to set value • There is a need for water metering – this has been highly effective in the United Kingdom, they have combined this with a education campaign as well • Low income people may be marginalised if the regime changes too much • The method setting minimum flows needs more science – the Ministry for the Environment could play a role in this • Mandate allocation frameworks, freshwater plans and a disclosure regime for standardised reporting • Mandate planning obligations • Need to agree on the value of water – look overseas and draw on their experience • Standardise methodology for fertiliser application • Need to implement tools under the Resource Management Act properly • Review water conservation order provisions – need a more strategic approach • Need to be careful with market instruments, i.e. make sure that the market doesn't support negative behaviour
<p>Working together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is important • Collaborative approach is okay but will it be all talk and government doesn't take notice? • Need to be proactive about the values of water – through education • Need education and incentives; that is, use environmental programs in schools and in the wider community • Need to improve communications and consultation with stakeholders • Need proper interaction between agencies – an integrated management approach
<p>Additional issues raised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater focus on town supply needed • Document does not address matters of conservation and efficiency of use • Building Act does not allow water use efficiency (there is no ability to have bylaws to address some) • Why has the document focused on sustainable development rather than sustainable management? • Biodiversity values are understated and need to be recognised more so

Table 12: Masterton meeting

<p>Central government direction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National involvement is fine in terms of setting standards, but there shouldn't be interfering with local decision-making • New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement review shows that it hasn't been well-implemented, would not want to see this repeated with a freshwater national policy statement • Concern that this is all about central government trying to take ownership/control of water to generate revenue for central and/or local government • Minimum standards should be required rather than looking at tools like trading • Balances between values need to be found at the local level • Minimum standards and 'bottom lines' send a message to potential polluters that they may take the water quality right down to the lowest standard. Instead it should be about percentage change • Minimum standards and 'bottom lines' send a message to potential polluters that they may take the water quality right down to the lowest standard. Instead it should be about percentage change. • Central government has a role in setting parameters, standards and framework. Or can local communities do this? • Any system for identifying nationally important values needs to be transparent and collaborative • A 'national values' approach is a way of overriding local views and decisions. Local rights should not be overridden by the 'national interest'. • 'National interest' can be looked at in two ways – issue-based (for example, water quality) or value-based (for example, Waters of National Importance). There could be considerable debate over which approach to take
<p>Central government involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole of government submissions are a good idea. It might be hard to achieve but it would be worth trying • Support for an approach which supports local government as well as central government having responsibilities for water management • Implementation/operationalisation of sustainable development/integrated water resource development is a real issue • Funding support is important • Central government should provide the assistance and guidance but local decision-making is important to allow regional councils to develop best practice that can be picked up elsewhere • Central government needs to get involved in storage • In terms of structural arrangements look at the past model and what did and didn't work. The benefit of that model was that it provided good communication between agencies • Results of research need to be made freely available to everyone. There is a need for databases of basis information; for example, how much water different towns use

Provide more tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of groundwater as a resource, especially as a commercial resource, needs clarity and certainty for investors. Suggestion of a system similar to fishing quotas, the amount you can take each season based on the availability of the resource. In the fishing industry, quotas go to those with the lowest overhead costs/ unit of resource for increased efficiency • Regional councils want to get rid of discharges, not trade them • Concern about corporatisation of resources with tradable rights • Common expiry rights on consents are not mentioned in the document • Regional councils have not utilised their existing tools/rights. So why should they be given more? • It is possible to put a monetary value of all the different uses and values of water; the question is how you do it • The issue is not ownership of water but ownership of access to water • Water meters and charging for water may result in greater efficiency • There is a need to look at the costs involved as investments. Look at the long-term benefits and sustainable development. The document does not place enough emphasis on these • There is a need to be diligent with existing laws and regulations rather than developing new tools • The Resource Management Act stands in the way of making use of opportunities through the costs involved in making applications and the uncertainty of outcome • Not everyone can afford to pay for access to water • There is no need for trading as regulation can achieve everything you need. Should we be adapting natural cycles to farming needs or adapting farming to natural cycles?
Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for good communication between different government agencies • The Lake Taupo project can be used as a good model for finding solutions – gather knowledge to find solutions and then apply this knowledge elsewhere • There is a need to future-proof the situation by forecasting future demands so you can be proactive. This should be done by working together; for example, information exchange between government and farming sectors • There needs to be a lot of work done to conserve water during peak periods; more community education is required at local and national levels
Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to deal with all catchment interactions that affect both water quality and quantity. This inter-relation isn't adequately identified in the document or recognised in the community – solutions need to focus on integrated catchment management. Communities need to make decisions based on integrated catchment management

Table 13: Wellington meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the final plan cover the whole of New Zealand? The regions are diverse, there needs to be more simplification • How can someone decide in Wellington what is best for people in Central Otago and Fiordland? • National concerns need to be addressed; regions must work together to address national issues; the discussion document raises issues but does not talk about the 'how' • Sustainability is not defined in the document • The document is a collection of methods but does not contain goals; it is looking at methods in a vacuum • The Resource Management Act is pretty good; the problem is implementation • There is a lack of aims, goals, objectives, targets and time frames • The Resource Management Act provides the framework but problems occur at the local level • Problems exist and the document does not address them; <i>Growing for good</i> and this document do not connect • Sort out allocation at a local level • Nationally important values are not yet identified • A fundamental misunderstanding about national importance is that it is environmental not economic
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Central government involved	
Provide more tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property rights or the potential loss of property rights is not included in the document • There is a lack of recognition of existing rights in the document • 'Clawback' already exists under the Resource Management Act • There is a lack of analysis in the background documents about water trading and discharge permits • Concern about the commercialisation of water • Allocation is not just about commercial use, it is much broader and all uses need to be taken into account • Deciding which use of water is more important is impossible, each project must be considered on its merits
Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have regional councils had input into this process, have they asked for help, are we adding more layers of bureaucracy?
Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biodiversity strategy should be included • What about geothermal water and wetlands? • There is not enough emphasis on forestry • The proposals are not conservation-based but will make it easier for industry • Why do we need high quality water for washing cars? Urban wastage is huge

Table 14: Blenheim meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community's rights to do things as they want should not be taken away. But there is some place for overarching principles on what is more important to the nation e.g. energy or irrigation in Canterbury. We want public participation in developing these tools. The air quality national environmental standard is not a good example. The same problems could happen in the water quality area. A well accepted methodology for water allocation would be helpful for application across the country • The opportunity exists for a framework for a national policy to be put in place. Does the review of the Resource Management Act provide for this? • How can I protect my bit of water against all other interests and bad water quality? We are behind the world health guidelines. Maintaining water quality is important. What is going on to protect the health of drinking water? Government has a lot of catching up to do • There will be huge challenges to get government departments involved. Developing water standards will have huge financial implications. Is the Ministry of Health involved in the Programme? The costs of getting the key players around the table should be considered. There is a huge commitment of time and resources needed – especially around the area of land-use impacts on water quality as raised in the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's recent report on the subject • How do you weigh up the priorities for water at national and regional levels? Social, economic, environment and cultural factors – how are these weighed up? • Custodian of small rural water supply. Being asked to conform to minimum quality standards will be difficult. It is difficult to see how rural communities can meet standards. There is no basic tool for small community groups so set a minimum quantity of water, to determine pipe sizes etc. Engineering expertise is too expensive • There is a need to protect instream values and to use water efficiently. Where do national policies fit to ensuring that these issues are addressed? • If we are looking at long term sustainability, we need to look at government custodianship which can withstand political changes. There needs to be continual responsibility for maintaining building blocks for sustainable management. Keeping sustainability sustainable
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<p>Central government involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We don't know how much water is sitting in the aquifers. We don't know how much is going in and how much is going out. The cost of doing research is expensive, but the cost of not doing it is even more expensive. Who is going to pay for the research that is needed? Will central government pay for good information? • The council has spent a lot of money on water research, but we still don't have all the information we need to manage the resource. Groundwater knowledge is lacking. Funding for research is an issue • There is a suspicion of research undertaken with commercial backing rather than research that is undertaken with government funds • The rivers in Marlborough are short at certain times of the year. This could be overcome by investing in storage. Private trial work has been undertaken on enhancing wetlands for improving river flows. The Government could find ways of storing water in upper catchments, at lower cost. Wetlands can provide nesting grounds for bird life and can moderate flood flows. There would be benefits for the whole catchment if we looked at using the benefits of gravity feed in and lower cost dams • There needs to be a long-term vision and a determination of how much water will be set aside. Planning for water resources needs to be strategic • Regional plans take a long time to be developed and implemented, and aren't given any status and power to be effective • Central government is good at abdicating responsibilities to local government. Will this programme end up costing ratepayers? • What research into the regimes developed and adopted by other countries has been undertaken? Some lessons must have been learnt? • There are significant differences between New Zealand and Australia. New Zealand has a lot of water running to sea. We need to look at storing water • Everyone wants water and some have water but are not using it all. There is a lot of water being wasted. Money is spent on lawyers fighting court cases, but money is not invested in building dams. Storage should be looked at and efficiency of use • Standards and research – central government has a role in undertaking research. Poorer councils need assistance with information. Central government has a role in sharing good practice and new information • There is some middle ground for central government to get involved or to facilitate the investigation of storage options to ensure that enough water is available. There potential for the government to get a good return if they choose to become involved • Sustainable farming fund money has been used for various schemes in the region. The Government's role of stepping back in has been important • We want to run our own province but with government funding. Every province has its own problems and can deal with them in their own way • AgResearch undertakes research into the relationship between drought and production at genetic level rather than an application level. More basic research into these areas would provide more options about which crops to grow. This would enable better choices to be made over agricultural and horticultural production • Quite a lot of research has already been undertaken and future research is to be done. There is Foundation for Science, Research and Technology funding for some research • Central government needs to take a lead role in funding research
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<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What other options are there for allocating water? What restrictions will be put in place for trading of water rights? There needs to be some restrictions to protect the interests of small players. Need to be wary of commercial interests taken over the available water • Greater values can miss out under first in first served. Good land-use areas could miss out on having water for production because the water is already allocated • The Resource Management Act allocation process is adversarial. In court cases, large companies are able to force objectors out by using expensive consultants and lawyers. Smaller objectors are sometimes seen as frivolous. Smaller objectors cannot have access to water when a resource is fully allocated. Smaller players may not be able to renew their water rights • Water is fundamental to farmers. Water users must have security of supply. Don't tinker with something if it isn't broken. Investments have been made in infrastructure and these should be recognized • New Zealand is getting overrun with one type of farming. Vegetable growing is commanding all of the water at the moment. How will the priorities be set for water? There should be some restrictions on high value users getting the best take. There should be some mechanism to share out what is available • Overseas markets require standards of hygiene. What effect will these requirements have on water availability? We need water to meet these requirements. Have a look at Cawthorne report on Spring Creek • Water flowing out to sea is seen as wastage, but this view ignores the ecology of the river and the need for minimum flows. Interference with the flow of a braided river will create problems down stream, for example declining bird populations. Other values, in addition to economic values, can be lost • The issues in the document are divided into those that require ecological values to be looked after and those that look after allocation. Ecological values are a given. Freshwater is needed to sustain ecological values. Names of rivers are synonymous with water. Prioritisation is another word for privatisation of water and would mean moving towards the Individual Transferable Quota fisheries regime. In this system, users benefit more than iwi. In this region iwi are currently not large water users. There needs to be a mechanism in place to incorporate this issue. The aquaculture framework is an example of how this could be done • Efficiency of use is an issue. There should be restrictions to make sure people do not develop an inefficient system. We need to learn from our mistakes • Who has the courage to say no? What about finding alternative approaches? • Are successful clawback strategies occurring around the country? What are the legal implications of this? This is a future source of information that could be circulated • Quite a lot of research has already been undertaken and future research is to be done. There is Foundation for Science, Research and Technology funding for some research • Storage through gravity is supported and should be investigated. Water farming should also be investigated
<p>Working together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you propose to get iwi involved? There are no resources to sit alongside iwi. Iwi tend to get legislated against when they make noises, for example, the foreshore and seabed situation • There is a suspicion of research undertaken with commercial backing rather than research that is undertaken with government funds • New Zealand has a long history of development. Landowners are now able to build a sustainable aspect into their management. They have been made to become more aware of the environment. Council has expectations that this will occur • The Resource Management Act has not been a good Act for iwi in the top of the South Island. The councils have not exercised powers for involving Māori. Central government needs to look at these issues • There needs to be an ability for iwi to become involved in managing resources. It is very hard for non-resource users to become involved, and for iwi where settlements have not taken place • AgResearch undertakes research into the relationship between drought and production at genetic level rather than an application level. More basic research into these areas would provide more options about which crops to grow. This would enable better choices to be made over agricultural and horticultural production
<p>Additional issues raised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is growing evidence of the effects of climate change on water availability. How is this being factored into the programme? There is a need for a precautionary buffer in an allocation system • Should flood protection be incorporated into the programme?

Table 15: Nelson meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How involved does central government want to be at the local level? Central government has a role but people are cautious about central government getting into the nuts and bolts of local issues. Central government could add another layer of bureaucracy and councils and rate payers will have to pay for it. Central government has a role in providing support for augmentation projects and other capital projects. Central government could fund more research into options that are working and systems that are not working so well • Urban streams in this area are used as drains rather than streams. There is nothing in the discussion document about protecting the natural heritage values or the life-supporting capacity of water bodies in the discussion document • What is the national interest – this has not been articulated • How will the national interest be arrived at? How would any organization be able to assess what is best in the national interest? • Our water quality should be improved. How are we going to improve it, by whom and when? Action on this issue needs to be nationally coordinated by central government. Good water quality has to be for all of New Zealand and not just the rural sector. There has to be an holistic approach and by catchment. Will central government follow through with support for the implementation of standards and regulations? Different interpretations of national instruments around the country could result in legal challenges • The programme should be nationally led and funded. This would allow people across all of New Zealand to pay for it, and not just ratepayers. Too many policies have been left with local government to fund. Guidance is also needed • There is a limited amount of water available in Tasman. Central government should take a role in providing for growth and water • But growth should only be committed to where resources are available. Some areas should not be developed • Where are plans going with the water bodies of national importance projects? Are the Water Conservation Order provisions likely to be reviewed? Identifying water bodies of national importance is a subjective thing to do. Small streams could be missed from the lists • There are 21 water bodies identified as important for recreation and irrigation – where does that leave us? • The effect of pine plantations on water supply for irrigation is a concern. Something should be done about forestry and water quality. More information is needed on this issue. Some information has already been collected on the effects of pine plantations, and this information should be made available • Disappointed that there are no clear goals and timelines in the discussion document. There is a need for solutions which do not rely on tradeoffs. All the values of sustainable development (social, economic, environmental and cultural) need to be enhanced • Micro solutions are needed as well as macro solutions. Solutions should come from councils at the resource consent level • National guidelines would have been helpful when the RMA came into effect. This would have saved a lot of problems with implementation of the Act. A national policy statement and national environmental standard would reduce confusion
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<p>Central government involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triple bottom line accounting is important. The Ministry for the Environment's sustainable industry group and triple bottom line reporting need more funding • What is the bureaucracy needed for the programme? Will increased resources be needed to implement the programme? Are there any models from overseas that might work in New Zealand; for example, which demonstrate the interaction between central and local government? Will there be a national body such as the Environment Protection Agency model? • Central government is passing the obligations without the money for implementation • We are working with a lack of knowledge on the impacts and the amount of the resource available • It is the Department of Conservation's job to protect waterways. Why are anglers paying for water conservation orders? The water belongs to all New Zealanders. Use should be controlled so other interests are not hindered. Some regional water plans are toothless. Plans often sound good but there is not enough action taken. There is no enforcement for non-compliance with consents. Councils should decide what the best use of the water is • Central government gives a subsidy to treat sewage, but Invercargill does not qualify for the subsidy because it is a city • Central government needs to fund monitoring of environment impacts. Consents must be monitored. Under a trading system you could lose the ability to monitor environmental impacts. Monitoring is a key part of the process. I can facilitate providing a reasonable environmental outcome while still maintaining a reasonable level of use • Irrigation technology is poorly developed. Many users are not aware of how to be more efficient • How much money is behind the committee? Will there be funding for storage facilities? Central government should provide some funding for storage • Storage is happening at an on-farm basis, especially in Canterbury. Water can evaporate before it reaches a storage facility • Central government support would speed the pace for further development of storage • Government is good at coming up with plans but it needs to subsidise farmers to develop dams so that the whole country benefits from their production • Nutrifcation problems began 40 years ago. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment mentioned in the land-use impacts on water quality report that there is a lack of soil science. We are losing the input of vital ideas and knowledge. Funding of soil science is contestable. There is a need for different kinds of expertise and knowledge across all of the sectors
<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are already tools in place to protect water bodies and to manage quantity and quality issues, but some water bodies are over allocated. The tools are clearly not working. There should be more of an ecological focus in the programme • Is this a devious process for introducing a permit system for application of fertilisers based on nitrogen content? If this system starts in the Waikato region then it could become widespread in other parts of the country. Don't want a system introduced for permits under the Resource Management Act for fertiliser application. Local government should maintain their role for plans and consents at the local level. • The effect of the global market could result in privatisation of water. A sock take of our water resources could be the start of a process to privatise water. Valuation of water resources and Government involvement in world trade negotiations. Could commit trans-national companies to operate under conditions which might override central government regulation. Is central government working towards a market model for water? We want to have democratic control of water through local or central government. If water is owned by trans-national companies they might not have to comply with our domestic regulations such as the Resource Management Act. Water must remain in public ownership • We need to improve the management of water. One option is to call in permits and to bring allocation back to sustainable limits, but this would not be supported. People regard their resource consents as a property right • Tradability of water permits has to be encouraged within catchments. The water available must be used efficiently and effectively

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGmard funding and Sustainable Farming Fund money has been used for studies on water resources • Funding and dissemination of information – people rely on improving water quality through information. Lack of information on improving water quality in terms of the causes of the problem and how it can be cleaned up. Central government needs to put more resources into providing information. The Taupo situation does not apply across the country. There is a need for catchment-specific solutions. Central government should support this. There is a need to look at the impacts from urban and industrial areas as well. Rural run-off is not the only cause of poor water quality • Improved information is needed to keep up with the rates of change in water use and water quality. It is difficult to respond to the issues in a timely way. How can we speed up improving management of the issues? • The effect of pine plantations on water supply for irrigation is a concern. Something should be done about forestry and water quality. More information is needed on this issue. Some information has already been collected on the effects of pine plantations, and this information should be made available
Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the scope of the project? Does it include cities, rural areas, urban areas? What about streams flowing through cities, are they included? • If Tasman District Council finds nitrogen contamination is too high then it is required to take some action

Table 16: Greymouth meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national policy statement might not be applicable to all regions especially the West coast. The economy of the West Coast could be affected because it might not be applicable to the area • Regulation in a national policy statement could have adverse effects • National direction and central government involvement could be problematic because there are vast differences between the regions. A national policy statement might not be able to address these differences • National direction and central government involvement could be problematic because there are vast differences between the regions. A national policy statement might not be able to address these differences • Action 3: What criteria are going to be in place to determine what water bodies have a national value? What will make a water body of national value? • What is going to happen to the draft lists – what is the current thinking? • Who is setting the priorities and at what level will they be set; at the community, regional or national level? Even if the priorities are set at the national level, it becomes difficult for regions and communities to maintain those outcomes. There should be funding for regions and communities to implement national outcomes • Would there be tighter controls for the use of water from on a river feeding into a water body of natural importance? • The whole catchment should be taken into account as a unit rather than separate water bodies within catchments • What is the target for water quality? Do you want to revert to the quality of 1950? There is a need to balance the pressures on the environment and development. If so, is the target realistic? What are the assumptions behind the ideas?
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<p>Central government involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice information and dissemination of that information is important. This could mean that a national policy statement is not needed • The small rating base of the region means it is often difficult to obtain expert information. Regions with fewer resources will have difficulty implementing national policies. More expertise is needed. Implementation of policies requires thought, time and expertise • What information do we have to determine how water quality has declined? Do we have information about the contributing factors? • The problems of quality and allocation are not unique to New Zealand. Has the government looked at the lessons learned from other countries? • How much is industrial pollution contributing to poor water quality? • The regional council has limited funds for state of the environment monitoring. There are also limited funds to disseminate best practice. Central government should provide finance for these issues • There is currently not enough monitoring of discharge consents and diffuse impacts for land-use activities. More compliance monitoring and enforcement is needed. The regional council has limited funds and resources to undertake more monitoring so there is a need for more funding for compliance staff and auditing of councils to see whether consent conditions are being complied with • How will the national policies impact on rate payers – who will pay? • Providing solutions on how to fix problems is important. More monitoring, research and information on best practices would be helpful and more likely to be taken on board rather than enforcement. There needs to be access to effective solutions • Funding for implementation needs to be dispersed around the whole country – not just Auckland, or large centres • This issue looks similar to the forestry issue, where some areas are being protected for the use and enjoyment of people from other areas • Regulatory approaches would require more monitoring and assessment, therefore more costs to councils • Dissemination of best practice is one of the most effective ways of getting behaviour change • Wetlands should be managed at the local/regional level
<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the toolbox for councils managing land-use changes? What is the thinking behind this? • Would government end up requiring wetlands to be protected on private land? This would impact on private property rights
<p>Working together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education has a key role in improving practices • Will the education and awareness mentioned in the discussion document involve working with farmers and water users directly? • Education might be a better option rather than regulation and market tools • Are there site visits to water bodies on land, and is there education about what practices could be implemented to prevent water pollution when resource consents are issued? There is a need to make sure that the information is available when people apply for a resource consent
<p>Additional issues raised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural and urban water issues should not be separated • The transfer of aquatic weeds to water bodies is concerning. Is the Programme going to address this problem? Currently there is no checking of boats entering water bodies • A catchment-based approach would be sensible to cater for smaller water bodies • There needs to be an integrated catchment management approach to incorporate the lagoons and wetlands • Tourism impacts are important too • Is the end point outcomes or effects? Could this work be overridden by any changes that come out of the review of the Resource Management Act? • How does the Programme address the problem of wetland clearance on private land? • The mining sector is learning about the benefits of retaining or creating wetland features

Table 17: Christchurch meeting

<p>Central government direction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental standards should be set by the community • Most major rivers should be required to meet world health standards • Water quality decisions should be made by the community • How do you prioritise and identify between different users? What are the criteria? How do you assess local versus national criterion? • Water quality decisions should be made by the community • National utility value could be set and locals could administer it • National policy statements are a good idea • Need consistency of definitions of bottom lines • The document has no goals, no objectives, no target, no timeframes, no direction and no accountability • Devolve research to the most appropriate level, the under taking is at the local level • Water bodies of national importance has potential • Need a national strategy for prioritisation • Identify nationally important waterways • Need a national policy statement or national environmental standard for nitrates • Central government need to set national priorities • Need national goals; that is, all rivers should be swimmable • National environmental standard – prescribe the outcomes, give some time to meet, then strict regulation • Water bodies of national importance would work if all values are considered and there is some flexibility
<p>Central government involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downstream users need better technology and the storage options • Integrated Research for Aquifer Protection programme should be supported • The Ministry for the Environment could facilitate the sharing of best practices • More leadership is needed to assist locals in understanding options/issues • Could have a department for water resources • Need to implement storage proposals • There is an inconsistency between catchments – a central body could help provide an overview • Don't reinvent the wheel – look overseas • The Canterbury Plains issue is just like the Tragedy of Commons in England – poor policy led to negative outcomes • There is a fear of bureaucracy – don't want government intervention apart from funding • Need research, for example, groundwater, biodiversity – must be independent and transparent • Need good information about the resource • Need greater accountability of local government representatives and officials • Need water storage • Central government needs to ensure that there is good reliable research information available – use sustainable form fund model • Need to encourage best practice • Central government need to take a more active role; that is, need to make regional councils do things, assisting science, dialogue/consultation, collective use, understanding • Central government funding – charges direct and indirect beneficiaries. Should not be a subsidy but should recognise that benefits arise to all

<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downstream users need better technology and the storage options • Integrated Research for Aquifer Protection programme should be supported • The Ministry for the Environment could facilitate the sharing of best practices • More leadership is needed to assist locals in understanding options/issues • Could have a department for water resources • Need to implement storage proposals • There is an inconsistency between catchments – a central body could help provide an overview • Don't reinvent the wheel – look overseas • The Canterbury Plains issue is just like the Tragedy of Commons in England – poor policy led to negative outcomes • There is a fear of bureaucracy – don't want government intervention apart from funding • Need research; for example, groundwater, biodiversity – must be independent and transparent • Need good information about the resource • Need greater accountability of local government representatives and officials • Need water storage • Central government needs to ensure that there is good reliable research information available – use sustainable form fund model • Need to encourage best practice • Central government need to take a more active role; that is, need to make regional councils do things, assisting science, dialogue/consultation, collective use, understanding • Central government funding – charges direct and indirect beneficiaries. Should not be a subsidy but should recognise that benefits arise to all
<p>Working together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want a closer relationship between local and central government for many issues including water – need to avoid duplication • We don't hear in public about iwi issues and don't have the opportunity to debate • Need input from communities about what they want • The process needs to be open and well informed about the total system • Regional governments need to work together • It is hard to get public consensus amongst communities regarding values • Central government should actively facilitate processes with local government • Integrated land use would help, could put limits on land use; for example, regulation to avoid inappropriate land use • Concern that water is wasted through irrigation – technology is improving in this area • Water user groups can improve water use efficiency
<p>Additional issues raised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the impact of dairying on water quality for tree, horticulture and domestic use • Want to be able to better use water/grey water for house and property – there needs to be education around reusing and recycling • There are urban water issues too • Integrated catchment management work is good – need to know this for water allocation • No discussion in document about the value of wilderness or landscapes or biodiversity

Table 18: Timaru meeting

<p>Central government direction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central government has shown a lack of leadership • One size does not fit all – need to quality fit solutions for the purpose • Decision-making should occur locally as they know the issues and understand the impacts • Take out Water Conservation Order processes – they are limiting to the national interest/balance • Standards will not work – need to look at catchments • No national guidance is needed • Water bodies of national importance – the values need to be broader – the options are loaded • There should be a better balance between national and local needs. Local needs are not as well supported as they should be • Need a better plan for water management – it is ad hoc at the moment; this will require help from central government but the local knowledge is in the region. • Concern about central government setting the priorities for water bodies of national importance • Concerned that the government will override local communities – need good local solutions • Central government should stay out, they should provide basic rules only and leave the decisions to the regions • National policy statements need to be high level. They should list the factors to be considered at the local level and locals should then determine the balance. • Assess the whole resource and what it might be used for – need broad criteria for importance • National standard for water quality would be useful
<p>Central government involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify water storage sites for future of all uses/options. Central government should provide funding for the infrastructure needed. There seems to be a feeling of 'anti-storage' from government • Need science based information on water quality and quantity and also on process • Regional plans are in place so no other plans are required • Lots of effort is going into protection but not enough is going into development. Central government needs to develop a long-term strategic approach • Funding would be good to help support and clear Resource Management Act obstacles • Guidelines must be flexible • Need better law; the current system is not good. It doesn't encourage efficiency of use • Concern was raised over the cost of change. Need to keep in mind that changes takes time as well • Need help in setting allocation limits • Central government should stay out, they should provide basic rules only and leave the decisions to the regions • Government departments should work together to develop one view into submissions • There are gaps in the current funding system which need to be sorted • There needs to be a better profile in government for agriculture • The adversarial process in the Resource Management Act needs to be addressed • Where central government must get involved they must come with money • Compliance costs must be reduced and the systems must be simplified and made more efficient • Need funding to cover building infrastructure – communities could then lease it back • Need more expertise at the local government level • Need to focus on water harvesting and storage

<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing consent holders need certainty and protection • There are risks associated with auctioning or tendering – real concern around this concept • Allocation of water to highest value use should be market based as much as possible • Take out Water Conservation Order processes – they are limiting to the national interest/balance • Who will make the decisions on the high and low values of water? How can you compare competing users? • Minimum flows do not always protect • Must use economics for the balance of allocation for any use • Comparison of uses must look at all the costs involved • Need to move water to where it is needed • First in first served is a good process it protects investment • Don't throw the whole system out and start again • Don't want tendering and auctioning of water • The tools are there they just need to be used properly and enforced • Water should be left in the catchments – need to look after own communities first • Do not want a charge on water itself – will pay the service cost relating to infrastructure. • Need help in setting allocation limits • The value of a property sits around the water right • Every user should be charged at the same rate • Water from treatment plants could be used back up stream for irrigation • Solutions must be consistent • Should meter and log water use • Should look at water and catchment together – take an integrated management approach • Need a new consent that allows on farm storage at high flows – needs to be incentives for this • Consent duration should be longer than 35 years • Tools to understand the values of water are needed – the community should determine these values
<p>Working together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficiency of use of water needs to be encouraged for all. There needs to be education around this • Water schemes need a power company scheme involved as a partner to make them viable • Ngai Tahu must be included in the equation • We are a multicultural society, we need to understand that and work with it • To be successful there needs to be buy-in from the rest of society not just farmers and users • Need to bring together science and other experts to reach consensus
<p>Additional issues raised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a broader perspective on efficiency – not just water, include capital, labour etc • Urban issues are important too • Cost of electricity generation must be changed to reflect the cost of delivery

Table 19: Dunedin meeting

<p>Central government direction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central versus regional control is a key issue, this is central government taking over, this is a move away from the Resource Management Act, issues are best dealt with at the local scale with local input • Huge differences exist in characteristics of regions and in uses of water and community expectations • There is a perception that national environmental standards mean government is taking over, the role of local authorities in catchment management should not be diminished by national standards • How would central government go about creating national standards? • Caution is needed when deciding which type of issues and standards are suitable for a top-down rather than a bottom-up approach • Are regional values superior to national values? The general public feeling is that they are not. There needs to be a way of deciding between values before you start to look at how to identify them • National importance to whom? There is a fear that national importance may be overridden by economics. There is also concern about the risk associated with identifying water bodies of national importance for particular values – there is a risk of getting it wrong • The Otago Regional Council (ORC) water plan shows how important water is here and planning must be done on a regional basis not a national basis • Concern over adding further national requirements to existing regional ones • There could be a default national direction which would apply where issues had not been addressed locally
<p>Central government involvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A major issue missed in the document is the split control for various parts of the catchment. There needs to be a single government department to manage the whole catchment. There is currently a lack of integration in water management • There is no problem with the development of a coherent cross-government view in submissions, but it should stop short of government intervention. It should only have the same status as local submissions • A functional audit of regional councils should be carried out which compares their Resource Management Act • Variation in cost and processing time of basic resource consents exist between councils; there is no consistency. Publicising non-performance is an effective way of dealing with this. Government should be more pro-active in pointing out where performance is an issue and providing guidance to improve performance. Central government involvement should focus on an audit process • Issue of non-performance by Environment Canterbury. There are currently no penalties for poor performance; for example, non-compliance with statutory time-frames. • Some councils have a problem of inadequate resources, central government could have a role in providing funding where this is an issue • Water harvesting – what’s going to happen when water is taken from streams instead of building reservoirs? Water harvesting should be a national priority • Whose role is water harvesting? • Central government – monitoring, but for local issues there is concern about central government control. Central government should have a role at the broader level only • Department of Conservation and capital cost are barriers to water harvesting facilities • Central government should play a key role in coordination and information. National direction should be about facilitation and support and possibly about water quality standards • Concern about affordability for rural communities having to meet drinking water standards when people are happy with less. There needs to be regional rather than national solutions • Central and local government have to come together in terms of infrastructure • Central government’s role is to provide checks and balances rather than making decisions and taking control

<p>Central government involvement (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be a water management team to visit regional council to check-up and enforce. Councils need to know where they are going and if they are failing, why? • There is a problem of insufficient scientific information. Central government could assist in resources for this • Is expertise available locally? Expertise in land and water resource management has been lost at all levels of government. Central government needs to lead by example in its land management – should be more integration • Department of Conservation has a very narrow focus • Department of Conservation is continually appealing against land-use resource consent applications • There is a need to disseminate current scientific understanding about water quality to inform debate. Water quality can always be improved, you can always do better. To keep water quality perfect, we need to go back to where we came from, but this is not possible. The vast majority of the population have no idea about the importance of maintaining water quality
<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Resource Management Act appears to be an extremely good tool. Issues can be adequately covered in the local region. However, some central government oversight could be added to aid implementation and to provide support to regional councils to improve performance • The existing legislation is sufficient if backed up by a functional audit of regional councils, publicity and funding • Fence waterways • Fonterra has an accord to fence of waterways but it is not a binding agreement. Stock in rivers is a proximate cause of poor water quality; there is a need to look at the ultimate causes. There is a need to change the perception/behaviour of land owners in relation to waterways; for example, in the United Kingdom rivers take priority over agriculture rather than the other way round • The notion that New Zealanders have no appreciation of the importance of maintaining water quality is insulting • Farmers have invested heavily in reducing discharges to streams e.g. dairy shed effluent. Other users, (industries) also have a responsibility to do the same • Allocation is a market driven approach that is creating problems. It is possible to have tradability of permits without going to a hard market approach • Concern about protecting existing investment if reallocation of resources takes place • Consider the 'use it or lose it' approach to deal with over allocation • There is a problem that if isn't complying with the conditions of their consent, even though enforcement action can be taken, consent can't be taken away • There is a need for inspection of point sources. Diffuse discharges are important too but point sources need to be sorted out first. This is not addressed adequately in the document
<p>Working together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water can't be looked at in isolation from soils, biota etc. The Resource Management Act currently takes a mechanistic rather than a systems approach. People need to be working together • Two views exist: 'Land is a resource' and 'land must be preserved' both extremes are wrong and need to come together for a more balanced approach • Central and local government need to come together to develop national direction; for example, setting minimum flows – set timeframes and methods but not community outcomes. There is a need to take regional variability into account • In terms of working together, the whole framework is wrong. There is no communication between science and policy. Working together is not possible unless everyone is aiming for the same thing. There is a need to develop a common vision across government • There is a need to recognise that addressing problems takes time and land-owners must be worked with to find solutions

Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining privileges are not contained within the document and don't expire till 2021. These need to be dealt with before then • Better use and efficiency of water in urban communities is needed, for example, collection of rain water. Urban communities are a drain on rural resources • The document focuses on allocation but not the bigger picture of waste water, there needs to be more efficient use of water. Water efficiency must be looked at • There is confusion over riparian management. It is not clear in the document whose role riparian management is but its importance must be recognised • The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's report needs to be considered • How will things be affected by climate change? • An inherent conflict exists between agriculture and high quality water
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Table 20: Alexandra meeting

Central government direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There seems to be an assumption that central government needs to be involved with central policy. Locals know regional issues best. It has been assumed that there is a need for a top-down approach. It is not the best approach as it is costly and ineffective. Central policies for water don't necessarily work because there are big differences between areas • Concern that the imposition of a national policy statement will destroy the credibility of processes that have been gone through in relation to the regional policy statement and the regional water plan, and confidence in the Resource Management Act • Decisions are best made at the local level by those involved and affected and know the region best • The problem is with the implementation of the process not with the process itself. This isn't a national issue, as it only occurs in some areas and there doesn't need to be another layer of control • Everything happens in a piecemeal way. Some people haven't got it quite right but it is not a national issue; in Central Otago it has worked quite well. If central government gets involved it will mess up what already works • Create local solutions. Local communities can sort problems out better than central government • Do not want to see a central government 'blanket approach'. Each waterway should be considered on its merits. Guidelines not rulings should come from central government • There are risks involved if decisions are made locally without understanding local and national values. These must also be clearly articulated. It is not difficult to identify national values; the difficulty is in working out how to deal with these at the local level • If water quality is to be measured according to national standards, it could create difficulties as it will not account for regional differences. In addition, most rural households are on independent water schemes – it would be hard to regulate this • The imposition of drinking water standards on water supplies would be an issue. It would be expensive to upgrade systems when water is mostly used for stock use and for washing down sheds. The community don't want blanket controls. • National initiative is needed to add value to local regimes. This requires an assessment of what is happening at local level and assistance where it is needed, rather than the 'one size fits all' approach
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<p>Central government involvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process is not clear. What happens after submissions are processed and the minister has been reported to? Submissions should not only be referred to government but also to the community for comment • In areas where major problems exist such as the Waitaki, there is still no regional water plan. If central government requires councils that have not done planning to do it, this would be a better way to deal with issues than central government bringing in more controls • In the Waitahuna Catchment, problems exist as a result of the Otago Water Plan. The water plan has had a negative effect because the minimum flows have been set and TrustPower has applied to take water down to the minimum flow. This will lower flows and have negative impacts. It will also cost the district a lot of money to fight the resource consent application • Suggestion that the problem is in how the minimum flows are set • Before setting plans you must get full input from local people • There is a lack of expertise in New Zealand in the field of irrigation water use. There is a need for guidance on the best uses of water in communities. At the moment guidance and expertise is coming from the commercial sector, they are not qualified to give the best advice on the sustainable use of water. Farmers invest lots of money in irrigation. But this may not be the best use of water or the most efficient system • Regulators also don't always have enough expertise to make good decisions about regulation • Central government involvement in water issues should be through science and funding rather than allocation • What sort of national water quality monitoring programme exists at present? • What is happening to Central Otago water quality? Is it declining? Wouldn't it be a good idea for central government to be involved in water quality monitoring? • Some waterways have deteriorated and others not. Monitoring is inconsistent • Monitoring is expensive and the high cost is passed on to ratepayers. Huge amounts of data are generated and analysis of this data is expensive. Central government should get involved in monitoring water quality, flows and ecology to find out where there are and are not problems. Monitoring needs to occur along the whole river, not just at the bottom end. It is a problem that monitoring has devolved to the private sector and has become less available. Funding might be an appropriate role for central government • Central government should get involved in water harvesting. So much water is just going past us • The lack of detailed knowledge of what is going on and how water systems work is a problem at the regional level. This could be worse if decisions are made at national level • Has there been any comparison of the effectiveness of unitary and regional/territorial authorities? • Central government should have a monitoring and mentoring role
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<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about taking away existing rights • Where water is used for productive uses, it should be determined whether this is the best use for water at this time. People should be able to work out the best way to manage this e.g. increase efficiency • Water management is an evolving process. Passing the management of irrigation schemes from government to users has resulted in much more effective management of water. Water trading is developing; there is a need to let things continue to evolve • Is the 'first-in, first-served' approach capable of determining the best use of water? There are no tools to address this question • Without water, intensive horticulture would not be possible. Irrigation is essential. There needs to be certainty before making investments. Security of water is essential to landowners • Security of water in the future looks tenuous. A lot of people are going to fight over different uses. There needs to be more working together between regional councils, irrigators and conservationists. There is nothing to gain from a competitive situation • Formulating minimum flows and ground water reserves is a problem area. Central government could help with funding in this area • Priority of water rights – an ability to trade to a higher priority right. One barrier to trading is the difficulty of trading between different parts of the catchment • Water conservation should be dealt with in the same way as electricity conservation in order to manage it better. People value electricity because they pay for it; there is a need to value water more • Should there be a priority use for water? Set priority uses for water at a national level • Economics, costs and benefits are all important. The economic benefits of proposals need to be tested
<p>Working together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an assumption that Māori know all about irrigation and water use. This is not the case; they know less and hold up the process. If you give Māori an enhanced position, what about irrigators? Do they get special treatment too? • Territorial local authorities are invisible stakeholders. They do not appear in the discussion document but should. They are major players in water management. The principle benefit of their involvement is that they allow for wise, informed decisions to be made about land-use. We don't have the tools to make the right decisions. We are now faced with non-traditional land-use and have to make good decisions. Changes in land use and demand have created new issues and territorial local authorities need to be involved at a high level • Education is important, there needs to be awareness of issues such as urban water wastage and lowering of water tables by bores. There needs to be national input to raise awareness and concerns, possibly a national education campaign • The adversarial nature of the resource consent process and the ability for parties to oppose just because they can is without logic at times. This is particularly a problem when a government department is opposing something. Central and regional government should get together and sort out their differences
<p>Additional issues raised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some districts there is no distinction between rural and urban water – it all comes from the same aquifer. As such it is important that they are managed together • Dispend regional councils and hand the responsibility for water management back to district councils who are closer to the community • There needs to be more flexibility in the system. What about climate change? There is a need to have the flexibility at the local level to deal with this

Table 21: Invercargill meeting

<p>Central government direction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The optimum point is getting back to how water bodies were before human settlement. We should regard this as our baseline. We are reducing our choices by degrading water bodies. We can redress some of our mistakes made 50 years ago. A market model is not the answer • Central government should stay out of local government planning, but direction might be needed to create consistency • Councils need some guidance to prevent developing unrealistic plans and rules • Plans are mostly developed by consultants with particular views. Central government needs to give consultants some direction through national guidance • Action 3: Water bodies of national importance – what are the next steps for this work? • Is there a possibility that water conservation orders might be replaced with another mechanism?
<p>Central government involvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triple bottom line accounting is important. The Ministry for the Environment's sustainable industry group and triple bottom line reporting need more funding • What is the bureaucracy needed for the programme? Will increased resources be needed to implement the programme? Are there any models from overseas that might work in New Zealand; for example, models which demonstrate the interaction between central and local government? Will there be a national body such as the Environment Protection Agency model? • Central government is passing the obligations without the money for implementation • We are working with a lack of knowledge on the impacts and the amount of the resource available • It is the Department of Conservation's job to protect waterways. Why are anglers paying for water conservation orders? The water belongs to all New Zealanders. Use should be controlled so other interests are not hindered. Some regional water plans are toothless. Plans often sound good but there is not enough action taken. There is no enforcement for non-compliance with consents. Councils should decide what the best use of the water is • Central government gives a subsidy to treat sewage, but Invercargill does not qualify for the subsidy because it is a city • Central government needs to fund monitoring of environment impacts. Consents must be monitored. Under a trading system you could lose the ability to monitor environmental impacts. Monitoring is a key part of the process. It can facilitate providing a reasonable environmental outcome while still maintaining a reasonable level of use • Irrigation technology is poorly developed. Many users are not aware of how to be more efficient • How much money is behind the committee? Will there be funding for storage facilities? Central government should provide some funding for storage • Storage is happening at an on-farm basis, especially in Canterbury. Water can evaporate before it reaches a storage facility • Central government support would speed the pace for further development of storage • Government is good at coming up with plans but it needs to subsidise farmers to develop dams so that the whole country benefits from their production • Nitrification problems began 40 years ago. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment mentioned in the land-use impacts on water quality report that there is a lack of soil science. We are losing the input of vital ideas and knowledge. Funding of soil science is contestable. There is a need for different kinds of expertise and knowledge across all of the sectors

<p>Provide more tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it equitable to compare consent applications? What about existing rights? These have to be protected too • What is the rationale behind auctioning or tendering resource consents? Those who have the money to pay for the use of water will be rewarded • It is commendable that the action plan is being developed. Unhealthy tensions will develop between users if we don't do something. First in first served is not working. A non-political allocation process is important. The use of market mechanisms could be an option. Will get best economic use when you charge for the resource. Short-term tradable leases could also be used. The volume of each catchment needs to be defined. New Zealand has to decide whether to have economic development or economic constraint • The 'first-in, first-served' system has some limitations. Water is a finite resource in Southland. Some people will eventually miss out on an opportunity to have water. There needs to be improvements made to the system • Some soil types are unsuited to particular types of land use. Groundwater can end up getting polluted • Needs to be provision for cutting back at the time of consent renewal • Soil types and hazards should be stated on land titles so that when a property is sold renewal may not be granted on particular types of land. This would provide an opportunity to take a look at the environmental impacts • Tradable rights could result in the wealthy only able to buy water • Intergenerational issues need to be considered, especially regarding tradable permits. Water rights could remain with some families only. We should avoid a Murray Darling Basin situation and should consider land-use appropriate for the soils. These choices used to be made. We need to look at sustainable farming without artificial inputs. Education is important • Tradable leases could result in corporate ownership of water. Natural assets should not be managed in this way • A dollar value cannot capture all the values. Environmental values could be lost sight of • Users often do not know how much water they are using. Permit holders are supposed to report on well levels. There should be a basic requirement that water use is metered. It is difficult to monitor groundwater conditions. Most of the Southland aquifers are shallow – about 20 metres. There is a collective responsibility to monitor water resources and their quality • There is a problem for deciding how much water should be left in the rivers. Tools like Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) should be given resources for development. Consistency of methods is needed as well as improved knowledge of tools • Tradable leases could be allocated annually. Leases would not be traded to multinationals. Trading would occur within the aquifer. The annual recharge of aquifer and surface water volumes would be metered. Daily assessment of use would be needed. One hundred percent of the available water would never be allocated. There would always be margins built into the system • People are confusing a property right with a use right. We are not talking about property rights because the Crown owns the water. One model could be if a regional council sets an allocation limit and users decide how to distribute water • Trading already takes place on an informal basis between dairy farmers • Water use right is often seen as property right issue. Informal water trades are a possibility • Priority could be given to those undertaking activities with less environmental impacts, for example hydroponics. Some activities would result in less groundwater pollution
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Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about support for the community to lodge submissions? The community often needs help to write submissions and has to write submissions in their own time. Processes that are more friendly for the public are needed • Why should farmers be held accountable for getting the best available information? Everyone should have to have financial input into the solutions and bare the costs of those solutions • Education should come into the equation sooner • These issues were talked about 40 years ago. People are more aware these days but people need to be shown it is no longer viable to conduct some practices. Some environmental impacts can be turned around to help individuals save money. We should not need to keep educating each generation • The document did not show the relationship between the Crown and Māori. There needs to be a good relationship between Māori and the Crown. Central government needs to take a leadership role with building relationships with Māori and other groups. People need to be informed and to have knowledge of the issues • A more integrated approach between district and regional councils is needed to address the links between land-use activities and freshwater. One option is to identify protected catchment areas, for example, riparian areas. The cumulative effects of land-use activities need to be taken into account
Additional issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal processes and marine issues should be taken into account. When we take water out of the rivers it directly has an impact on the marine environment. We need to deal directly with the impact on marine ecology. Only half of the issues will have been dealt with if we do not look at marine issues. Land-use impacts on coastal environment need to be considered. Marine officials should be added to this conversation • The urban population paying about 43 percent of rates and is getting a small return • We should be talking about all water in the catchment, which includes groundwater. Permits are clear about what can be discharged and the amount to be abstracted. There is going to be a lot of cleaning up needed especially where there are tile drains • There is often a conflict between rural and urban views concerning water allocation. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment report on land-use impacts to water indicated that the two groups are linked. What influence will the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment report have on the programme in terms of the recommendations, tools, solutions? What about the impacts of the urban community on demands for water? • Water in urban areas goes down drains. There needs to be better recycling and storage facilities for water in urban areas. There are opportunities for water recycling