

Topic: Water quantity

Northland Regional Council

14 October 2014, 9:30am – 4:30pm

**Council Chambers, Northland Regional Council,
36 Water Street, Whangarei**

Workshop goals:

Participants will:

- Understand the current approach to managing water quantity in regional plans.
- Provide feedback on problems with the current approach to managing water quantity in regional plans.
- Share their ideas about possible future management approaches for managing water quantity in the new regional plan(s).
- Know how to continue to be involved in the development of the new regional plan(s).

Chair: NRC Councillor (TBC)

Presenters: Robyn Broadhurst (NRC)

Facilitators: Ben Lee, Ben Tait, James Griffin and Michael Day (NRC)

Note taker: Jon Trewin (NRC)

Experts / scientists: Susie Ostbaldiston, Emily Walker, Stuart Savill and Geoff Heaps (NRC)

9:30 – 9:45 **Welcome, introductions, and house keeping**

Short presentation from NRC and participants to introduce themselves, and an overview of the day.

9:45 - 10:30 **Session 1: Issues with water quantity in Northland**

A short presentation from NRC, based on our monitoring and research, identifying what the significant issues are:

- High levels of allocation in some catchments
- Impacts of climate change
- Drainage and diversion of wetlands

This will be followed by facilitated discussion - in groups (e.g. by areas of interest) or all together depending on numbers.

Key questions for the discussion:

- Do you agree with the significant issues based on our evidence?
- Are there any issues we have overlooked?

10:30 - 11:00 **Session 2: Giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014**

A short presentation from NRC outlining what is required under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 and how we might give effect to this in our new regional plan(s), including:

- Water quantity management units
- Water quantity objectives
- Water quantity limits

This will be followed by facilitated discussion - in groups (e.g. by areas of interest) or all together depending on numbers.

Key questions for the discussion:

- Do you agree with our proposed approach to establishing water quantity management units by type of water body?
- Do you agree that in managing for aquatic ecosystem health (compulsory under the national policy statement), other in-stream and related values will be provided for or should we identify additional values?
- Do you agree with our proposed approach to setting water quantity limits within each management unit?

11:00 - 11:15 **Morning tea (provided)**

11:15 - 1:00 **Session 2: Continued...**

1.00 - 1:30 **Lunch**

1:30 - 3:00 **Session 3: Options for improving water quantity management**

A short presentation from NRC outlining what the main issues with managing activities that affect water quantity currently are, and possible options for addressing these issues. Activities are grouped as follows:

- Water takes including those 'permitted' under section 14(3) of the RMA and other permitted takes, metering, efficient allocation and use of water, and common review dates
- Dams
- Diversion and drainage
- Structures in the beds of lakes and rivers

- Changes in land use affecting aquifer recharge and surface water base flow
- Land use affecting wetlands

This will be followed by facilitated discussion - in groups (e.g. by areas of interest) or all together depending on numbers.

Key questions for the discussion:

- Have we correctly identified the issues with managing activities that affect water quantity?
- Have we missed any issues out?
- Do you agree with our proposed future management options or do you have any alternative options?
- Do you think the options sufficiently address the significant issues discussed in Session 1?
- Based on your experiences with the current regional plans, what are the main administrative issues with the current policies and rules (if not already addressed above)?

3:00 – 3:15 **Afternoon tea (provided)**

3:15 – 4:00 **Session 3: Continued...**

4:00 – 4:30 **Wrap up, next steps & evaluations**

- Summary of key points from the day
- Next steps in the process explained
- Participants evaluate the workshop