



Notes of Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee and Te Rōpū Hautū Workshop

24 February 2014, 1-3pm
Council Chambers, Waikato Regional Council

Attendees

Healthy Rivers

Wai Ora Committee: A Livingston, R Pikia, T Mahuta, M Nepia, L Livingston, E Neha, K Hodge,

Councillors: P Southgate, T Bramley, K White, C Graft

Te Rōpū Hautū: T May, B Penter, D Tahau, T Petch, B Ormsby, S O'Sullivan, C McLay, B MacLean, V Payne,

Staff: H Ritchie (Facilitator), W Boyce (Engagement workstream lead), D Thurlow (Committee Secretary and note taker), E Wilson, J Young (Policy workstream lead), V Carruthers (Technical workstream lead), J Somerville (Project coordinator & note taker), J Bromley (Project Manager)

Apologies: T Morgan, T Stark, S Kneebone, T Mutu, T Manukau

1. Open workshop/karakia

- Workshop opened by Erin Wilson at 1pm.

2. Introduction to workshop and context setting

- The purpose of the workshop is to gain a common understanding of the project scope (and agree on what is in and what is out of the scope) in order to provide clear guidance to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG)
- Noted project primary goal is *"for Council and Waipa and Waikato River Iwi to jointly recommend that the Council notify a change to the plan that addresses the adverse effects of discharges to the Waipa and Waikato River Catchments."*
- A brief update of the project included:
 - Currently RFP's are being evaluated for the Technical Alliance (confirmed the Tech Alliance does include Mātauranga Māori)
 - The interim chair of the CSG has now been appointed
- The Project Timeline/Key milestones (see appendix one) were presented to the workshop noting these may need to be amended as the project progresses. There is a tension between gaining a good momentum for the project and a nervousness around an ambitious timeline.
- Noted the CSG will have divergent views so working through complex issues will take time

- Tūwharetoa are intending on providing communications alongside the CSG members from their area to support the CSG in engaging with the Tūwharetoa community.
- Important that direction and guidance be provided so that the box the CSG will be working in is well defined
- The CSG's job is to provide recommendations to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora committee. Noted the committee would only like to meet in order to sign off recommendations from the CSG and not for project updates only.
- Noted another tool to keep the CSG moving in between committee meetings would be to delegate authority to Te Rōpū Hautū (TRH)
- Discussion on how operating in this collaborative framework compares to how other councils operate (or how the council ran plan change processes in the past) in respect to timeframe. It was noted that the timeframes are very similar when you include Environment Court. Both Hawkes Bay Regional Council and Canterbury Regional Council are doing similar collaborative processes and the timeframes are comparable. It was noted that the Waikato is different to other regions in New Zealand in that it is pioneering both a collaborative process in the context of co-governance/partnership with iwi.
- Workshop exercise: What does a successful project/process look like? Workshop participants were asked to follow-up from an exercise done with governance in September 2013 on what they considered the project being successful would look like. See appendix two.

3. Project scope – clearing up and 'grey areas' in project scope

Workshop discussion on benefits of a wider scope vs a narrow scope

Advantages of a wide scope

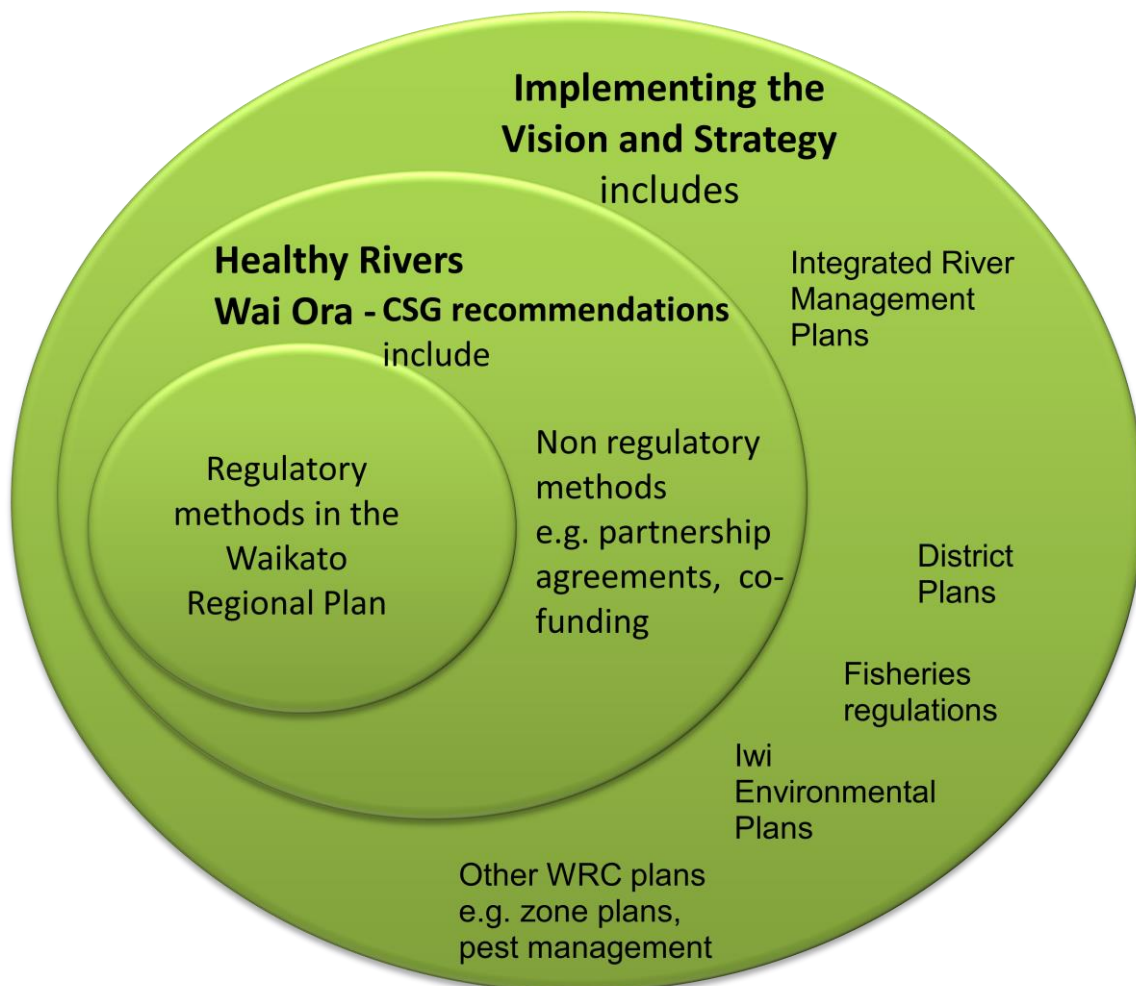
- The scope must be consistent with the NPS National Objectives Framework, the Regional Policy Statement and the Vision and Strategy
- Knowledge is power – a wider scope can mean a wider knowledge
- Noted a wide scope meant it is easier to integrate Te Ao Māori aspects and the interconnections are more easily addressed in a wider scope.
- Less likely to miss things out that need to be included later (e.g. biodiversity)
- Build a common understanding in CSG and Tech Alliance so there could be cost efficiencies to get these groups to deal with more than one issue while there is this understanding. More able to make informed decisions with this group (investment in the relationships capital of trust so it is possible to take advantage of this to do more)

Advantages of a narrow scope

- More likely to get something done in this generation
- Focus on critical issues and what's really going to make a difference
- Can effectively identify priorities around applying resourcing and timing
- Leading cause of project failing is too wide a scope
- Noted having a narrow focus doesn't mean you discount a holistic view
- Focusing on the four contaminants (nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and bacteria) means you stay on track. Other wider issues will be addressed by the full Regional Plan review at a later date
- Community is not overwhelmed by too much change
- There are six partner organisations, a CSG and a Tech Alliance. It will take time to work together so will be easier with a narrower scope

What is already agreed regarding scope

- Scope was agreed at a Council meeting in August 2012 (noted scope was first developed and agreed to by Joint Working Party representing iwi partners in project)
- Discussion around co-governance and how the partnership has worked so far in the project. Suggestion for a future committee agenda item on co-governance; shared expectations, how the committee will work together as partners, benchmarks and milestones to measure success of the partnership and how the committee Terms of Reference will work in practice
- Noted the partnership has worked well leading up to this point in the project with the Joint Working Party (staff representatives of WRC and the five river iwi) agreeing on the project scope in 2012. This was approved by Council in August 2012.
- Outputs of the project will be:
 - RMA documents – Plan Change and section 32 analysis of alternatives
 - Some non regulatory methods may be implemented outside the RMA e.g. Primary industry agreements to work with farmers
- The following diagram shows how this might look in practice.



- Scope can be summarised as
 - Discharges – point and non point sources
 - Four main contaminants
 - Activities that mitigate adverse effects of the contaminants
- While agreed the scope is about the effects of the four main contaminants, questions around whether this includes fish habitats, culverts, wetlands etc
- It is possible ratepayers may expect a wider scope

- Noted the budget is set on the current scope of four contaminants. If council looks at wider issues than what is identified, there will be significant financial implications for council
 - It is important the scope is communicated clearly to the community
 - Noted the regional plan change is just one tool in giving effect to the vision and strategy (as shown in diagram above)
 - The whole of the Regional Plan will be reviewed following this plan change
 - The current regional plan has rules that cover point source discharges well, however improvement is needed on rules covering non-point source discharges and how these rules are implemented
 - This plan change will look very specifically at how rules on the four contaminants will be implemented
 - Noted riparian and wetlands may be included in the rules as ways to effect the reduction of the four contaminants (wetlands are the kidneys of the catchment) and this may be something the CSG looks at. It could be considered that the scope is already quite wide.
 - By addressing sediment, anything that is attached to sediment will be covered (in some cases this may include pesticides, heavy metals)
 - Noted what is not picked up in this plan change will be looked at in the wider Regional Plan review
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What was agreed to:

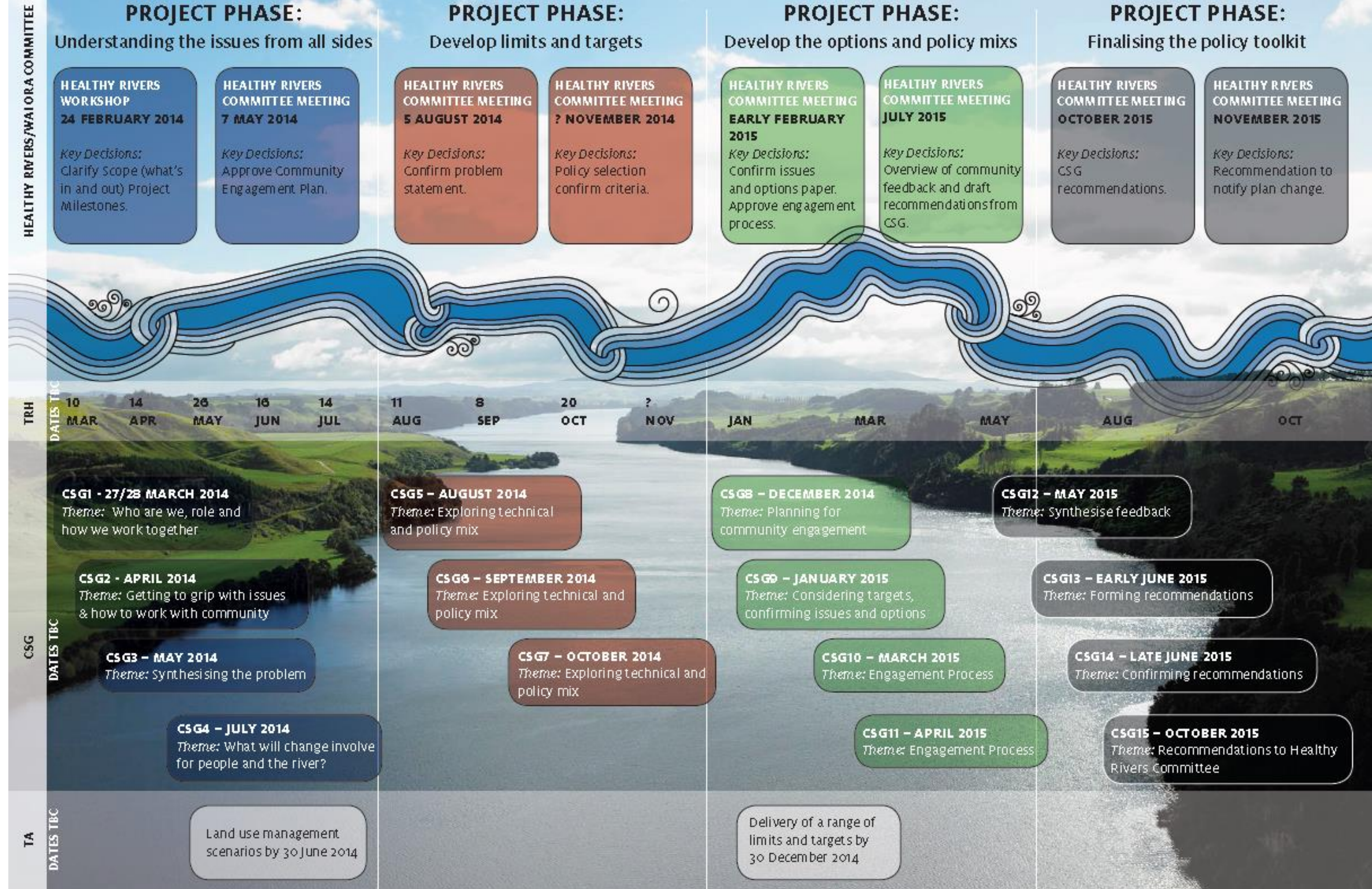
- Main focus is four contaminants, out of the pipe and off the land – including to groundwater (this will include pesticides only as they are attached to soil)
 - Mitigation: will be included and will include riparian and wetland management including peat lakes to the extent they are involved in reducing contaminants and mitigating adverse effects
 - There will be secondary benefits for habitat, ecologies and fisheries
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- Culverts are not in scope for this plan change and will need to be dealt with as part of the wider plan review following this plan change
- Land conversions should be included in the scope
- The CSG will propose timelines for the reduction of the four main contaminants and the committee may wish to provide guidance on this
- Noted we will not see the benefits of this plan change within the lifetime of the plan
- The cost of how fast to address the contaminants is conversation for the CSG to have with the community. Pace and price is still the conversation to be had
- The committee may wish to challenge the CSG on timeframes in terms of giving effect to the Vision and Strategy

4. Project processes – matters for discussion

- Some iwi governors on the committee noted they did not have the mandate to make decisions on behalf of their boards, only to represent their boards
- Noted the terms of reference required committee agenda's to be sent out 2 weeks (10 working days) before a committee and that members could use this time to canvas agenda items, proposed resolutions with their respective boards before making a decision at a meeting
- Iwi governor committee members may wish to invite the CSG to hold meetings in their patches at some point this year (perhaps on marae)

PROJECT TIMELINE at February 2014



APPENDIX TWO: WHAT A SUCCESSFUL PROCESS AND SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES LOOK LIKE

	Dec – 13	Jun – 14	Jun – 15	Jun – 16	Jun – 17	Jun – 18	Jun – 19	Jun – 20	Jun – 21	Jun – 22	Jun - 23
What would a successful process look like?	<p>Allowing sufficient time (2 years from first meeting) for the CSG to work well. Co-governance committee formed. First CSG meeting. First TA meeting. Most meetings attended by most selected people. Collaborative. Sufficient staff to make the process happen. Constructive, harmonious process free of divisions.</p>	<p>Farmers on board enough to be able to implement the changes. All groups in place by 2014. All sectors engaged in CSG. Widely acceptable implementation model. No need for Environmental Court. Core problems re Nitrogen, phosphate and sedimentation under control. All problems identified and understood. Plan in place to address those issues.</p> <p><i>Meetings at all levels on time with full quorum</i></p> <p><i>Iwi are able to feed in Boards thoughts/views in timely fashion</i></p> <p><i>Mauri measurement: Water People Place And along river more citizen science as part of process</i></p>	<p>People still at the table collaboratively. Smooth transitional process. Transparent. Informative.</p> <p>Well understood/ Transparent/ effective</p> <p>Process publicly accepted</p> <p><i>Sector groups understand each other and collaborate better</i></p> <p><i>Different sectors understand the needs of others</i></p> <p><i>Consensus reached on acceptable targets and limits</i></p> <p><i>Accepted by all stakeholders</i></p> <p><i>Better community knowledge</i></p> <p><i>All aspects of Tuwharetoa at the table participating</i></p> <p><i>CSG promote common view for restoring the rivers</i></p> <p><i>CSG highly engaged and identifying other opportunities for engagement</i></p>	<p>Draft Plan Change. Council only need to ask questions</p> <p><i>Obvious buy-in leading to possible non-regulatory outcomes preceding plan change</i></p> <p><i>Is a good balance of the four wellbeings</i></p> <p><i>CSG members hold clear view of actions and timelines to restore the rivers</i></p> <p><i>Benefits of co-management clear and apparent</i></p> <p><i>Is accepted by Waikato River Authority when they review their vision and strategy</i></p> <p><i>Communities at both small and large level are engaged</i></p>	<p><i>Workable solutions for farmers and other discharges</i></p>	<p>Adopted Plan Change. Start on implementing Plan Change.</p> <p><i>Measureable progress in management actions to restore rivers i.e. farming, planting from systems management</i></p> <p><i>Waikato community have a clear plan to achieve vision and strategy including regular plan contribution</i></p> <p><i>Indicators in the Waikato River catchment are improving annually</i></p>		<p>Not in court</p> <p><i>Reduced or targeted court litigation</i></p> <p><i>Measurable improvements in water quality in tributary streams</i></p>			<p>Visible change in the waterways. Clearer water, noticeable riparian planting taking place.</p> <p><i>Overall favourable and supported result (meaning process was open and fair)</i></p> <p><i>Measureable improvements in Waipa and Waikato Mauri stems</i></p>

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What would a successful outcome look like?	<p>Community buy-in/engagement. Better and clearer understanding of why and what the people/whanau envision for the rivers in the future. Forward vision. Non participating governors feel there is rigour in the process and that the process is robust and transparent.</p>	<p>CSG recommendations meet legislative requirements/council responsibilities.</p> <p><i>Ensure CSG understands:</i> 1. Vision and strategy 2. NPS on freshwater 3. PRPS policies on water</p> <p><i>Policy that is:</i> Workable Practical Implementable</p>	<p>Community acceptance of decisions. Agreement. Working together well. Solution based.</p> <p><i>Nov 2015 Ensure notified plan change fulfills:</i> 1. Vision and strategy 2. NPS on freshwater 3. PRPS policies on water</p> <p><i>Outcome</i></p> <p><i>Collaborative</i></p> <p><i>A united Tuwharetoa doing our part to protect our lake & river</i></p> <p><i>Noticeable changes in behaviour attitude in agricultural sector</i></p> <p><i>Policy prepared that will address non point source contamination in a fair and effective way</i></p> <p><i>The policy is supported by the stakeholders causing the problem AND by stakeholders who will resolve the problem</i></p> <p><i>More citizen science as part of process</i></p>	<p>Affordable</p> <p><i>Community water 'literacy' increased</i></p> <p><i>Resource users have clear understanding of what is expected of them</i></p> <p><i>The Regional Plan is not bias about any sector = equity</i></p>	<p>That everyone buys in from the start. To succeed ALL RISKS must be removed.</p> <p><i>Clear rules around land use intensification are in place</i></p> <p><i>Earthworks are managed effectively within catchments</i></p> <p><i>Foundation laid for river(s) improvement</i></p> <p><i>Farmers support and innovation recognised</i></p>	<p>Plan implementing is working!</p> <p><i>The vision and strategy is given clear effect within the HRP to such an extent that amendments to the vision and strategy are not required to address perceived or real short falls in the HRP</i></p> <p><i>Point source discharge conditions are producing better results each year!!</i></p> <p><i>There are clear plans/rules for integrated catchment management</i></p> <p><i>Non-point source discharge is reducing annually</i></p> <p><i>We would not allow serious pesticides to be used on weeds in rivers and we wouldn't allow those weeds to be mulched and deposited as sediment in rivers</i></p>	<p>Lakes be open and not closed due to Algal Blooms</p>	<p>Realistic</p> <p><i>Plans are being implemented towards meeting requirements of NPS Freshwater</i></p>		<p>Farming viable and sustainable. Major improvement in water quality.</p>	<p>Processes in place to halt decline. Health and wellbeing at Te Aroa maintained. Total buy -in.</p> <p><i>Good water to swim in – not coming away sicker than when arrived</i></p> <p><i>Life sustaining water – fauna can flourish</i></p> <p><i>That the rivers are always acknowledged as a whole system (supporting all life) in terms of decision making and that the Mauri is somehow measured</i></p> <p><i>We would never see unsafe levels of pesticide contamination in water or river sediment</i></p> <p><i>Our water would be safe enough to drink and swim in</i></p>