Land & Water Regional Plan for Otago

Community consultation on environmental outcomes and actions

Otago Regional Council

Taieri FMU

November 2022

Meeting outline

- Presentation: background (15 mins)
- Group discussion: possible environmental outcomes (20 mins)
- Group discussion: possible actions (40) minutes

Taieri FMU


Cambrians
Dunstan Mountains
Becks
Oturehua
Matakanui
Naseby
Tapui
Ururua
Ophir
Poolburn
Maniototo
Kyeburn
Waipiata
Kokonga
Central Otago District
Moa Creek
Galloway
Patearoa
Morrisons
Hyde
Waianakarua Scenic Reserve
Dunback
Rock And Pillar Range
Stoneburn
Glenpark
Paerau
Middlemarch
Nenthorn
Sutton
Kilmog
Karitane
Matarae
Shannon
Kiteroa
Warrington
Te Papanui Conservation Park
Hindon
Waitati
Parera
Lee Flat
Salisbury
Port Chalmers
Beaumont
Waipori
Normanby
Riverside
Dunedin
Waipori Falls Scenic Reserve
Bungtown
Momona
Lawrence
Berwick
Brighton
Forsyth
Henley
Waitahuna
Waihola
Puketi
Wharetoa
Clutha District
Awamangu
Milton
0 5 10 20
Kilometres

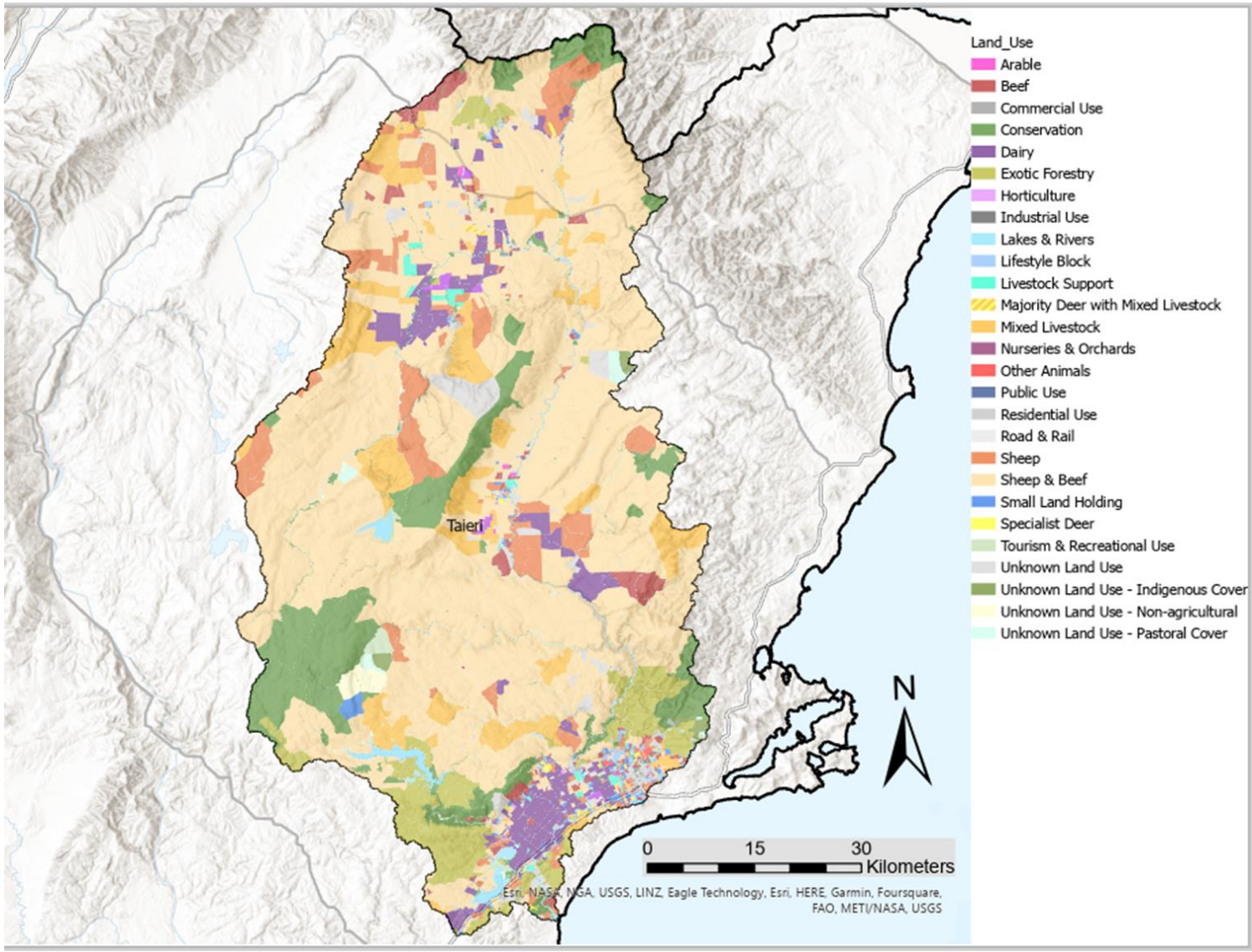
Land use overview

Key land uses

- ▶Dry-stock farming: 71%
- ▶Conservation estate: 10%
- ▶Forestry: 5%
- ▶Dairy: 4%

Key trends (1990-2018):

- ▶Increase in conservation estate (58%), dairy (31%), urban area (15%), nurseries/vineyards/ orchards (8%) & forestry (7%)
- ▶ Decrease in dry-stock farming (8%)



Water quality

- Water quality is generally good – moderate nutrient levels across most of the FMU

- In some lower Taieri tributaries water quality is degraded (high bacteria and nutrient levels)

- Lake Waihola high nutrient and algae levels consistent with nutrient enriched/eutrophic state (episodic algae blooms)

- Trends analyses show many degrading trends across the FMU, particularly in the lower Taieri Outram

Water quantity

- Application of technical guidelines for ecological flow setting to modelled flows:
  - The Taieri catchment has potential for environmental concern
  - Bespoke catchment modelling underway
  - Habitat modelling in coming season (subject to suitable flows)

Mana whenua core values associated with freshwater

- Core values of whakapapa, mauri, tapu and mana descend from time immemorial
- They recognise that every water body has a unique personality and life force
- The life-supporting functions of wai are characterised by natural flow, healthy ecosystems and water quality
- Kāi Tahu are integrally connected to wai and have a duty to protect it for future generations

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

Te Mana o te Wai

- Te Mana o te Wai approach recognises the values of mauri and mana and the connection of mana whenua to the wai
- It recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and well-being of the wider environment and of people
- It seeks to protect the mauri of the wai

What does this mean?

We must respect the mauri of each water body

- Mauri is distinctive for each water body - each has its own personality, energy and life-supporting characteristics
- Flow regimes would reflect natural form and function, letting the river be itself
- Changes in water quality along the river would only be due to natural causes e.g. the river would not be used to dilute contaminants
- Provide for healthy resilience rather than managing to bottom lines
- Cross-mixing of the mauri of different waterbodies is not appropriate

What does this mean?

Integrated catchment management/ ki uta ki ta

- Sustain and restore connections throughout catchment
- Recognise connections between surface water and groundwater
- Sustain and restore habitats of mahika kai and indigenous species
- Recognise and manage relationships between land use, water use, and water quality
- Have regard to cumulative effects and climate change risks

Examples of a Te Mana o te Wai approach

Activity	Approach
Water takes	✓ Abstraction should be proportionate to natural flow ✓ Sustainable abstraction from main stems or groundwater rather than small tributaries ✓ Maintain surface water/groundwater connections ✓ Ensure flow continuity from source to confluence or mouth
Structures	✓ Should be located away from sensitive areas e.g. mahika kai, wetlands, areas of dynamic river processes ✓ Design should minimise flow interruption and allow fish to migrate naturally ✓ Design for changing environment (especially due to climate change)
Discharges	✓ Deal with wastes on land
Also	✓ Consider habitat needs holistically ✓ Riparian buffers established and maintained

Mana whenua values for the Taiari catchment

- The Taiari has significant wāhi tūpuna and mahika kai values
- Traditions tell of Matamata, the kaitiaki taniwhā who gave protection and guidance to our tūpuna and whose movements are responsible for the winding shape of the awa
- Significant mahika kai resource based on network of wetlands, although this has been diminished and degraded
- Waihora/Waipōuri wetland complex is of utmost importance, as well as the Taiari scroll plain
- Important habitat for taoka species – unimpeded migration for most of its length

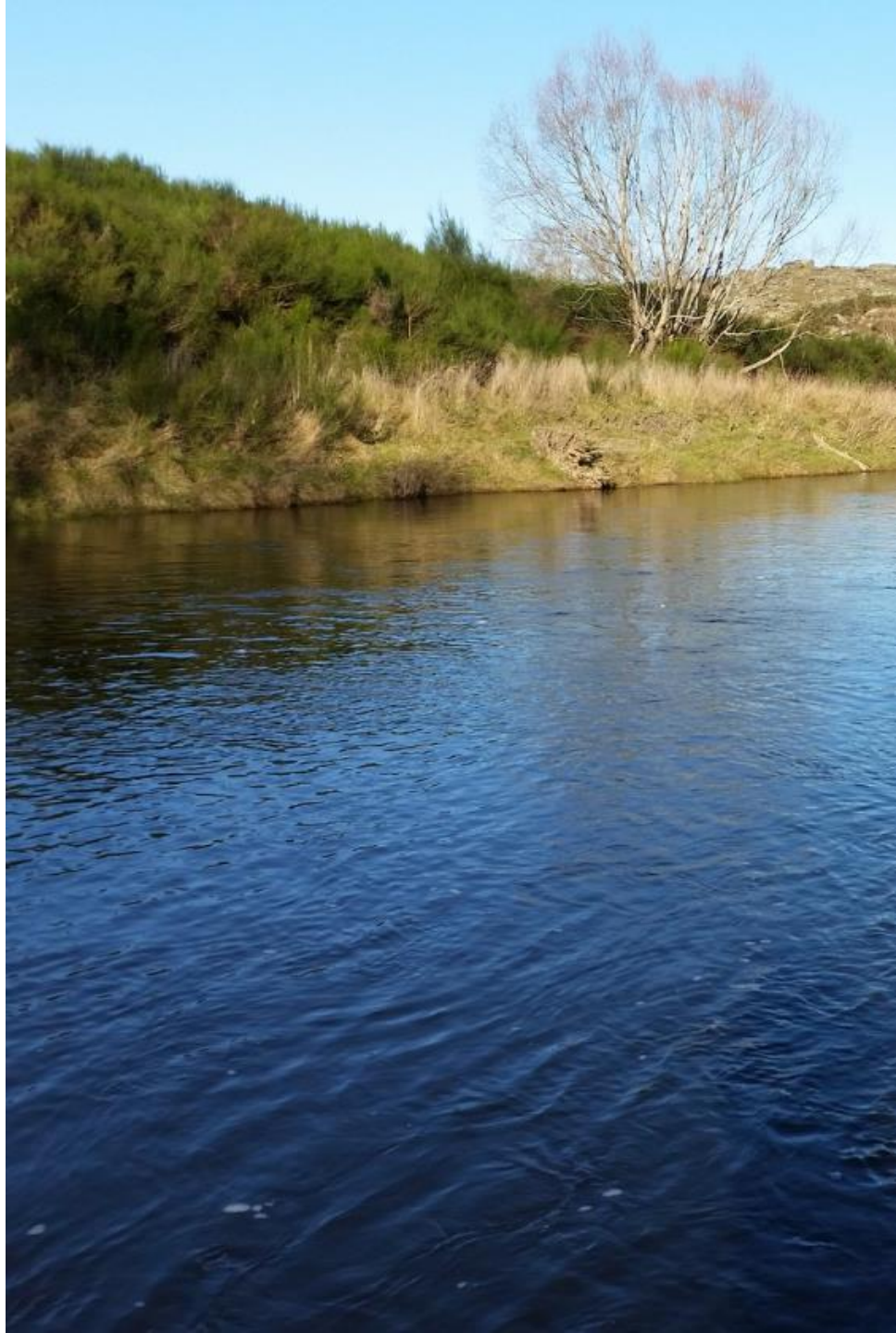
What do mana whenua want to see?

Outcome	Concerns about current state
Restore wetlands to a healthy and resilient state • Priorities are Waihola/ Waipōuri, Tunaheketaka (Taiari Lake), Taiari Scroll Plain • Long term aspiration to have other remnants restored, including Tatawai, Marama te Taha (Lake Ascog)	Drainage Contamination by wastewater discharges, nutrients and sediment Encroachment of intensive land use Reduced flows Flood protection practices work against the environment rather than with it
Improve fish passage in the Waipōuri catchment	Effects of hydro-electricity generation activities
Aspiration to be able to use the waterways as highways again	Degradation of water quality Reduced flows Poor access to water and water edge
Increased populations of indigenous species • Improved fish passage • Healthy habitats	Sedimentation Reduced flows Loss of riparian vegetation


Mahinga Kai
Ability to fish at preferred sites, ki uta ki tai (catchment scale)
Food for whānau
Manaakitanga - Food for manuhiri
Whakapapa & identity
Ability to trade between whānau
Taonga species
Ability to use preferred harvest & storage methods
Safe & desirable to harvest
Available in sufficient numbers
Fish condition
Ability to support intergenerational knowledge transfer activities
Safe to eat
Access
Ecological integrity of habitat

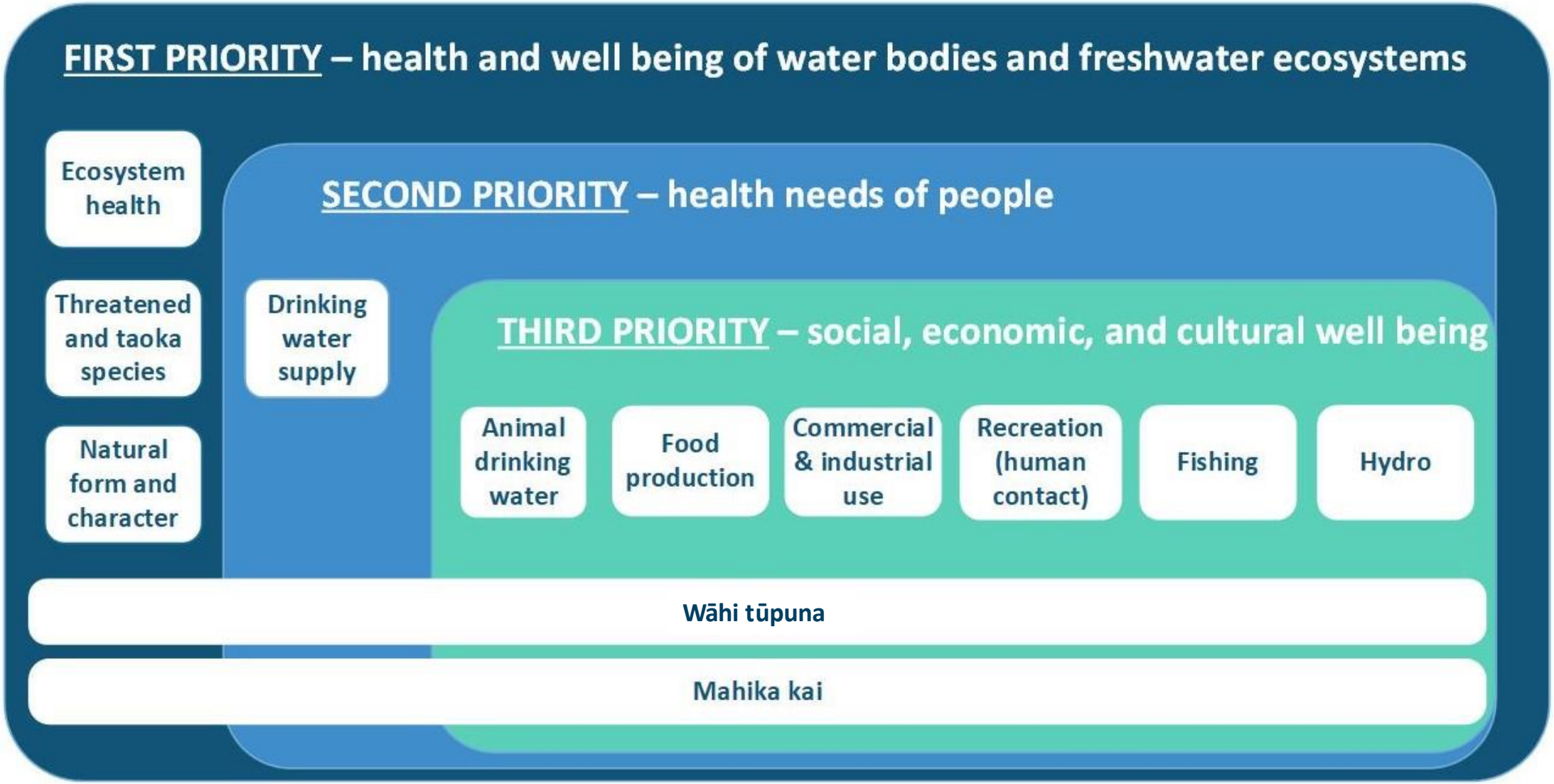
Land & Water Regional Plan

- Notified by December 2023
- Key concepts
  - Te Mana o te Wai (health of the water)
  - Integrated management
  - Holistic (ki uta ki tai/ Mountains to sea)
  - Future proof (climate change)



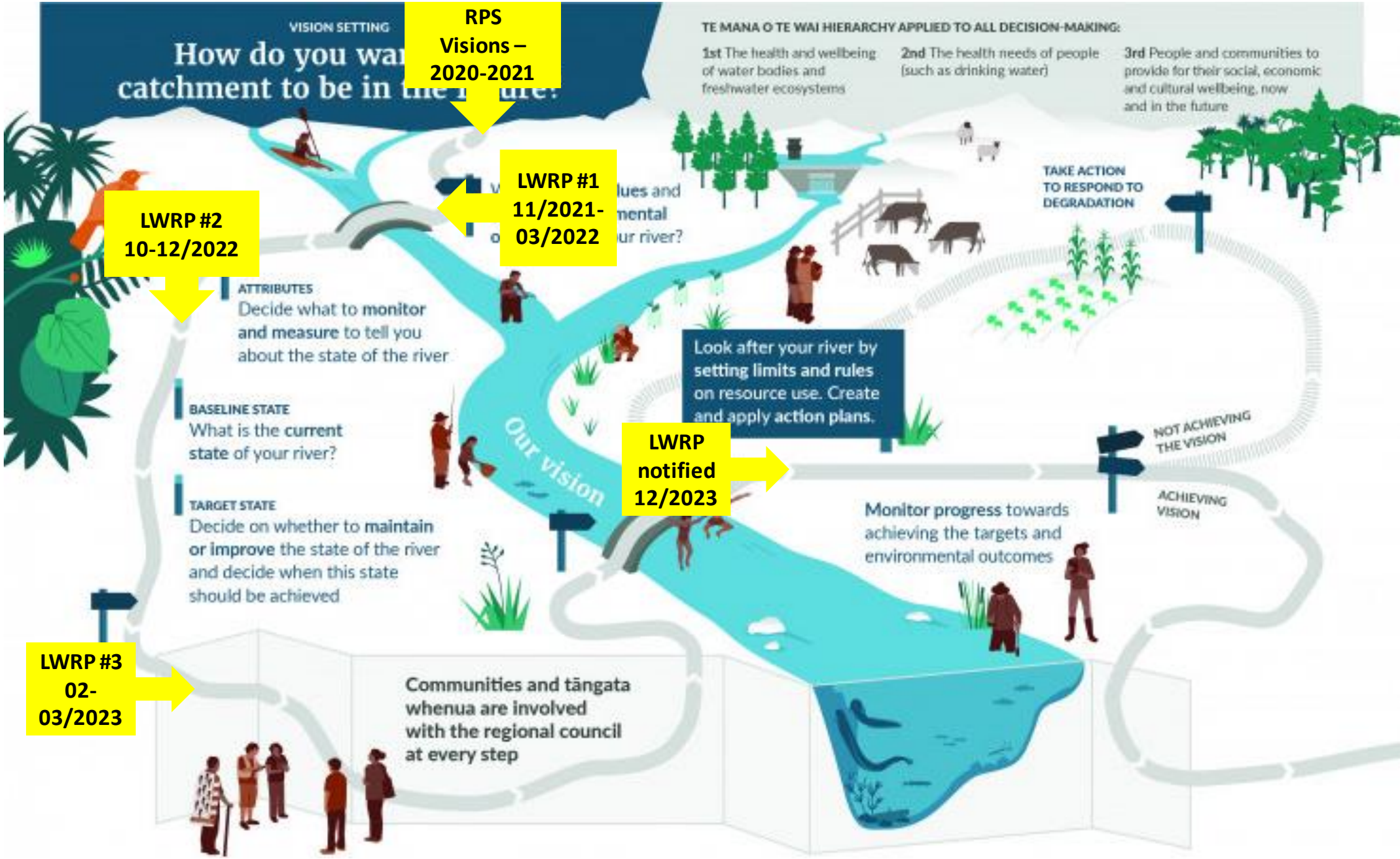
Otago Regional Council

Values for the Taieri FMU

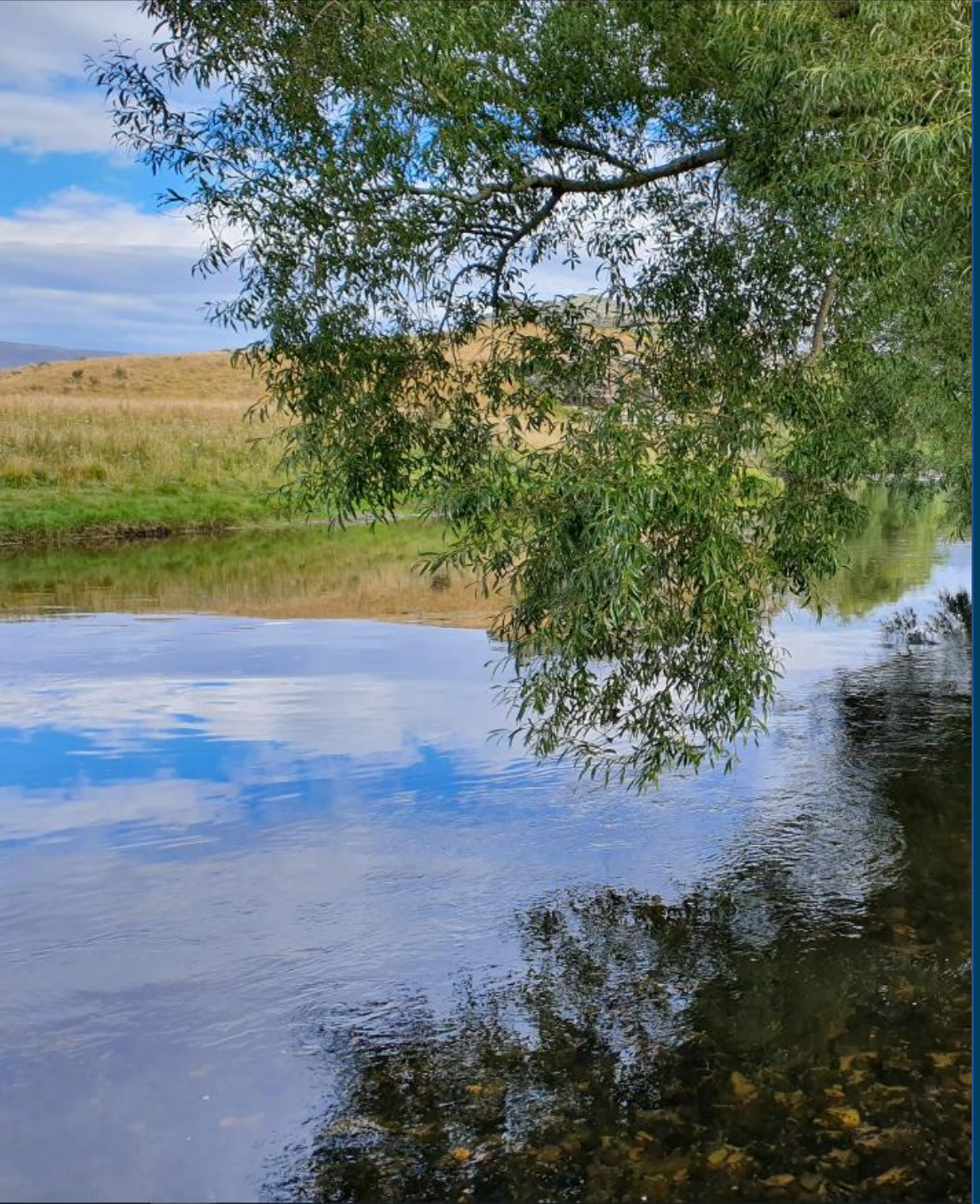


Otago Regional Council

The process we're following



Otago Regional Council



Environmental Outcomes

Environmental Outcomes

- Must be set in the Plan for all values identified
- Describe what a value should look like
- Guides decision-making on:
  - Limits, rules and policies in the Plan
  - Resource consent applications
- ORC must set target states for attributes (indicators)

Otago Regional Council

Environmental outcomes - group discussion

- Do you agree or disagree with them?
- Why?
- What other environmental outcomes (for other values) we should include?

Otago Regional Council

Types of actions

Actions

- Things we can do to achieve environmental outcomes
- Can be developed into rules and controls in the plan or initiatives like education campaigns
- Everyone has to play their part. Actions for everyone

E.g.:

Otago Regional Council

Actions - group discussion

- Are the possible actions we've identified practicable in your area?
- What other actions should we consider?
- What issues or unintended consequences do you see in any of these actions?

Otago Regional Council

Closing

- Thanks for all your input today!
- Give us more feedback online: www.orc.govt.nz/plans-policies-reports/land-and-water-regional-plan
- We'll be back in early 2023 to update you on this work