

# Clarifying Residual Flows for Surface Water Takes

**August 2017**

# Clarifying Residual Flows

## **Purpose of consultation is to clarify:**

- The difference between residual and minimum flows
- Purpose of the plan change
- Who may be affected
- Overview of what we heard last time
- The plan change process
- Today's consultation session

# Minimum Flows

- Set on main stems of rivers and apply to permits in the whole catchment
- When a minimum flow is reached in the main stem, restrictions will apply to taking water
- Set by a plan change process
- The plan change process includes in depth analysis, community consultations; and consideration of all values

# Residual Flows

- Usually apply on tributaries
- They are applied as a condition to a permit to take surface water
- Specify the amount of water to be left in the river immediately downstream of a water take
- Values that are considered in determining the residual flow are natural character and aquatic ecosystem

# What will this plan change do?

- The aim is to provide better clarity and certainty within the Plan provisions
- Through this plan change process we want to investigate whether to:
  - Provide a method to calculate a residual flow
  - Identify a broader list of values for consideration in assessment
  - Enable flexibility for measurement of a residual flow

## You may be affected if you:

- Currently have a water permit or deemed permit and are looking to replace it
- Are thinking of applying for a new water permit
- Have an existing water permit that you're wishing to review as part of a group consent application

# What we've identified in the Plan

## Issue 1

- *Current definition of residual flow is narrow:*
  - *addresses only natural character and aquatic ecosystems– should other values be included?*
  - *Other parts of the plan refer to leaving water for other users*

**There is currently no explicit relationship between these two matters**

# What we've identified in the Plan

## Issue 2

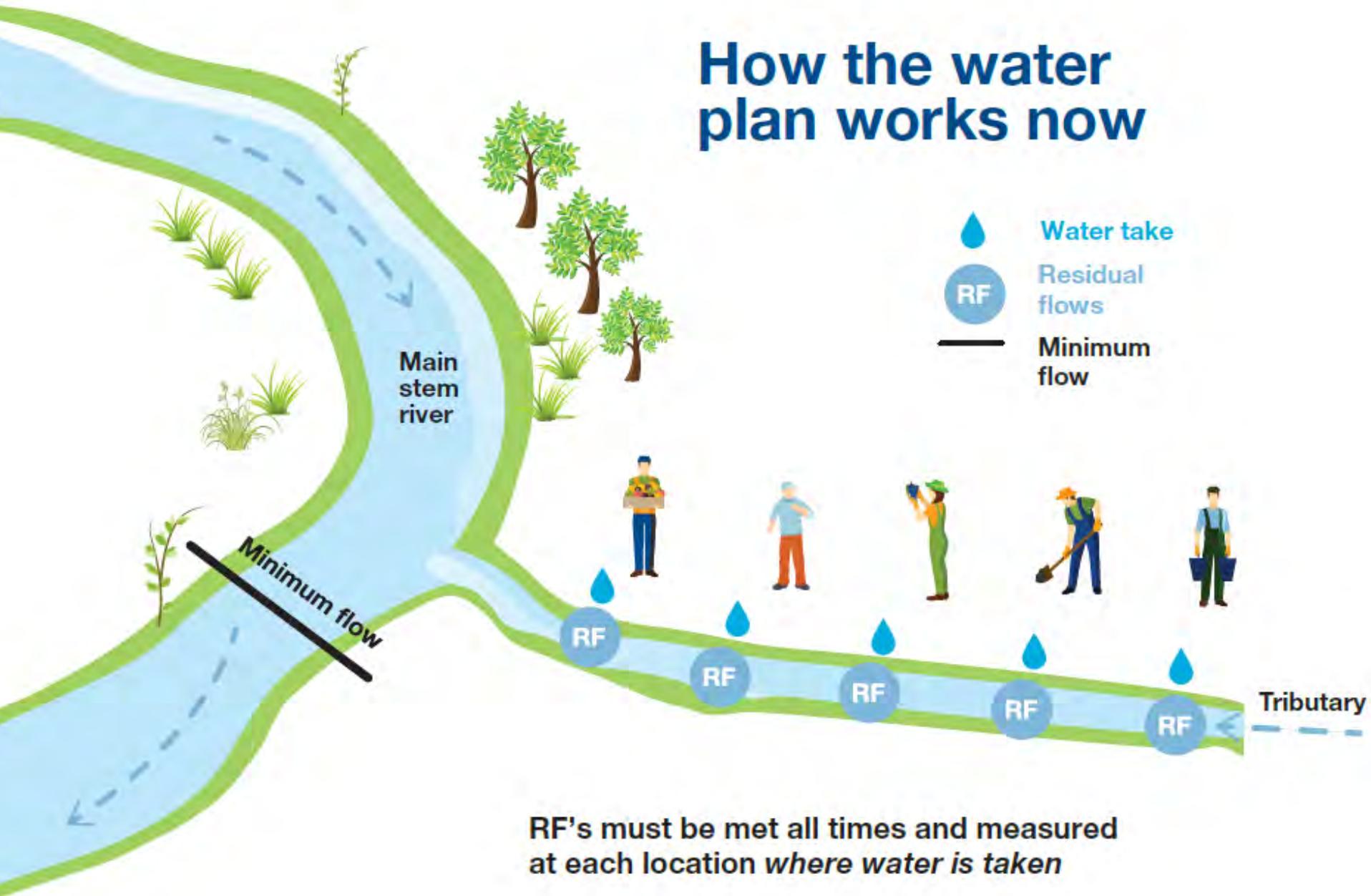
- *Residual flow must be **AT** the point of take*

**Current plan is not flexible enough for group situations where there are multiple points of take**

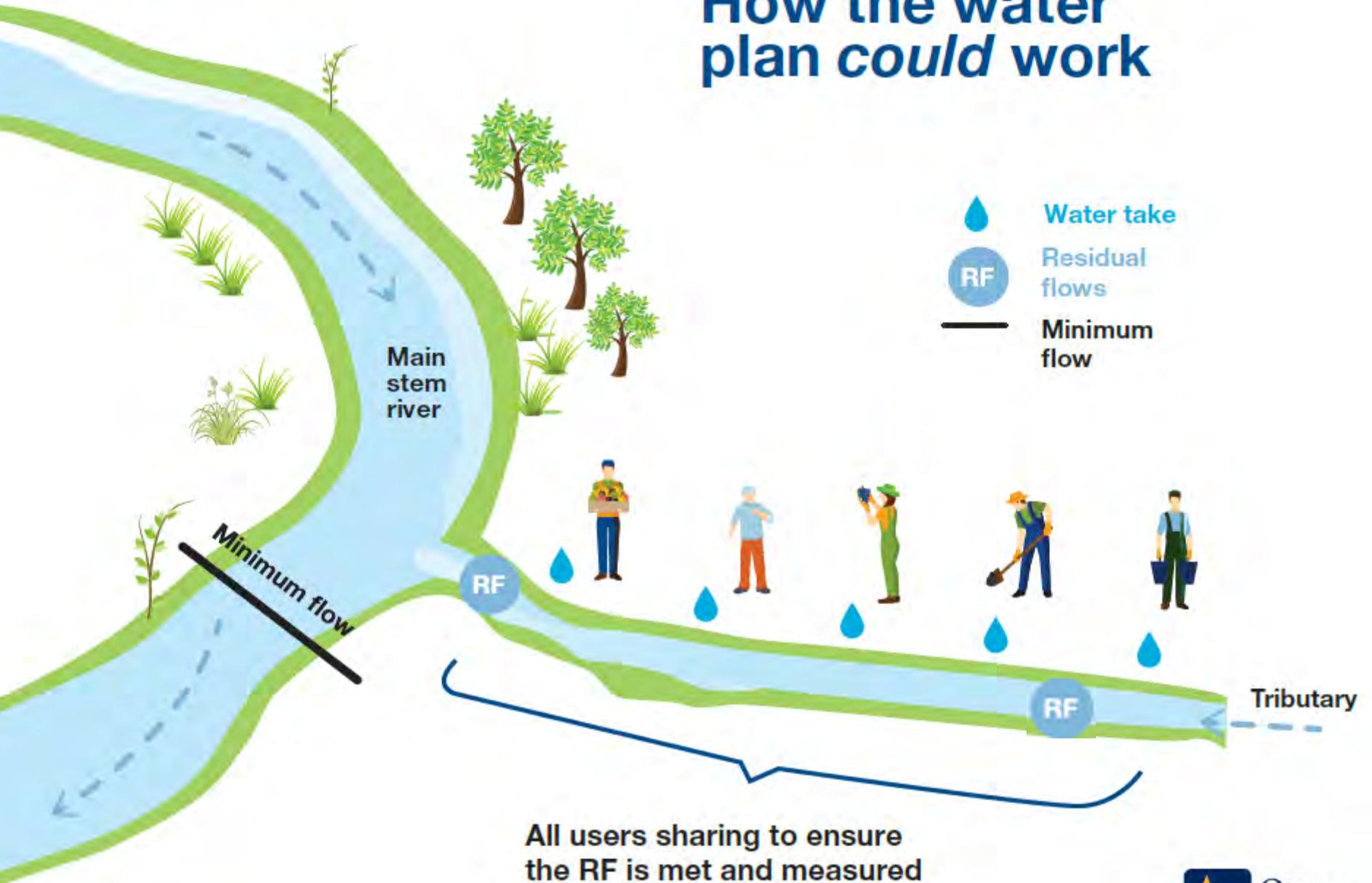
**Place where water is taken may not be suitable for measuring a residual flow**

**Strategically sited collective residual flow sites may be more appropriate**

# How the water plan works now



# How the water plan *could* work



# What we've identified in the Plan

## Issue 3

- *There are different views on how residual flows are calculated*

**A method for calculating residual flows may help to clarify this**

**Clarity will help reduce disagreements**

# Desired outcomes

- flexibility for water users
- allowance for downstream users
- fewer residual flow sites
- clear method to calculate residual flows
- water management groups are supported

# Clarifying what we heard last time

- The plan change isn't needed as the current provisions are working fine
- It should be done at a later date and as part of a more comprehensive plan change
- This will make it harder to replace my permit.
- I've already got a residual flow and you'll review it, this will make it worse for me

# Next steps

The plan change process:

- This round of consultation – August 2017
- Develop options – including economic, social analysis
- Identify a preferred option
- Prepare and notify the plan change
- Formal submissions sought
- Hearing
- Commissioner deliberations
- Plan change decision
- Resolve any appeals

# ■ Today's consultation session

- Small group discussion
  - ORC staff member at each table
  - Five questions to run through – 40 mins
  - Record all points raised
  - Feedback session to the broader group
- Opportunity to fill in feedback form, including on-line form
- Talk to staff afterwards about specific questions
- Email or phone in any queries
- This consultation closes Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017

**Thank you**



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