Manuherekia Values

Manuherekia Reference Group

19 November 2019

Responses

- 13 by email
- 15 on feedback forms from brochure
- 54 on YourSay (Online consultation)
- 120 (approximately) at consultations
- Year 7 and 8 students at St Gerards School (30ish)
- People at the Blossom Festival

Environmental Values

- Ecosystem Health
  - Flow
  - Water Quality

- (Indigenous) Biodiversity and threatened species
  - Freshwater fish and invertebrates
  - Birds and Lizards
  - Dryland ecosystems and plants

Environmental Values

- Natural form and character
  - Aesthetic qualities
  - Naturalness, peacefulness and cleanliness
  - Braided stem in the upper catchment
  - Distinctive surrounding landscapes

- Remaining wetlands

Future states
Environmental

- Environmental health is important
  - Retain/enhance wetlands & natural beauty/character
  - Retain/enhance diversity in land uses (controls, limits)
  - Improved riparian planting
- Many people want environmental improvements.
- Others consider that environmental improvement is desirable, but secondary to ongoing irrigation
- Climate change adaptation (diversification & storage)

Social & Recreational Values

- Safe drinking water (directly from river/streams)
- Community wellbeing
- Human contact (Swimming, playing, kayaking)
- Other recreational Values (non contact)
  - Walking, camping, cycling, horse riding etc
  - Boating, rowing
  - Fishing (main stem, tributaries, dams)

Future states
Social & Recreational Values

- Water quality and flows: allow for safe human contact
- Drinking water: improved quality & plan for growth
- Urban discharges: plan for growth (infrastructure)
- Community wellbeing: avoid additional stresses
- Recreation: provide for diverse recreational uses
- Equity of allocation: diverse uses; urban vs rural
- Education: benefits of irrigation/dam for community and environment
- Monitoring/reporting: transparency and easy access

Economic Values

- A reliable and secure supply of water supports:
  - Employment and prosperity in the district
  - Irrigation and food production
  - Stockwater
  - Tourism

Future states
Economic

- Irrigation
  - Certainty and reliability of supply
  - Improved efficiency: driver for ongoing irrigation
  - Diversification: driver for local resilience (food, ecology & economy)
- Enable employment and prosperity
- Provide for tourism opportunities
  - Natural character, access and opportunities for recreation conducive to tourism.

Cultural Values (Kai Tahu & heritage)

- Kai Tahu values
  - Mahika Kai
  - Place names
  - Ara tawhito (trails)
  - Historic quarries
- Heritage (Historic bridges and water races)

Future states
Cultural Values

- Stewardship and Kaitiakitanga
- Mahika Kai
- Access : local communities and Takata Whenua value access to the river, its tributaries and wetlands :
  - for a range of cultural and recreational purposes including fishing
  - to prevent further loss of Mātauranga (customary knowledge).

Management Approaches

- Integrated management
- Local management
- Storage
- Improved land use, riparian and discharge management
- Biodiversity

Key Themes

- Water is highly valued to support multiple values and demand is increasing.
- Water is a limited resource and bottom-lines need to be clearly defined.
- Criteria are required to assess how water is shared across different users and values.

Potential Scenarios

- Status Quo
  - “stay as good as it is now”
  - Current management of irrigation and water use to continue
- Enhanced environmental outcomes
  - Setting higher minimum flows
- Integrated catchment management options
  - Scenarios that attempt to find balance between environmental, social economic and cultural values

Questions for discussion

1. How can we protect the quality and integrity of the rohe environment while also providing for public and private use and enjoyment of water resources?

2. What environmental bottom lines (i.e. for takes, in-stream flows and discharges) are necessary to retain the Mauri (Te Mana o te Wai) and ecosystem health of the river, its tributaries and environs?

3. Above these environmental bottom lines, what trade-offs reflect community aspirations and preferences?

4. What scenarios emerge from the values, future outcomes and implications identified in this report?