

Otago Regional Council and Ngai Tahu

Manuherekia Reference Group Terms of Reference

Purpose

For the Manuherekia catchment provide a forum for

1. Discussion on values, aspirations and desirable outcomes and assist with development of values and objectives for the catchment [to inform the plan change development] in accordance with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2017 (and any amendments to that document).
2. Identifying and assisting with providing for the role of Te Mana o te Wai within the plan development process under the Resource Management Act.
3. Sharing understanding of the catchment from environmental, social, economic and cultural perspectives, past, present and future(s) state *including establishing to extent possible a perspective on what the catchment condition would have been like prior to human settlement i.e., natural state thereby enabling a shared conversation and understanding to be gained on the progressive changes to catchment state throughout human settlement.*
4. Identifying the full range of possible solutions for improving the environmental and economic state including, if necessary, forming a view on the rate and scale of investment required to progress positive change.
5. Debate on the benefits and costs of a range of regulatory scenarios for both the catchment as a whole and sub-zones within the catchment.
6. Identifying common ground and points of agreement and points of disagreement, with reasoning, in relation to possible regulatory framework(s).
7. Developing an intergenerational vision for managing water in the catchment.
8. Developing a “Vision Manuherekia” document that will form the basis of consultation on options for freshwater management within the catchment.

In addition, the following are also relevant to the performance of the MRG:

- To act as a forum to debate timing of the overall process and alternative approaches if needs be.
- To recognise that the conversation is not “starting from scratch” – considerable work was undertaken by ORC on identifying the values of the catchment and by Manuherekia River Ltd on scenarios for either maintaining or building a “new” Falls Dam – where

relevant this should form part of the information base

- It should also be noted that the parties will have the ability to represent their own views in any statutory processes arising post notification of a plan change.
- Members to declare conflicts of interest and these to be managed wherever possible.
- Members are to engage with each other in an independent and impartial manner such that each is able to form in his or her best **the best** independent professional opinion and differences between the experts are clearly defined.
- ORC staff will act as secretariat

Relationships

The Manuherekia Reference Group may receive advice from

- Ngai Tahu (Aukaha) and CODC on cultural and stewardship issues;
- from the Technical Advisory Group on hydrology, in-stream ecology, water quality, farm systems, climate change and future land use;
- specific experts to be identified by ORC and Irrigators on irrigated farm/horticultural systems, land use options and financials, catchment socio-economics; and
- ORC staff on regulatory and plan change making issues and options.

Composition

The MRG will be hosted by ORC and Ngai Tahu. The MRG will comprise:

- Independent chair
- 2 ORC
- 2 Ngai Tahu
- 1 CODC
- Irrigators (nos. to be confirmed – i.e., either 1 per coop, or balanced with industry i.e., Feds/B&L)
- Fish & Game
- Forest & Bird
- DOC
- Central Otago Environment Society

Term & Meetings

Term - July 2019 – November 2020

Meetings will be held monthly through to March 2020 with at least 2 meetings being held at Otakou Marae (the first of which will be the August 2019 meeting). All other meetings will be in Alexandra.