Water allocation
Te Awarua-o-Porirua whaitua

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Water allocation topics

- Connection with values and objectives
- Setting limits
- Permitted activities

Decisions needed

- Managing within limits

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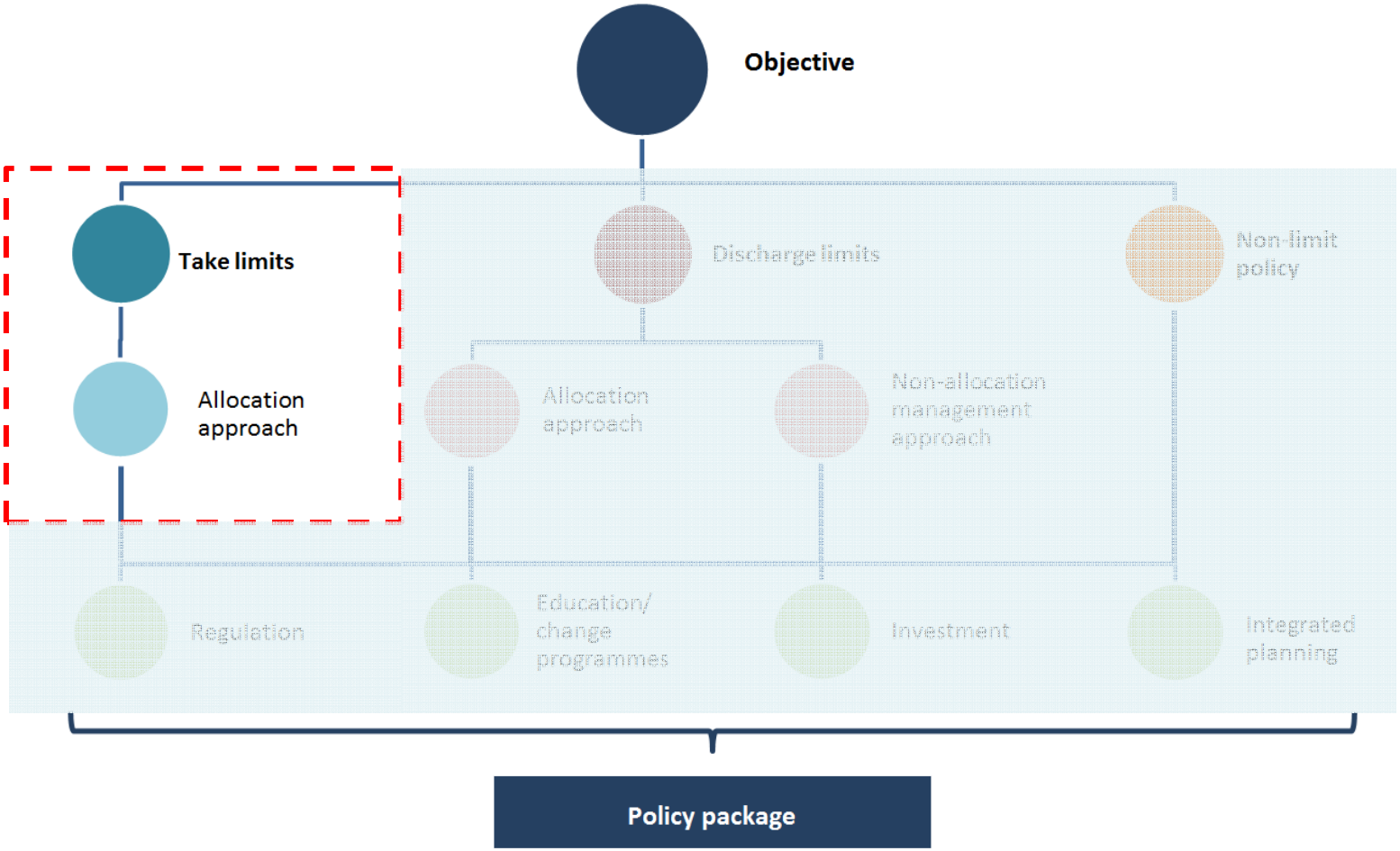

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High level objectives and values

Eg.

- Mahinga kai
- Diverse and healthy ecosystems
- Sustainable land management

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Setting limits

We set at least 2 types of limits:

- Minimum flow limits
- Allocation limits

…in order to provide

- Habitat protection; and…
- Reliable water supply

…that contribute to achieving your objectives

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The “default” limits are…

- Minimum flow limits = 90% MALF
- Allocation limits = 30% MALF

These came from national defaults (“Proposed NES”) put into the existing proposed GW plan.

But we’ve now modelled their effect for Porirua streams – for both habitat & supply reliability

[MALF = mean annual low flow = common “low” flow statistic]

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What do default limits achieve? –for **habitat protection**?

- 14 native freshwater fish species present in the Whaitua
- Analysed 8 species broadly & 2 indicator species in detail
- 98% of low flow habitat for tuna (long-fin eels)
- 89% of low flow habitat for trout
- Other native fish between these (>90%)

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What do default limits achieve? –for **reliability of supply**?

- 10-14% of the time consented water takes must reduce to take less than full amount (i.e. “partial restrictions)
- 6-9% of time water takes must cease
- This reliability of supply is comparable or better than elsewhere in region

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Habitat prot. **Vs** Supply for use

- Recognise there is a trade-off between these.
- Need value judgement decision on the balance.
- Higher minimum flows & smaller allocation limits give more habitat, but less use.
- Do the default limits (90/30) strike a fairly protective balance?

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How do the limits work?

… lets work through an example…

Ask Questions!!!

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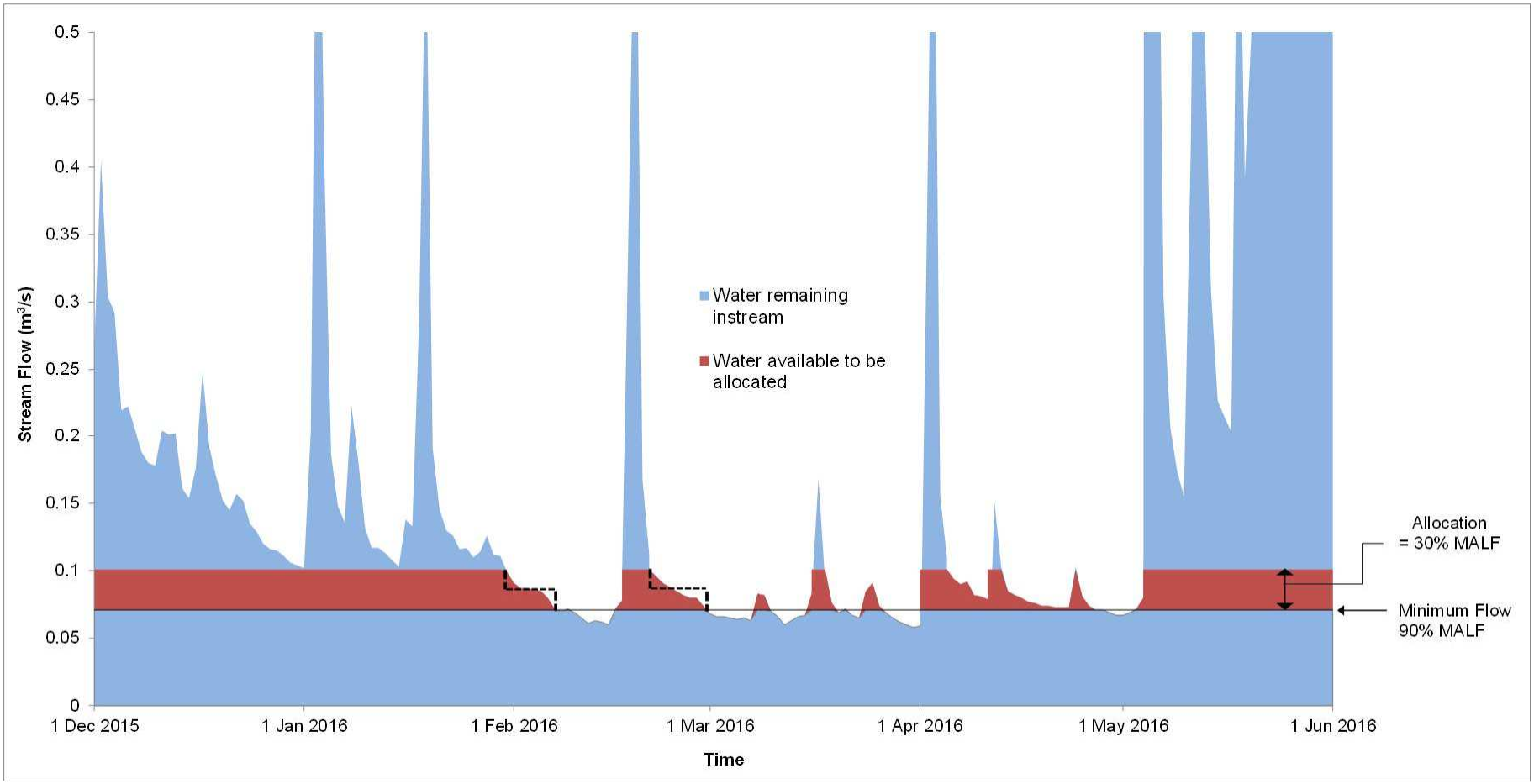
e.g., Pauatahunui Stream



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Managing within limits

- Establish numerical limits in all catchments
- Establish how much water is taken (consents and permitted)
- Ensure water takes cease at minimum flows

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Recap

- Default minimum flows (90% MALF)
- Default allocation limits (30% MALF)
- Good habitat prot. (98% tuna; 89% trout; other >90%)
- Modest reliability of supply for use

- Decision on 90/30 balance OK, or other?

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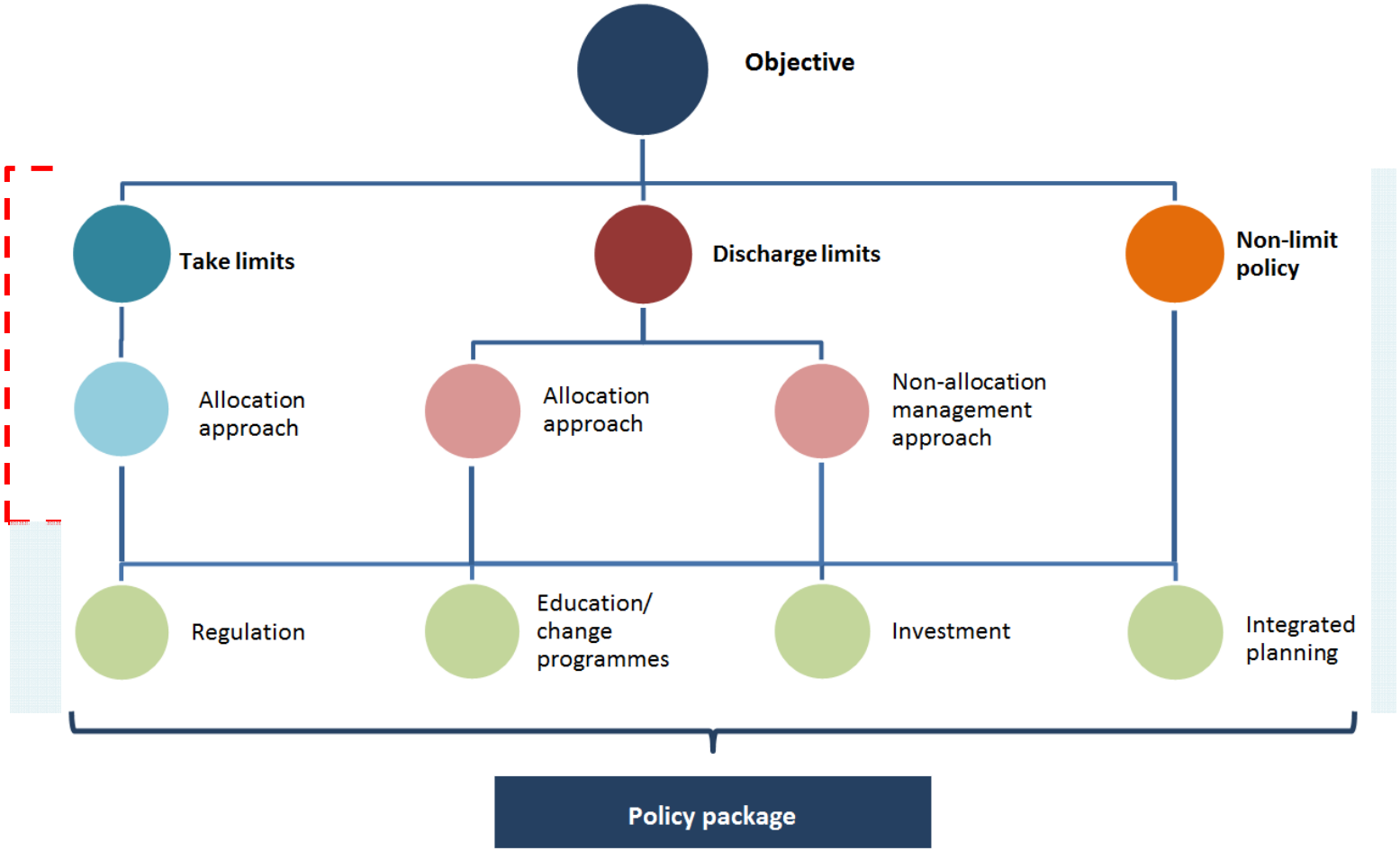

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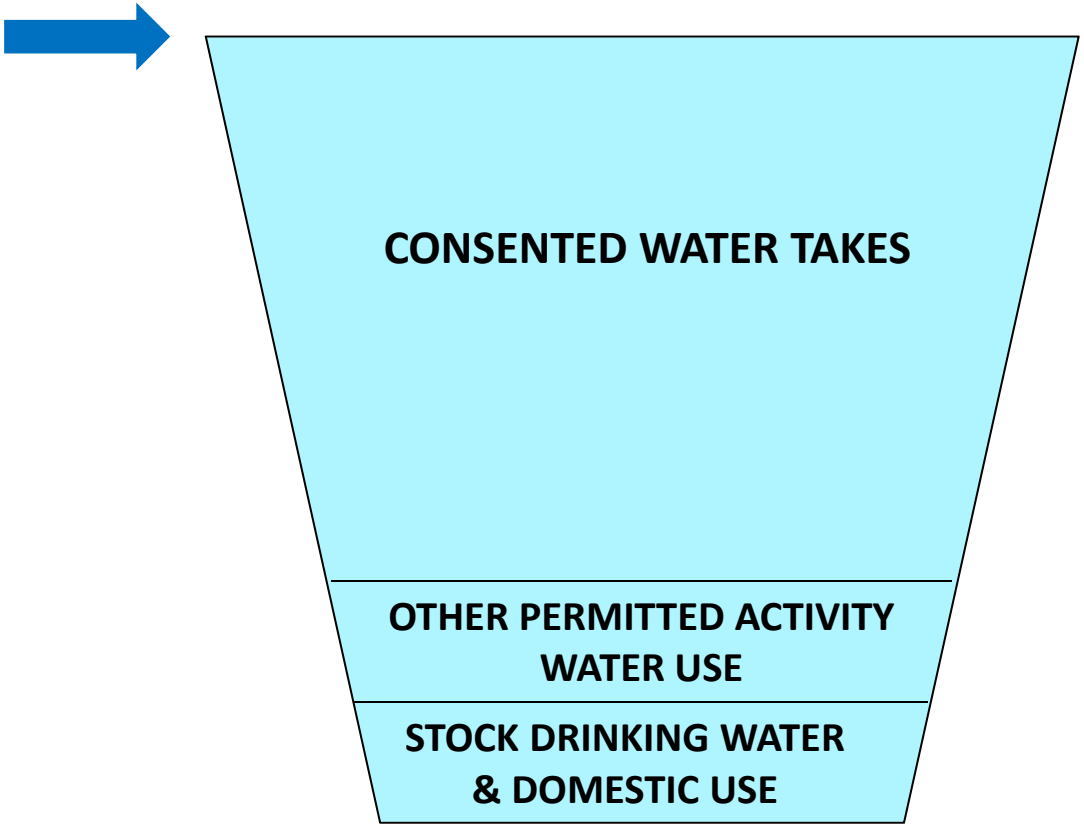
THE WATER ALLOCATION BUCKET

ALLOCATION LIMIT



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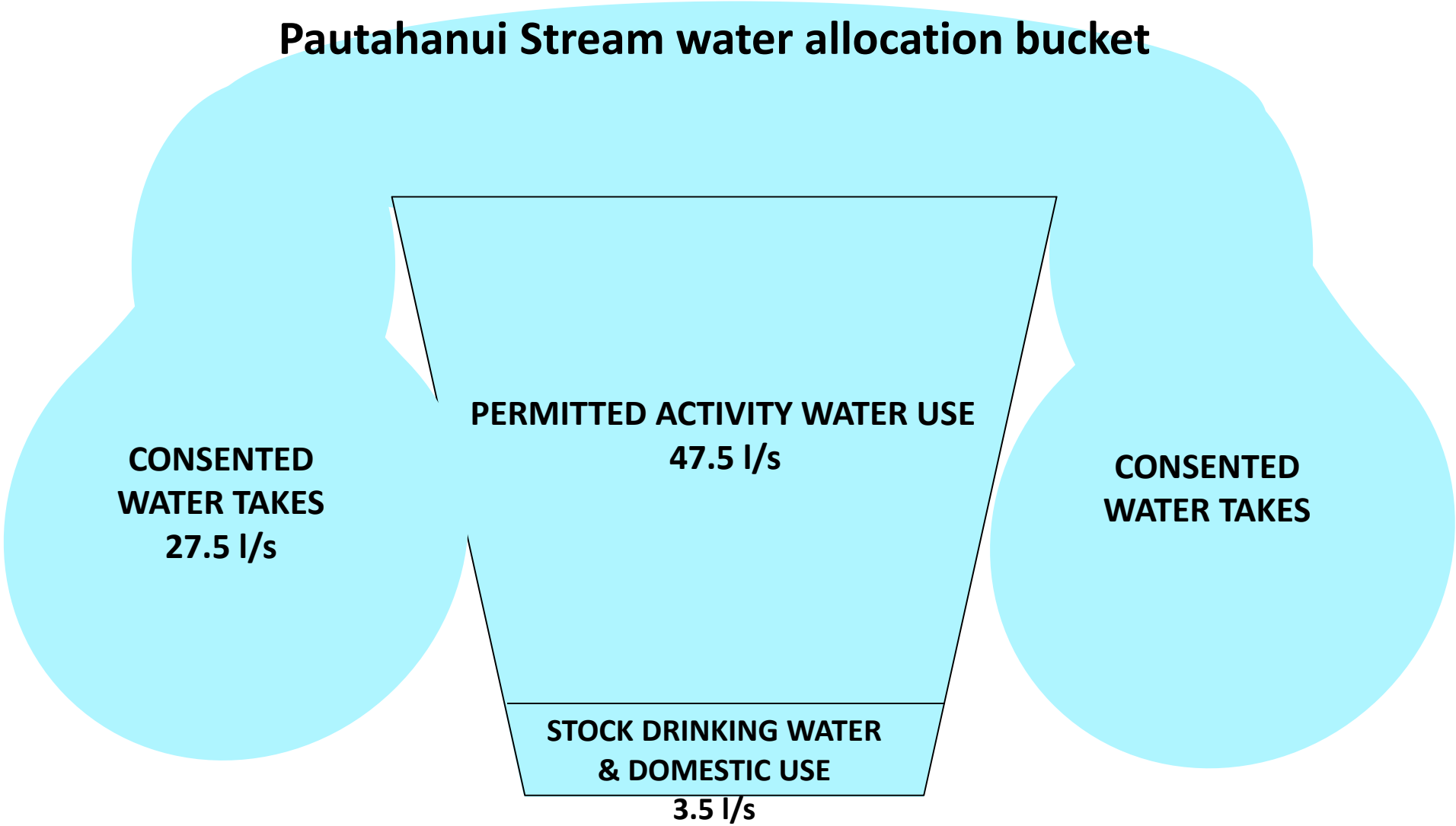
Pautahanui Stream water allocation bucket



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Permitted activity options

- Simple
- Comparable to other councils and elsewhere in region
- Reduce the permitted activity block to 5 m^3 per day
- Cutoff at minimum flow

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