

## **Draft Committee preferences for minimum flows and allocation for major Ruamāhanga Whaitua Rivers**

### **Updated for 14 August 2017 Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee Workshop**

Table 1 summarises minimum flow and allocation preferences the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee identified at recent workshops. The pages that follow Table 1 give a more detailed breakdown of key issues and drivers and policy preferences for each river system.

#### **Table 1**

Total allocation amounts and minimum flows have been determined and entered in Table 1. A designation of “N/A” in the table means not applicable. Bracketed numbers “[ ]” in the table give the equivalent amount in the PNRP.

The timing of any transition to revised minimum flows or allocation amounts has yet to be decided. It may be appropriate to link transition times with consent duration and have a transition pathway embedded in consents. This would assist in providing investment certainty to the water user.

A further issue is the implementation of changes in allocation policy in resource consents. A way forward would be to align all consents with plan policy by consent renewals or reviews within 5 years of any plan change notification. Most water take consents in the whaitua will expire within 5 years. Renewals can then have appropriate conditions placed on them. Those that are outside this timeframe could be changed by consent review.

**Table 1: Draft summary table for flows and allocation in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua<sup>1</sup>**

River	Objective (habitat protection)	Allocation 1 (L/sec)	Min flow 1 (L/sec)	Allocation 2 (L/sec)	Min flow 2 (L/sec)	Allocation 3	Min flow 3 (L/sec)	
Kopuaranga	90%	150 [180]	280 [270]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Waipoua	90%	130 [145]	340 <sup>2</sup> [250]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Waingawa	90%	1,200 [920]	1,900	1,100?	1,700 [1,700]	Community water supply Water race	1,100 [1,100]	
Upper Ruamahanga	90%	1925 [2440]	3250 <sup>3</sup> [2,400]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Manga tarere	Upper	90%	473	330	Community Water supply Water race Irrigation cease	240 [240]	N/A	N/A
	Lower			240		200 [200]		
Waiohine	90%	1005 [1,590]	3,040 [3040]	Community water supply Water race Irrigation cease	2,300 [2300]	N/A	N/A	
Lower Ruamahanga	90%	2445 [1240]	9,200		8,500 [8500]	N/A	N/A	
Total allocation Ruamahanga	8045 [7535]							
Tauherenikau	90%	235 [410]	1300 [1300]	Water race	1,100 [1100]	N/A	N/A	

<sup>1</sup> Addresses rivers above Lake Wairarapa outflow to the Ruamahanga River, other than Papawai, Parkvale and Otukura which will be addressed separately. Rivers below the Lake Wairarapa outflow will rely on minimum flow and allocation defaults in the Proposed Natural Resource Plan.

<sup>2</sup> The Waipoua has a stepdown minimum flow of 300 L/sec in the PNRP which is overtaken by the change in minimum flow

<sup>3</sup> The Upper Ruamahanga has a stepdown minimum flow of 2,700 L/sec in the PNRP which is overtaken by the change in minimum flow

# Kopuaranga River

## Management area

- The Kopuaranga River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River
- The minimum flow is monitored at Palmers

## Key issues and drivers

- All use of water in the catchment is for irrigation

## Draft policy preferences

- Policy approaches as per other rivers can be adopted
- Minimum flows and allocation as per Table 1

# Waipoua River

## Management area

- The Waipoua River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River
- The minimum flow is monitored at Mikimiki Bridge

## Key issues and drivers

- More information needed (E.g. PNRP method 10, geomorphology)
- Land use change (lifestyle blocks)
- Poor water quality - drinking water, swimming, high water temp, periphyton, stormwater
- Mahinga kai, harvesting materials, mana whenua values (E.g. Waka kaikokirimarae), baptism
- Multiple river/flood management objectives
- Recreation (E.g. more pools)
- Greater community understanding and ownership

## Draft policy preferences

- Increase minimum flow to 90% habitat area over time as per Table 1
- Allocation limit to stay the same as per table 1
- Model river for urban and rural management
- Riparian plantings (to increase shading)
- Wetland restoration
- Restore water quality to a level to enable the restoration of Tanks Pool

# Waingawa River

## Management area

- The Waingawa River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River
- The minimum flow is monitored at Kaituna

## Key issues and drivers

- Extent of river braiding
- Extent of losses to groundwater
- The extent of water take below minimum flow (public water supply, water races, category A groundwater)
- Allocation could be a lot more efficient – reduce domestic take (MDC), reduce water race take, irrigate efficiently
- Potential water storage location (Black Creek)

## Draft policy preferences

- No change to minimum flow as per table 1
- No change to allocation limit as per table 1
- Restrict community water supply, water races and category A groundwater at minimum flow
- Promote /enhance efficient use (community supply, water races, irrigation) including good management practice e.g. water storage
- Work with Masterton District Council on water conservation programmes
- Riparian planting

# Upper Ruamāhanga River

## Management area

- The Upper Ruamāhanga River is defined by the surface water catchments of the Ruamāhanga River upstream of the confluence with the Waiohine River, excluding tributaries of the Parkvale Stream and the Waingawa, Waipoua and Kopuaranga rivers
- The minimum flow is managed at Wardells

## Key issues and drivers

- Recreation (E.g. kayaking, swimming at double bridges, Kokotau, Te Ore Ore, Cliffs)
- Protection of Wahi tapu sites, mahinga kai
- Aquatic ecosystems
- Reliability of supply
- Irrigation efficiency
- River/flood management does not achieve multiple objectives
- Fairness to all users
- Water storage
- Water quality improvement (e.g. sewage discharges)

## Draft policy preferences

- Raise minimum flow progressively (staged) to 90% habitat protection as per table 1
- No change to allocation limit as per table 1
- Restrict water races and category A groundwater at minimum flow
- Promote /enhance efficient use (water races, irrigation) including good management practice (E.g. water storage)
- Require users to substantiate they are using water efficiently
- Put in place timeframes for improving water use efficiency and reducing water takes to limits
- Require water storage and efficient water use measures in new builds
- Review efficiency conditions in existing consents
- River management to enhance aquifer recharge e.g. Te Ore Ore.

# Waiohine River

## Management area

- The Waiohine River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Ruamāhanga River
- The minimum flow is managed at the Gorge

## Key issues and drivers

- Maintain water quality
- High recreational values – fishing, swimming, kayaking, rafting etc.
- Give the river more room (river/floodplain management)
- Targeted riparian planting
- Wahi tapu sites
- Values for its pristine water

## Draft policy preferences

- Minimum flow at 90% habitat protection as per table 1
- No change to allocation limit as per table 1
- Restrict water races at minimum flows
- Promote/enhance efficient use (community supply, water races, irrigation) including good management practice e.g. water storage
- Promote opportunities for managed aquifer recharge (MAR) and harvesting

# Mangatarere Stream

## Management area

- The Mangatarere Stream is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Waiohine River.
- The minimum flow is monitored at the Gorge.

## Key issues and drivers

- As per common issues and drivers
- Reduce community water supply and water race takes
- ‘New water’ for community supply
- River goes underground in summer
- Water quality and ecological health
- Trout spawning

## Draft policy preferences

- No change to minimum flow as per table 1
- No change to allocation limit – to be determined??
- Restrict community water supply, water races and category A groundwater at minimum flow
- Support Restoration Society efforts
- Promote water quality and ecological health through riparian planting, wetlands
- Promote wetlands
- Meter lifestyle water use

# Lower Ruamāhanga River

## Management area

- The Lower Ruamāhanga River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Lake Wairarapa outflow. For allocation purposes, the reach between the confluence of the Waiohine and the Lake Wairarapa outflow is considered in addition to the whole upstream catchment
- The minimum flow is managed at the Waihenga recorder

## Key issues and drivers

- River management is a big issue e.g. stop using lower valley (e.g. Lake Wairarapa outflow) as drainage in the summer
- Creating a higher river level can create storage
- Raising minimum flows and any reductions in water use in upper parts of the Ruamahanga catchment will have an overall benefit on lower river flows

## Draft policy preferences

- No change is needed to minimum flow to achieve 90% habitat protection as per table 1
- No change to allocation amounts as per table 1
- High mana whenua values need to be reflected in the lower parts of the river

# Tauherenikau River

## Management area

- The lower Tauherenikau River is defined by the surface water catchment upstream of the confluence with the Lake Wairarapa outflow.
- The minimum flow is managed at the Gorge.

## Key issues and drivers

- River management is the big issue in the Tauherenikau
- Silt build up at the river mouth can be addressed through riparian management

## Draft policy preferences

- No change to minimum flow
- No change to allocation limit
- Promote riparian management
- Restrict Category A groundwater takes at minimum flow
- River management needs to be a priority here