



Whakatipu Water Taskforce Online Session. Wednesday 9 September 2021, 7:30-9:00 pm

Use of this information and Disclaimer

© Shaping our Future Inc and www.shapingourfuture.org.nz. Unauthorised use and/or duplication of this material without express and written permission from Shaping our Future Inc is strictly prohibited. This information is raw data and a summary of the information gathered at community forums. If you wish to use this information or discuss the Shaping our Future process please contact Rhea Selwan at executive@shapingourfuture.org.nz stating your intended use of the information.

Introduction

Shaping our Future (SoF) facilitated an online session to present the newly released [Whakatipu Water Report 2020-21](#) to the community. The report is the result of the work of the Whakatipu water taskforce which was created following the Water Forum held in April 2018.

The online session entitled “The Release of the Whakatipu Water Report- Insights and Discussion” was held on 9th September 2021 online via Zoom with 24 attendees.

The aim of the session was to identify the next steps and priority actions necessary to move forward with the report’s recommendations.

David Rider, Deputy Chair of the Whakatipu Water Task force presented the report by highlighting its key recommendations, followed by an open discussion and Q&A.

Attendees

Micheal Farrier, Trish Fraser, David Rider, Maree Baker-Galloway, Julie Perry, Tom De Pelsemaeker, Alexa Forbes, David Cooper, Don Roberston, Emma Moran, Francois Lambrechts, Richard Lambert, Nicky Tompkins, Judy Stevenson, Lisa Nilsen, Lucy Clouston, Matt Shepherd, Melanie Hardiman, Guy Hughes, John Glover, Rachel Rose, Vanessa van Uden, Ben Farrell, Rhea Selwan

Key Discussion Points & Actions

1. Report Taskforce

David Rider introduced the Whakatipu taskforce and thanked the members for their contribution. The taskforce includes representatives from organisations around the Whakatipu. The report is the culmination of the efforts of all involved.

2. The Freshwater Vision

This report is an expression of the community’s vision

The freshwater vision for the Whakatipu was determined by the community from the previous workshops. The taskforce used that vision and formulated it to shape the report.

3. Report Submission

It was noted that SoF included both the Whakatipu and Upper Clutha water reports as part of their submission to the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021.

4. “Whakatipu Water Group”

The report’s key recommendation is to gather, experts, interested parties and stakeholders to form an **advocacy body** for the Whakatipu, following the WAI Wānaka model.

The group’s role would include (*based on session discussion*):

- Drive policy, plans, legislation for ORC /QLDC to implement is a key part of any freshwater change.
- Work alongside regulatory bodies (through an established process)
- Update the Whakatipu water report to reflect: the 3 Waters Reform Programme, new freshwater regulations, lake SPI report, and any other relevant information.
- Work on elements such as establishing optimum flows, Integrated Catchment Management Plan (once funding and some level of data is collected).
- Work with Land and Water plan and the new Regional Policy statement.
- Identify and seek funding for paid members and projects.
- Identify stakeholders specific to the Whakatipu to engage and collaborate. Developers, tourism, golf courses, philanthropy, anyone with a discharge permit, etc.
- Collaborate with existing groups (Friends of Lake Hayes, Mana Tāhuna, Whakatipu Conservation Collective).
- Education.

ACTIONS:

- Establish timeframe on the group formation
- SoF will facilitate the formation of the group by organising a round-table discussion with existing advocacy groups and call for expressions of interest

5. Research and Monitoring

- We need a **definition** of the freshwater in the Whakatipu. To define it, we need to be specific, local and establish what we classify as healthy.
- What is currently being monitored by the statutory bodies doesn’t currently reflect what is happening, to the point where there have been accusations of being extremely selective, making it appear to be better that it is actually is.
- At this point of time, we don’t have sufficient information to establish what are the limits that are considered acceptable.
- The RMA provides guidance, but may be considered as a contributor to the degradation as well.
- Noted that new few freshwater regulations had come through addressing some elements after this report had been finalised.

ACTIONS:

- Research and monitoring established as a priority action as soon the Whakatipu advocacy group is formed, and funding is secured.
- The established “group” will update the report based on newly released and relevant freshwater regulation and information

6. A Community-Driven Action

The discussion around the respective roles of the regulators and other stakeholders emphasised the need for **more public pressure** around the political arm and governance table:

- While there are good intentions out there, vested interests have led to poor decisions and policies that have put some waterways in the state they are in.
- The group needs to **guide** until the respective plans, rules, policies, and objectives are clearly amended from current format.
- There is need from a **community** perspective to get better collaboration and achieve cohesion between all the interested parties to make the changes that need to happen, from data connection right through the spectrum of political and economic influence.

ACTION: Round table discussions should take place to identify economic gains and work alongside stakeholders.

7. ORC's role

- ORC Is the only legislative body governing freshwater.
- ORC has a set of statutory directives and a limited scope of resources. The outcomes sought by the group may go beyond ORC's resources and scope. **These need to be community-driven outcomes.**
- One of the community recommendations is to establish a formal reporting process for the QLDC, ORC and other legislative authorities.
- ORC have just released the LakeSPI report indicating that our lakes are degrading based on plant life information.
- The Whakatipu is part of the Upper Lakes rohe, within the Clutha Mata-Au Freshwater Management Unit (FMU). FMU work is currently poorly resourced by ORC.
- ORC have split up the Clutha Mata-Au FMU in 5 smaller sub-FMUs, called rohe, to allow better recognition of local circumstances. ORC had pulled forward their work on Upper Lakes Rohe, which will come in the spotlight with the Land and Water Plan.

ACTIONS:

- **The Whakatipu Water report will be submitted to ORC "data and information team"**
- **Prepare for the ORC community consultation on the FMU coming up in November.**

8. Funding

- Having paid group members will significantly accelerate the programme
- Catchment studies, groundwater analysis, geochemical analysis etc. can be decade-long programmes. ORC currently has no funding mandated to undertake any of those activities.
- WAI Wānaka's achievements are thanks to government funding. Funding sources include Jobs for Nature/Ministry for Primary Industries and MfE's freshwater improvement fund.

ACTION: The established "group" will need to identify and apply for funding sources as a key place to start, with guidance from WAI Wānaka

9. Joining forces with WAI Wānaka

- **WAI Wānaka is the success story.** Funding secured from the freshwater improvement fund was used to prepare a community catchment plan, literature review, riparian planting and carry out urban stormwater research. Jobs for Nature funding to work with landowners on conservation and habitat restoration projects.
- WAI Wānaka have been encouraged by QLDC to expand to the Whakatipu but it's a matter of funding and resources.
- Similarities are obvious - there are also subtleties between the two catchments.
- There is potential merit in joining forces.
- By working together, the three lakes catchment communities will be a powerful force, assuming that ORC is listening, responsible and responsive.

ACTION: WAI Wānaka members will work alongside the Whakatipu group to help with establishment and identifying funding sources.

10. Education

- Apathy is driven from lack of education: environmental impacts on freshwater are more subtle than transportation issues.
- We need a lot more of education on the science of freshwater. People won't pollute the water if they know what the impacts are.

ACTION: The group will seek funding to facilitate education as a key driver

EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS FOR THE PROPOSED NEW WHAKATIPU WATER ACTION GROUP ARE OPEN EMAIL executive@shapingourfuture.co.nz