

EXPERT WITNESS CONFERENCING

Proposed Natural Resources Plan

Topic: Water Allocation

Date: 27 October 2017

Witnesses:

Name	For
Dr Mark Gyopari	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Brydon Hughes	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Mike Thompson	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Jon Williamson	S124 Wairarapa Water Users Society, S327 and S365 Ongaha Farms Ltd, AJ Barton

Update and request for further time extension

Expert conferencing on the Lower Ruamahanga Groundwater Management Zone is underway as directed by Minute #15 from the pNRP Hearing Panel. A Joint Witness Statement issued on 6 September 2017 committed to providing a further statement to the Hearing Panel on 20 October 2017 (to present findings from modelling work undertaken). A subsequent time extension to 27 October was sought and granted.

This memo provides an update on progress made and points of agreement reached and also seeks a further time extension to complete some outstanding tasks.

Progress

On the basis of work undertaken in the past few weeks (including re-conceptualisation of the zone hydrogeology and groundwater modelling), experts are in agreement that:

- The degree of hydraulic connection between groundwater and the Ruamahanga River progressively decreases from north to south to a greater extent than previously thought;
- The extent of the reduction in hydraulic connection from north to south justifies a change in the classification of groundwater in part of the zone;
- Groundwater in the northern part of the zone shows depletion characteristics that suggest a Category A classification is appropriate;

- Groundwater in the southern part of the zone shows depletion characteristics that suggest a Category B classification is more appropriate;
- The transition between Category A and Category B groundwater appears to lie towards the southern boundary of the 'Waihenga' sub-zone (Figure 1) but the point of transition needs to be further discussed.

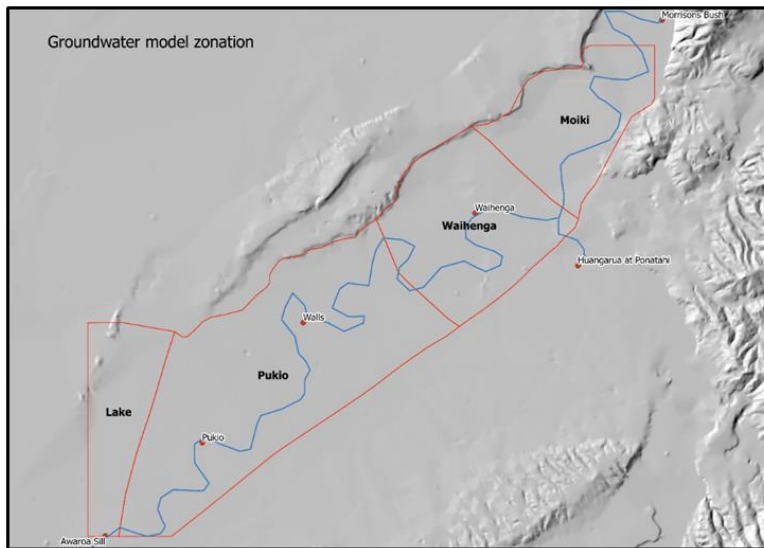


Figure 1. Lower Ruamahanga Groundwater Management Zone split into four sub-zones from north to south; Moiki, Waihenga, Pukio, Lake.

Further work required

Further work is required to conclude the modelling and reach agreement on the following matters:

- Specific location of the boundary between Category A and B groundwater;
- The final model water balance from which to derive new allocation volumes and re-define the surface water allocation status of the zone;
- Whether a Category C groundwater classification is justified for any part of the zone;
- How the final conclusions impact on what is currently in the proposed Plan from a hydrological perspective.

Experts would like the opportunity to meet again in Wellington to address the above matters and draft up a joint statement. The closest date available for this is Thursday, 2 November and we therefore request a further time extension until **Monday, 6 November 2017** to submit the final Joint Witness Statement.