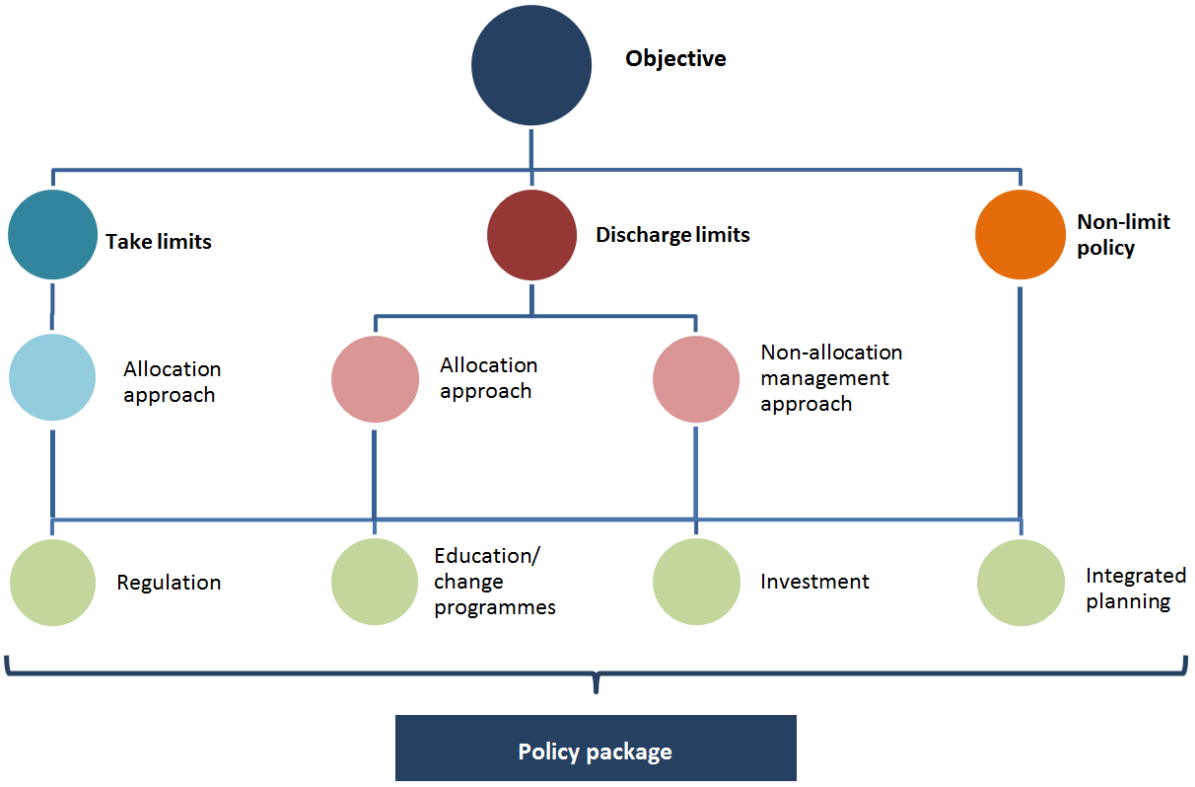
Potential direction for managing water quantity allocation

Some water quantity allocation topics have already been discussed by the Committee. These topics include Freshwater Management Units (FMUs), 'hands off flows' (minimum flows), allocation limits, allocation bands (using minimums at different reliabilities for different uses), permitted activities, managed aquifer recharge and large scale dam scenarios. Progress is being made on modelling allocation such that the Committee is now able to develop some of these topics further over the next few meetings.

When considering the policy package for quantity allocation the same scheme applies that was used for considering discharges.



The take limits are regulations i.e. they are rules in a regional plan. These rules 'cap' the maximum amount of water that can be taken in an FMU. Approaches other than regulation can also be used to achieve the objective. For example, the efficient use of water at a particular location in the catchment could include non-regulatory approaches that rely on good practice.

Over the next series of meetings the Committee needs to consider FMUs, draft freshwater objectives (attributes and values) and draft limits. The policy package the Committee will need to develop for quantity allocation will include topics given in the table on the next page. Some relevant questions and a brief description of the extent of Committee disscussion to date is also given.

Topic	Questions	Committee discussion to date
'Hands off flows' (minimum flows)	What attributes and values will determine minimum flows?	Options for modelling
	What happens at minimum flows?	Cease take and reduce take options for different activities (eg. community water supply/pasture irrigation)
	What happens as flows approach minimum flow?	A buffer above minimum flows
Allocation bands	What allocation bands are appropriate to use in the Whaitua? (at present the reliability of water takes is dependent on a single minimum flow in each river)?	Committee identified more than one allocation band should be considered
Allocation limits	What attributes and values will determine allocation?	Not yet discussed in much detail
Supplementary allocation	How much water should remain in rivers at high flows?	Not yet discussed
Transferring/sharing allocated water	Does the Committee want to promote water transfers/sharing? If yes, how?	Not yet discussed in much detail
Permitted activities	What water takes should be permitted in the Whaitua?	Water takes permitted in the PNRP
Water taken for community water supply at low flow	What restrictions should apply to community water supplies at low flow?	Not yet discussed
Aavailable water on expriy of resource consents	Who gets water when permits expire at common expiry dates?	Grandparenting and other systems for allocation
Efficient use of water	What regulatory or non-regulatory approaches are appropriate?	Suggestions made in workshop discussions
User Groups	What is the role of user groups?	Considered desirable in workshops on quality and quantity allocation
Groundwater depletion of small streams	What groundwater depletion thresholds are acceptable in small streams?	Not yet discussed
Aquifer recharge	Where is managed aquifer recharge a feasible option in the Whaitua?	Committee identified aquifer recharge as a source of 'new water'