

## FLAG MEETING NOTES: 17 February 2017

<b>Purpose:</b>	Takaka Freshwater and Land Advisory Group (FLAG)– Meeting 26
<b>Date:</b>	17 February 2017
<b>Time:</b>	9.30am-3.00pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Takaka TDC Offices
<b>Present:</b>	<p><b>FLAG members:</b>            Graham Ball (GB)            Greg Anderson (GA)            Mik Symmons (MS)            Mike Newman (MN)            Piers MacLaren (PM)            Martine Bouillir (MB- council representative on FLAG) late?</p> <p><b>Staff:</b>            Steve Markham (SM – Principal Policy Planner)            Lisa McGlinchey (LM – Coordinator- Natural Resources Policy)            Joseph Thomas (JT -Resource Scientist - Water &amp; Special Projects)</p> <p>Rochelle Selby-Neal (RSN -Independent Facilitator)            Andrew Fenemor (AF -Landcare Research)</p> <p>Cr Sue Brown (SB – Golden Bay Ward Councillor)</p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Margie Little (MLi- iwi representative on FLAG), Tony Reilly (TR), Mirka Langford (MLa), Kirsty Joynt (KJ), Matt Rountree (MR), Trevor James (TJ- Resource Scientist – Water Quality & Aquatic Ecology)
<b>Notes taken by:</b>	Lisa McGlinchey (supplemented by other staff)
<b>Definitions and Abbreviations</b>	AMA = Arthur Marble Aquifer FLAG = Freshwater and Land Advisory Group FoGB = Friends of Golden Bay l/s = litres per second MALF = Mean Annual Low Flow NOF= National Objectives Framework – under the NPS-FM NPS-FM 2014 = National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 TLA = Takaka Limestone Aquifer TRMP = Tasman Resource Management Plan (the Plan) TUGA = Takaka Unconfined Gravel Aquifer TWMC = Takaka Water Management Catchments TWS = Te Waikoropupu Springs SOE = State of the Environment WCO = Water Conservation Order application for Te Waikoropupu Springs and recharge area FM= FLAG member
<p><i>Note: records of discussion points have been grouped into similar topics and are not necessarily in the order discussed at the meeting. Notes in square brackets [ ] have been added post meeting for clarity.</i></p>	
<p><b>FLAG MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:</b> If you have any questions or need anything between meetings, then please contact Lisa McGlinchey by email: <a href="mailto:lisa@tasman.govt.nz">lisa@tasman.govt.nz</a> or by phone ddi 03 543 8409.</p>	

## **NOTE about these meeting notes**

*These notes provide a summary of the points raised by individuals at the FLAG meeting – they are not necessarily a representation of the views held by any or all members. The comments cover the diversity of experiences and opinions on the group. The views expressed here are also open to develop and change at any time.*

## **Purpose of Meeting**

- Reconsolidate as a group after six months break in formal FLAG meetings
- Establish shared group understanding of what has happened since last FLAG meeting in August of 2016, how that has felt, what it means for FLAG going forward
- FLAG in media - extract any important learning and information, decide what needs to be addressed.
- Identify the key themes & messages from the community feedback received – determine the priority work streams/actions in relation to this feedback
- Confirm day/venue/style of community open day.
- Agree to meet again prior to community open day to decide details of approach (all the decision points from above will contribute to that)

## **Session 1: Welcome/Outline of the day/Context**

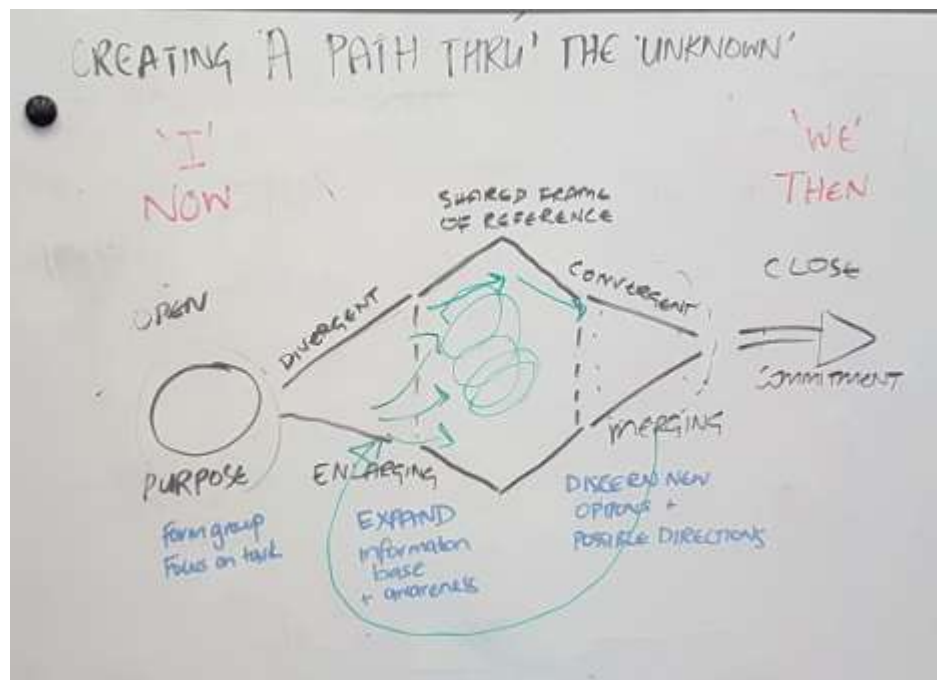
- Welcome and karakia
- Health & Safety, toilets, tea/coffee
- Apologies outlined

Sue Brown sat in on FLAG, as requested by Deputy Mayor Tim King, to provide an elected member's presence in support of FLAG and to stay informed of FLAG progress.

There will be a recommendation to EPC in March if the council want a council representative on the FLAG they will need to nominate a representative.

RSN outlined the agenda sessions and aims for the day. Outlined intent on format for FLAG meetings going forward.

RSN went over theoretical overview of collaborative group processes [see diagram] – showing where the group is now and what happens when consultation occurs in this process.



## Check-in

Members of the group shared any things going on for them.

I'm surprised people I know haven't contacted me to discuss the FLAG work before making comments. Suggest listing FLAG names in letter to the editor – people not visiting the FLAG website to get this information.

**Action:** Staff to liaise with Chris Choat re next content in GB weekly to include FLAG members names.

## Open day format

LM went over need to confirm details of open day for Newline print today.

Group discussed format for open day and agreed they preferred a short presentation from FLAG with question and answer time, followed by time for people to talk individually with FLAG members or staff on specific topics – with sessions starting at 1.30pm and 6.30pm.

FM: I'm keen for FLAG to do the presentations because there seems to be a perception in the community that the FLAG are just a rubber stamp on a council process, and we're not.

FM: Yes, the TDC have been very careful not to lead the FLAG in this process so it is frustrating to see people referring to TDC decisions rather than FLAGs. We are like a jury – unelected and functioning without public sitting in to determine an outcome. We are not randomly selected, but that was intentional to get a wide range in perspectives on the group.

Mik S is happy to do presentation, with support from rest of FLAG and from scientists/staff for technical questions.

## Group session 1 – Historical Scan Aug 2016 – February 2017

The group (FLAG members and staff) revisited what has happened since Aug 2016 to now – sharing events that were important to them that they remember – [pasted on wall under the month they occurred to give a reflection through time].

Group reflected on what has happened and how they have felt about various aspects.

FLAG identified key insights gained about the content and process.

### Key points: (no particular order)

- Keen to progress iwi engagement further – disappointed with process so far and concerned not getting good engagement with iwi – being influenced by higher-level TDC-iwi engagement issues
- Can we go back to iwi and ask how they think we can best move forward on this process as we didn't get to have a good discussion at the last hui and need another to progress things? [can put on next FLAG agenda]
- We'll never have 100% information
- Stick to task – go through the feedback regarding the science and good ideas
- We received some good feedback and some that relates to science questions and management options that we need to look at further
- Need to look further at the stygofauna issue.
  - Eg. why so important here vs Blue Lake
  - Can get equal weight on one side or the other
  - Expert argument based on evidence of what is known or not – FLAG need to weigh up the risk and decide what the community can live with
  - stygofauna vs physical filtration of water/clarity

- Distinction to be made between scientist and FLAG role – FLAGs role is to weigh up the risks based on science info provided and make a decision on this.
- Need to be clear on rigour of FLAGs considerations of the science provided
- In the community there has been cherry-picking of the facts to back up arguments
- Community and FLAG in a different space regarding understanding
- Have been a lot of good thinking people engaged in community
- Keen to address public misconceptions about FLAG, process and information that have come through public responses and letters to editors
- Keen to address and discuss questions over science information
- We are often dealing with details (eg nitrate numbers), but there are higher-level issues here that should be addressed in terms of how the community feels about dairy and water use.
- How do we bridge the gap between fact and perceptions?
- Need to make messages more simple and clear
- There is a wider overarching dissatisfaction with TDC that has stressed collaboration
- Need to be clear who is on FLAG and that this has been a FLAG, not Council process
- Misperception of who is making the decisions – view is that we're in the pocket of TDC
- FLAG needs to have participants, because they are responsible for making the decisions
- There is suspicion in the community – understand it, there is mistrust in the process.

#### What is important to FLAG in going forward?

- We are not going to win all hearts and minds – some will not change their positions, but we have to work within this. Stop being too concerned.
  - Fault lines there, people not going to change
  - Just need to work in this context
- FLAG members need to feel safe
- If we dither, council will pull the plug on the group
- The FLAG scope of work is much bigger than TWS – all the water bodies from Wainui to Tukurua – whole catchment
  - Can make good decisions about many parts of the catchment that won't be disputed
- FLAG work is much bigger than dairying
- Define clearly what is out of scope
- Need to be clear on what is out of scope in terms of what FLAG or Council can legal address through the process, but everything else could be in scope if FLAG wished
- Can we put out aspects people are happy about? E.g. community and farmers spending time and money monitoring, planting, etc to develop some good will
- I'm not in a place yet where I feel everything is fine – and I'd like to get there, but I'm not sure how. I want to feel 'this is fine' before I sign something off. I want to feel confident we are being precautionary enough. Eg uncertainties re lag on springs, etc
  - We can address this through more monitoring and an adaptive management approach
  - It would be good to be clear on the flexibility of the approach and what aspects can be changed as needed for the future
- Need to pick out what is a valid concern and what is not - in the feedback received.
- We need to be clearer when communicating numbers and proportions – the perception is there is a lot being taken when this isn't the case
- We need to be clear that we are not trying to hide anything in this process
- We are not going to know everything – my sense is we are right up on the precautionary side of things
- MfE [2014] document on [Managing uncertainty](#) in environmental management is very good

- Could develop a decision matrix and criteria
- Need to communicate understanding of the flexibility of plan approach
- Need to go back to the meeting notes and have a look at what was already discussed
- Some clarity / more information/ monitoring on the cow numbers and dairy situation for the Upper Takaka would be helpful
- If we have confidence it gives other confidence
- Information is too complicated
- Simplified view in community that people understand – relies on slogans verses the background report
- Feedback (eg Greenpeace) not focused on what is relevant
- There is no appetite for dairy farming
- Concern over FLAG member engagement
- There is not enough of a link with Iwi – needs to shift
- Anger from Iwi directed at Council – consumed the hui and therefore minimal time to talk about water management. Underlying concern that FLAG had not consulted the settlement documentation.
- People’s perception of farming industry hasn’t kept pace with what farmers are now doing. Try to develop more goodwill (not necessarily about FLAG role) – FLAG need to think wider than dairy and to other potential future uses of water. A role for irrigators – they are happy to fund monitoring and water users don’t want to “stuff it up” and happy to accept limits. Can also build more understanding about organic/biological/precision farming – evolving industry.

**Are you happy if we generate a question and answer approach to where each member is now at on the key issues and their concerns?**

Yes – this would also help in going back to the community.

## **Group Session 2 – Media Review**

The group started to reflect on things said in the media and media events, but preferred to focus on what would be a constructive approach for FLAG and the community in relation to media.

**Discussion points:**

- GBWeekly is a good forum for community communication
- I’m keen to have a FLAG statement to all media responses so far – and add list of names in paper
  - Might pay to wait until the feedback has been fully analysed before we choose what the FLAG response is.
  - Need to ensure this covers all FLAG members thoughts
- Can wait until after open day before feeding back to community further
- After the feedback has been considered, then can provide a public statement on where FLAG is at now
- Not sure responding to each individual thing is needed/worthwhile
- Range of views across FLAG members present – from “worse to stay silent” to “better to stay silent”, highlighting the need to decide what is important and worthwhile commenting on in the media and what is not
- I feel a lot more of the community is engaged, but not saying stuff
- People don’t have time to look into these issues further – relying on summaries from others that aren’t always correct
- People who are not in FLAG can say what they want without needed to provide justification or the information that backs up what is said.
- Environmental advocacy message has encouraged me to be much clearer on things
- FLAG to outline their reasons for the decisions they have made for their recommendations

- You've been criticised for changing your minds – but this shows you have come at this with open minds
- This is the most public process ever involved in – the notes on the website cover the discussions in more detail than has ever been provided for any other council meetings
- There has been too much exposure on the website – creating pressure from the outside
- Once you've been personally attacked – after than do you want to say anything that may be recorded on the website?
- Need to give clear statement from FLAG about things that cannot be argued: eg. we are a collaborative group who have given a lot of time in the spirit of making a positive difference
- FLAG making recommendations to Council – not TDC making the recommendations
- I think that the larger media have recognised that this is a community group, that is a working group of open-minded people
- Media had been contacting Mik S for interviews – MS: is the group happy for me to continue being the spokesperson?
- Vote of support for Mik as spokesperson – moderate, articulate and well informed
  - Yes – from those present
  - Mik – if you reach your limit then say

**Decision:** To wait until after the open day on 10 March 2017 to decide if anything needs to be addressed in media, and if so, what.

**Decision:** Keep making full notes because they are useful for FLAG members and process, but stop using people's initials so that people feel free to speak freely and deeply discuss the issues without risk of personal attacks from members of the public.

Communications plan to be developed for TDC around freshwater – including Takaka.

**Action:** Takaka FLAG to be given opportunity for input on the TDC freshwater communications plan.

**Action:** Advertising for open day to include GB weekly, facebook post, email to all respondents and Newsline.

#### **Key points going forward:**

- Section 32 evaluation important
- Get on and make decisions – be clear on reasoning
- Identify what are key tasks to focus on and what is “noise”
- Careful use of numbers and concepts and diagrams to help avoid confusion
- Ask public *how you feel?* – doesn't have to be a complicated response from public
- Clarify legal framework FLAG are working in – what can and can't be addressed
- Can't second guess what is going to happen in schedule 1 RMA process – evidential process.

**Action:** TDC staff - Clarify legal framework FLAG are working in – what can and can't be addressed. Look back over when this was discussed at previous meetings and provide a clear statement of what can be addressed through RMA and local government and what can't. Useful if can show in systems diagram.

### Group Session 3 – Key themes from the community feedback

FLAG decided that “feedback” referred to both the written feedback that had been received via TDC and any conversations FLAG members had with people in the community.

FLAG members individually identified important messages from the feedback – these were then arranged into groups of the same or similar underlying intent. Then the key themes were named.

**Key themes in bold** (with examples of key messages from feedback):

- **Nitrate/flow risks to TWS:**
  - Significance of FOGB stat analysis
  - If we get this wrong T.W.S impacted negatively and power to correct lost
  - Debate of N trends and their meaning for TWS
  - Is 0.4 a critical nitrate level?
  - Change two numbers and deal with 90% of submissions (500l/s, 0.4 mg/l)
  - Dominance of TWS
  - irreversibility of effects on aquifer – precautionary principle
  
- **Geohydrology model and allocation concerns:**
  - consider both aquifers together
  - inclusion of confined AMA with unconfined in allocation
  
- **Insecurity/reliability trigger for storage:**
  - Water storage to lesson MALF pressures
  - Why need to take a stream below MALF – require storage
  
- **Public resource – business interest - resource ownership // community cost from resource allocation:**
  - Have FLAG allowed for risk and unknowns? Precautionary principle
  - NZ will owe \$30 billion in carbon credits
  - You are giving all available water to a dozen corporate arms for no cost or responsibility for future damage
  - Don't want GB to be another Canterbury
  - If FLAG/TDC are confident in their proposal, should be agreement that industry pays for any clean-up if it fails. Ratepayers should not pay! (Consequences)
  - Proposal supports greater dairy intensification (and all the other negatives that go with that)
  - Sold out to Dairy interest – development and any environmental cost
  - Concern re foreign corps taking our water for bottling etc
  - Public pays/risk (irreversibility) vs individual/corporate benefit - fear of corporate use of water – precautionary principle
  
- **Feedback process:**
  - Not enough time and terrible time of year
  - Too complicated don't know how to submit
  - Thanks for comprehensive report
  
- **Localised allocation /flow issues (technical details):**
  - Differing interpretations of waiting list in FLAG allocations
  - Upper Takaka irrigators version 1 day MLAF
  - Tukurua water supply – point of measurement
  - More conservative regime on Waingaro – Hayes/Young 2017

- **Industry Best Practice (land and water use) – voluntary vs regulation:**
  - TDC/FLAG should be incentivising better use of water
  - Reward best practice with water privilege & levies for water
  - No suggestions on how to reduce farm emissions
  - Fencing off streams in important locations
  - On farm management – GMP – management approaches for water quality – needs more consideration and regulation vs non-regulation implementation
- **Equity / fairness & consenting**
  - Fairness of water allocation – concern at grandfathering/1<sup>st</sup> in 1<sup>st</sup> serve,
- **Climate change considerations:**
  - Is there sufficient allowance for climate change e.g. hydraulic pressure value for MALF
  - Should not encourage dairy expansion for greenhouse gas reasons
- **Swim-ability**
  - maintain swimmable
- **Other**
  - Methodology (MALF etc) universally accepted

Parking lot – work out % of form letters and flag waving.

**FLAG identified that they wanted to go back to some submitters to seek clarification or further discuss matters raised.**

These include:

- FoGB - flow/nitrate analysis
- Paul Williams – zone boundaries

**Action:** FLAG members to email in a list of any submitters they want to go back to with questions/discussion points

<lunch>

### **Presentation – DRAFT summary of key themes**

LM provided a summary of key themes emerging from the written feedback, she has analysed thus far. She was at submission 95 of 160 and the key themes identified correlated very well with the themes identified by FLAG members in the earlier session. [*summary analysis to be finished for next meeting prior to open day*].

### **Group session 4 – three breakout groups each answering one question:**

- 1. What messages do you want to give to your community?**
- 2. What are your key needs – what do you need to enable you to make final recommendations to Council?**
- 3. What needs to happen next – what are the next priority steps for FLAG?**

#### **1. Key messages for the community**

- We want to save the Springs too
- We've taken a conservative, precautionary approach acknowledging the specialness of what we already have, and the gaps in the information supplied – some things we will never know, which is why we have taken conservative stance
- We've heard you and we agree – we acknowledge international importance of the Springs!



- Keeping our rivers 'swimmable'
- We will put in appropriate nitrate triggers and steps to be taken/adaptive management processes to manage risks
- Cease takes will provide a level of protection currently not there
- The plan is able to be responsive as needed should things change
- *[and many more but didn't have time to cover everything – will focus on these at next meeting]*

## 2. What key questions or decision areas do you want to revisit/reconsider?

### Can end use be specified when water is allocated?

- Can we say it is for cropping etc – can we say you can have water, but no more cows?
- It's not the cow numbers, but how you manage the cows.

### Adaptive management – if nitrate levels start tracking up – what can we do about it?

- What tools does council have to address this?
- Doesn't feel like FLAG have looked at adaptive management approach enough yet
- I need to be satisfied that the existing industry mechanisms can work
  - Triggers can be placed in the plan with actions attached
- Is good practice good enough?
- Riparian strips – interested in further information on this – doesn't need to go into plan if industry can address this effectively
  - Landcare has just completed a project for DairyNZ for vegetation planning

**Action:** Staff to come back with legal summary of what can be done on allocation for specific end use and adaptive management tools (diagram of how this will/can work).

**Action:** RSN to add key points for further discussion to meeting agendas in near future.

## 3. What needs to happen next?

- 23 Feb FLAG meeting – prepare for open day
- 10 March 2017 – hold open day
- Analysis of issues and feedback/ review interim decisions

### April – June Tasks:

- Science Panel report to FLAG
- Review of interim decisions following science panel report
- FLAG to complete decisions on
  - W M Zone limits
  - Water quality desired states across relevant attributes
  - Methods to sustain water quality states
    - GMPs
    - Rules re stocking/riparian/etc
    - Nutrient modelling
  - Adaptive management devices
- FLAG to check drafting of plan change to confirm line of sight with its decisions
- June – FLAG agree final recommended draft plan change and evaluation
- July 2017 – EPC to receive FLAG report/recommended draft plan change and evaluation report

Note need for ongoing iwi involvement through all steps above – iwi currently awaiting science panel report.

**Action:** Staff to put together a project plan to enable forward planning of FLAG meetings.

**Action:** Andrew Fenemor to put nitrate modelling and attribution into a stand-alone report.

**Action:** LM to send email to FLAG re attendance for the 23 Feb/3rd March. Send out meeting notes to FLAG asap.

Keen to run through technical feedback with Joseph etc.

**Parking Lot – ideas/questions/topics raised throughout the day that weren’t discussed further – need to put on future agenda**

- S32 CBA
- How do we bridge the gap between fact and perception?
- Can we put the question to Iwi – how can we best move forward and keep an ongoing conversation?
- Stygofauna
- How do you portray the numbers/proportions – clarity/what is the reality/pictures/graphs
- “Piers’ solution idea”: TWS monitoring, until conditions met...?
- Industry best practice – approach
- Hung up on very small numbers
- Choice/no choice for FLAG re NPS/RMA confines [see action point in these notes]
- No exclusive spiritual perspective or feeling
- FLAG – level of group engagement + responses
- Prep for open day
- The notes/minutes – OIAs/ let it hang out, but take initials out [see decision pt in these notes].
- Any submitters FLAG want to go back to – clarify – FLAG members to email this list in

<End of meeting>

**Action Points – Council Staff/Facilitator/Advisor**

No.	What	Who
1.	Staff to liaise with Chris Choat re next content in GB weekly to include FLAG members names.	LM
2.	Takaka FLAG to be given opportunity for input on the TDC freshwater communications plan.	LM
3.	Advertising for open day to include GB weekly, facebook post, email to all respondents and Newline.	LM
4.	TDC staff - Clarify legal framework FLAG are working in – what can and can’t be addressed. Look back over when this was discussed at previous meetings and provide a clear statement of what can be addressed through RMA and local government and what can’t. Useful if can show in systems diagram.	LM/ SM
5.	Staff to come back with legal summary of what can be done on allocation for specific end use and adaptive management tools (diagram of how this will/can work).	LM/ SM
6.	RSN to add key points for further discussion to meeting agendas in near future.	RSN
7.	Staff to put together a project plan to enable forward planning of FLAG meetings.	LM
8.	Andrew Fenemor to put nitrate modelling and attribution into a stand-alone report.	AF
9.	LM to send email to FLAG re attendance for the 23 Feb/3rd March. Send out meeting notes to FLAG asap.	LM

## Action Points – FLAG members

No.	What	Who
10.	FLAG members to email in a list of any submitters they want to go back to with questions/discussion points	ALL

## Action Points – FLAG Sub-groups

No.	What	Who
11.	none	

## Scheduled FLAG and FLAG Subgroup meetings

<b>Date</b>	Thursday 23 February 2017 (FLAG Meeting 27)
<b>Time</b>	9.30am -3pm
<b>Venue</b>	TBC
<b>Agenda Items</b>	Open day content

<b>Date</b>	TBC - Friday 3 March 2017 (FLAG Meeting 28)
<b>Time</b>	9.30am -3pm
<b>Venue</b>	TBC
<b>Agenda Items</b>	Open day content

<b>Date</b>	Friday 10 March 2017 (Public Open Day)
<b>Time</b>	9.30am -3pm
<b>Venue</b>	Takaka Bowling Club
<b>Agenda Items</b>	Open Day

## Information and resource documents identified during meeting

Date	Title	Author/Source
	None	

*\*Key documents available electronically will be added to the online PDF document bibliography.*

## Issues or topics identified during meeting for future consideration

Topic/Issue Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S32 CBA</li> <li>• How do we bridge the gap between fact and perception?</li> <li>• Can we put the question to Iwi – how can we best move forward and keep an ongoing conversation?</li> <li>• Stygofauna</li> <li>• How do you portray the numbers/proportions – clarity/what is the reality/pictures/graphs</li> <li>• TWS monitoring, until conditions met...?</li> <li>• Industry best practice – approach</li> <li>• Hung up on very small numbers</li> <li>• Choice/no choice for FLAG re NPS/RMA confines [see action point in these notes]</li> <li>• No exclusive spiritual perspective or feeling</li> <li>• FLAG – level of group engagement + responses</li> <li>• Prep for open day</li> <li>• notes– OIAs/ let it hang out, but take initials out [see decision pt in these notes].</li> <li>• Any submitters FLAG want to go back to – clarify – FLAG members to email this list in</li> </ul>

*\*Issues or topics unable to be addressed at the meeting, but requiring future consideration will be recorded in the Takaka FLAG 'Information Eddy'.*