Takaka Freshwater Management

Takaka FLAG work to date

26 September 2016

tasman district council

Outline

- FLAG and their role
- National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management
  - National Objectives Framework
- FLAG philosophy and values
- Summary of interim FLAG outputs
- FLAG/staff questions for iwi

FLAG and staff questions for iwi:

- How can we best include the following in the FLAG process and in the recommendations to Council?
  - Iwi interests and values - what are your relationships with water?
  - Kaitiakitanga (guardianship)
  - Matauranga maori (maori body of knowledge and understanding)
  - Tikanga maori (maori customary values and practices)
  - Mauri & wairua – how to maintain/improve; assess/monitor?
  - Mahinga kai – places, species? how to maintain/improve; assess/monitor?
  - Wahi tapu & taonga – places, species, etc?
  - Te Waikoropupu
- Two requests received:
  - Request for Cultural Impact Assessment – of what? who by? method? scope?
  - Cultural reservation has been raised previously – what does this include?
- What else should FLAG/staff be considering?

FLAG and staff questions for iwi:

- What information do you need from FLAG/staff?
- How do you want to be further involved?
  - Is there someone you would like involved at the policy drafting stage?

We will come back to these questions at the end of this presentation…

Who are FLAG?

- 13 Volunteers
  - 11 selected by Council (1 has recently withdrawn)
  - 1 selected by Manawhenua ki Mohua (Margie Little)
  - 1 member co-opted by FLAG
- Involved as individuals, but often wearing many hats:
  - Bringing the perspectives of water users and enjoyers - including swimmers, farmers, iwi, scientists, dairy, aquaculture, Trustpower, parents, kaitiaki…etc
- People who care about Golden Bay / Mohua
- Group supported by council staff:
  - Administration and independent facilitation
  - Science staff and external experts for science advice
  - Policy staff for plan change drafting and policy advice

FLAGs Role:

- Tasked to provide recommendations to Council:
  - Draft plan change: allocation and water quality management
  - Implementation plan: non-regulatory methods

- Operate under a Terms of Reference:
  - Use a collaborative approach and to seek consensus
  - Observe tikanga Māori
  - Involve local community and stakeholders
  - Take account of interests of all sectors of the community
  - Promote integrated water management

Council's responsibilities:

- Council has responsibilities to:
  - Give effect to RMA – including Sec 8: Treaty of Waitangi
  - Implement the NPS for Freshwater Management

  - Engage with all iwi
  - Invite advice from the River & Freshwater Advisory Committee
    - As required in the iwi Settlement Acts (April 2014)

  - Publicly notify the plan change
  - Consider submissions and make decisions
  - Consider funding of other methods through the LTP process

Drivers for Takaka FLAG work:

- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM)
- Lack of allocation regimes to manage water demand
- Concern over water quality and potential future risks

National Policy Statement: Freshwater Management

- Council must implement NPS-FM by 2025
  - Safeguard: life-supporting capacity, ecosystems, processes, indigenous species
  - Protect: significant values of wetlands and outstanding water bodies
  - Avoid or address: over-allocation of water quantity and quality
    - 'Over-allocated' if not meeting the freshwater objectives

- Integrated and sustainable management
- Involve iwi and hapu
  - Identify and reflect tangata whenua values and interests in freshwater management and decision making for freshwater planning
- "This national policy statement is about recognising the national significance of fresh water for all New Zealanders and Te Mana o te Wai."
  - Water health is integral to the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of all communities

NPS-FM National Objectives Framework

- Process to set freshwater objectives
- 13 national values, 2 compulsory:
  - Ecosystem health
  - Human health for recreation
- Identifies some key attributes for values
  - National ‘bottom lines’

National Objectives Framework process: (Policies CA1&2)

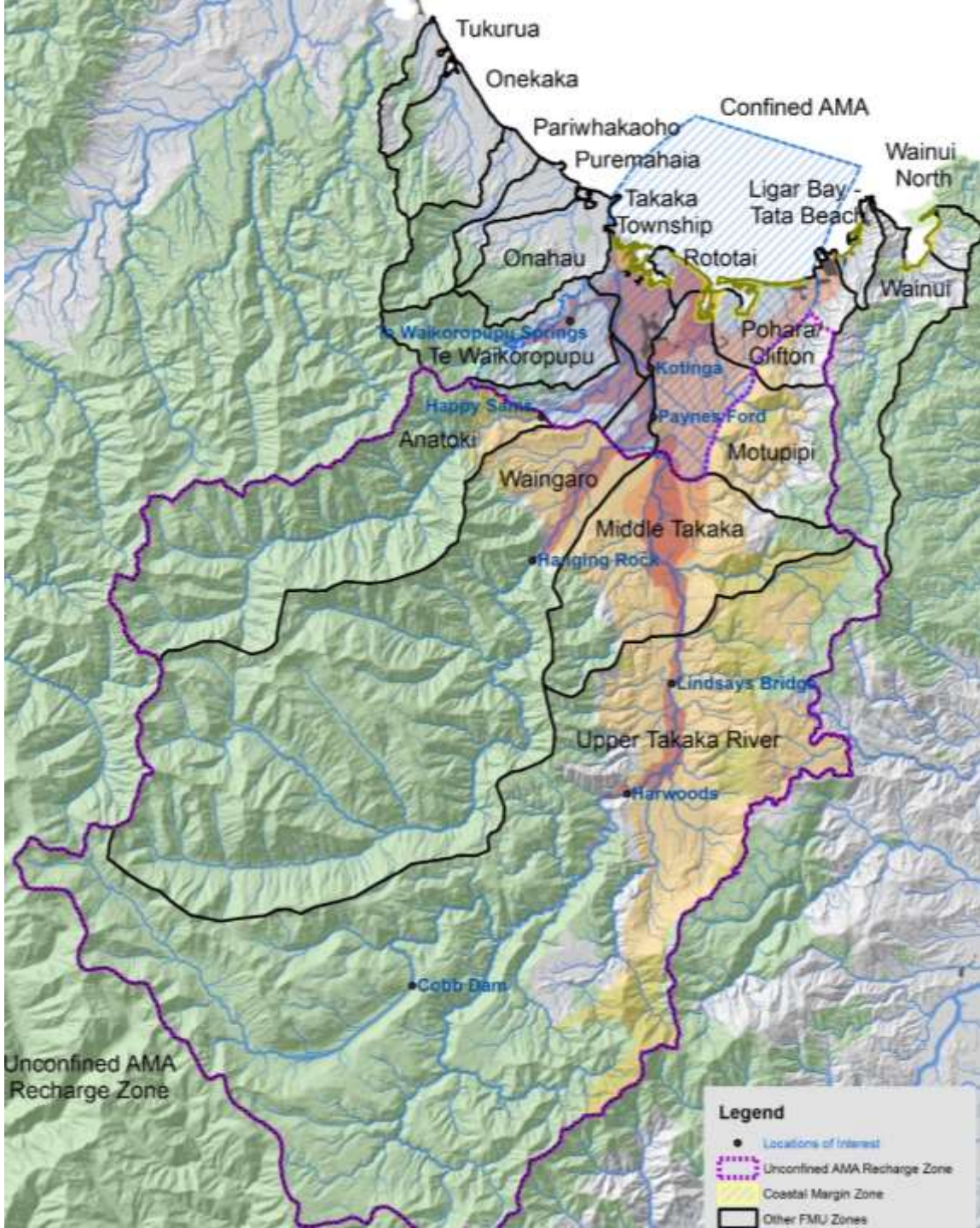
1. Identify freshwater management units (FMU)
2. Identify values for each FMU
   - considering national values, including compulsory ones
   - any other values considering local and regional circumstances
3. Identifying relevant attributes for each value eg:
   - algae, bacteria and water clarity for **swimming**
   - dissolved oxygen, flow, etc for **ecosystem health**
4. Assigning an attribute state for the attributes
   - at or above the minimum acceptable state (no decline in quality)
5. Formulating freshwater objectives
   - numeric and narrative
   - adopting the most stringent for each attribute across all the values

Set limits/flow/levels to achieve these objectives (Policies A1 and B1)

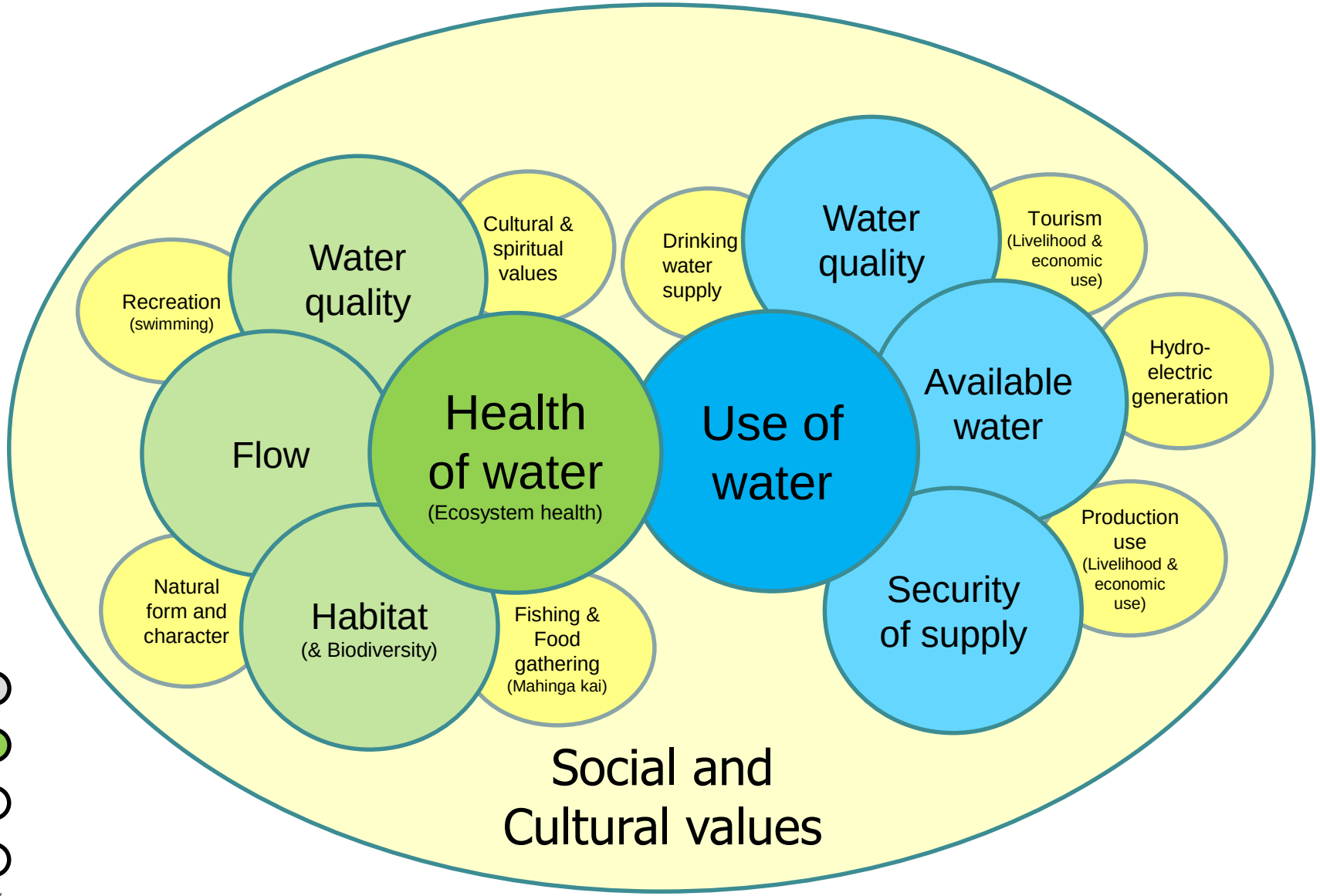
1. Takaka Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) – extent

Extent considered:

- Surface catchments
- Groundwater-surface water linkages
- Community of interest



2. FLAG philosophy and values



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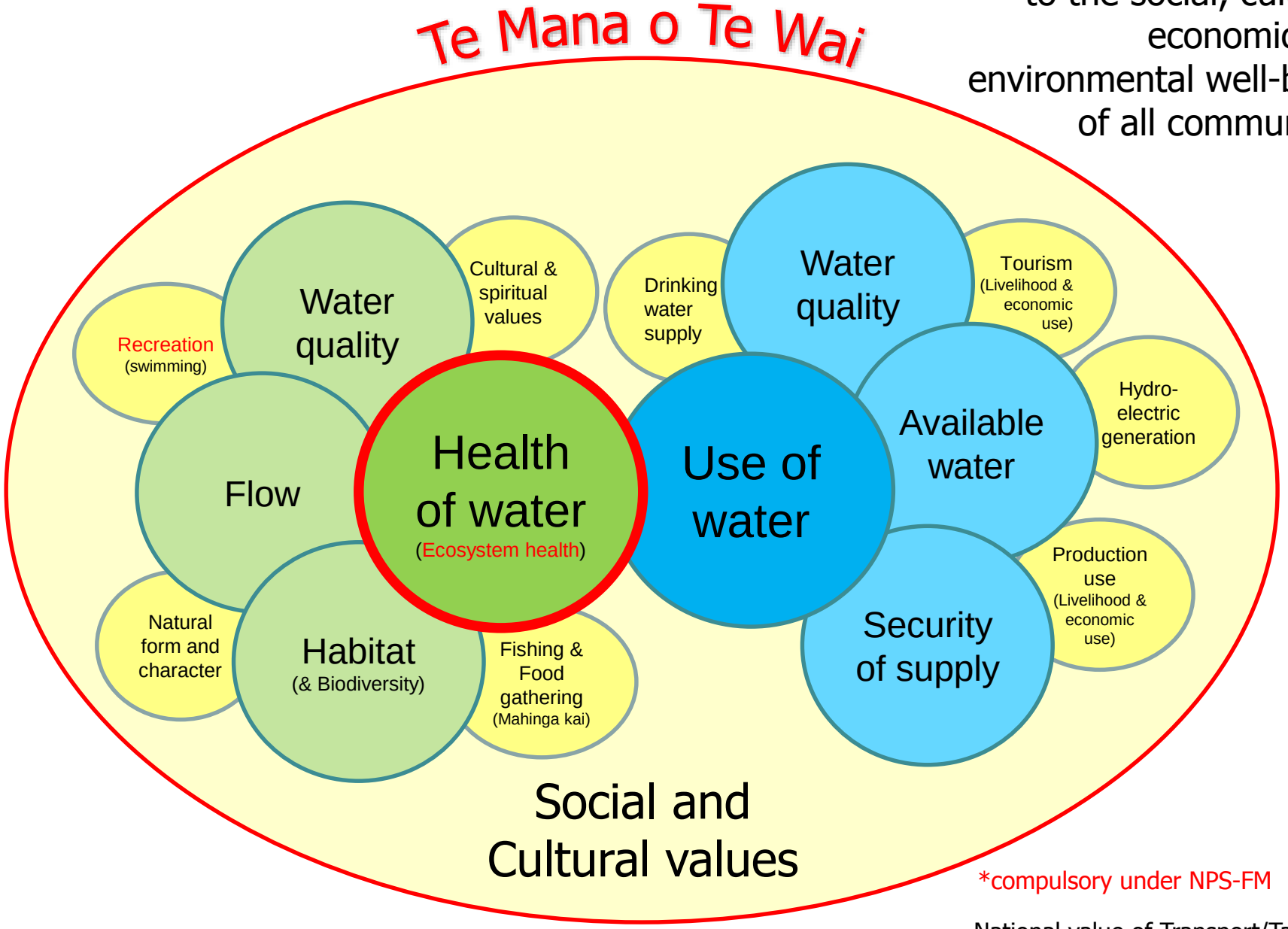
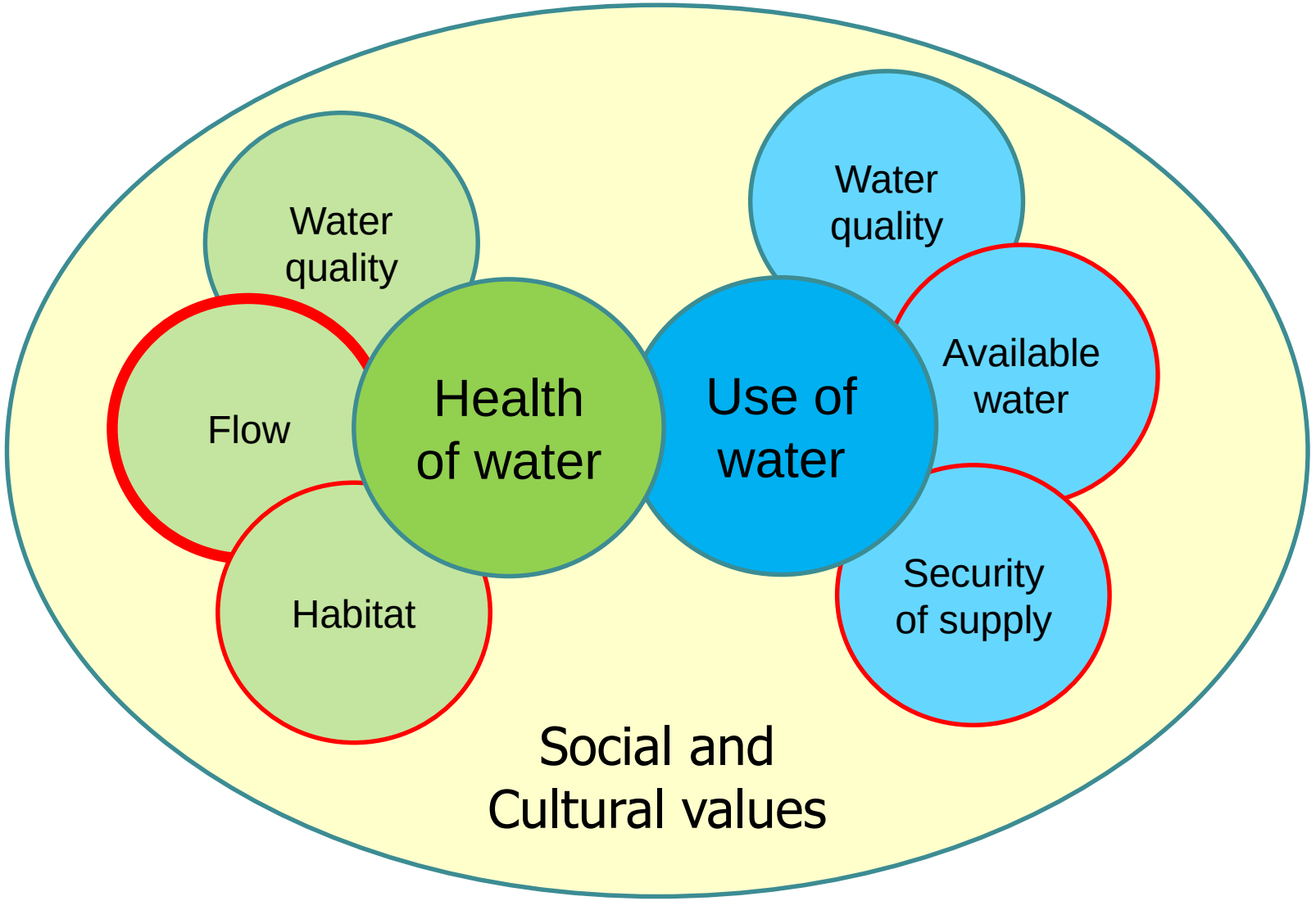


*compulsory under NPS-FM

National value of Transport/Tauranga waka not represented

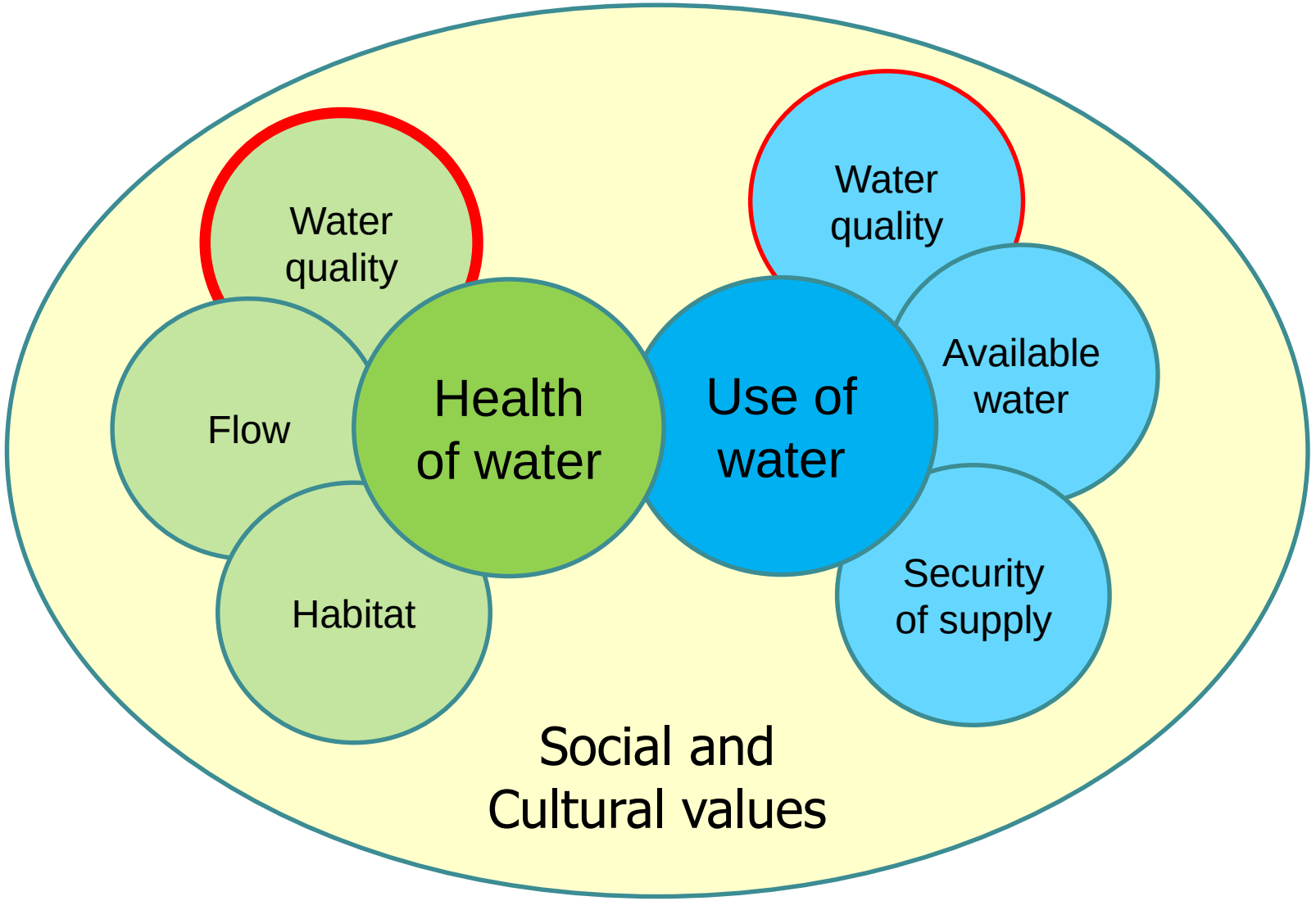
FLAG process – water quantity management

- Allocation of water: firstly protecting aquatic ecology during dry periods, then available water & security



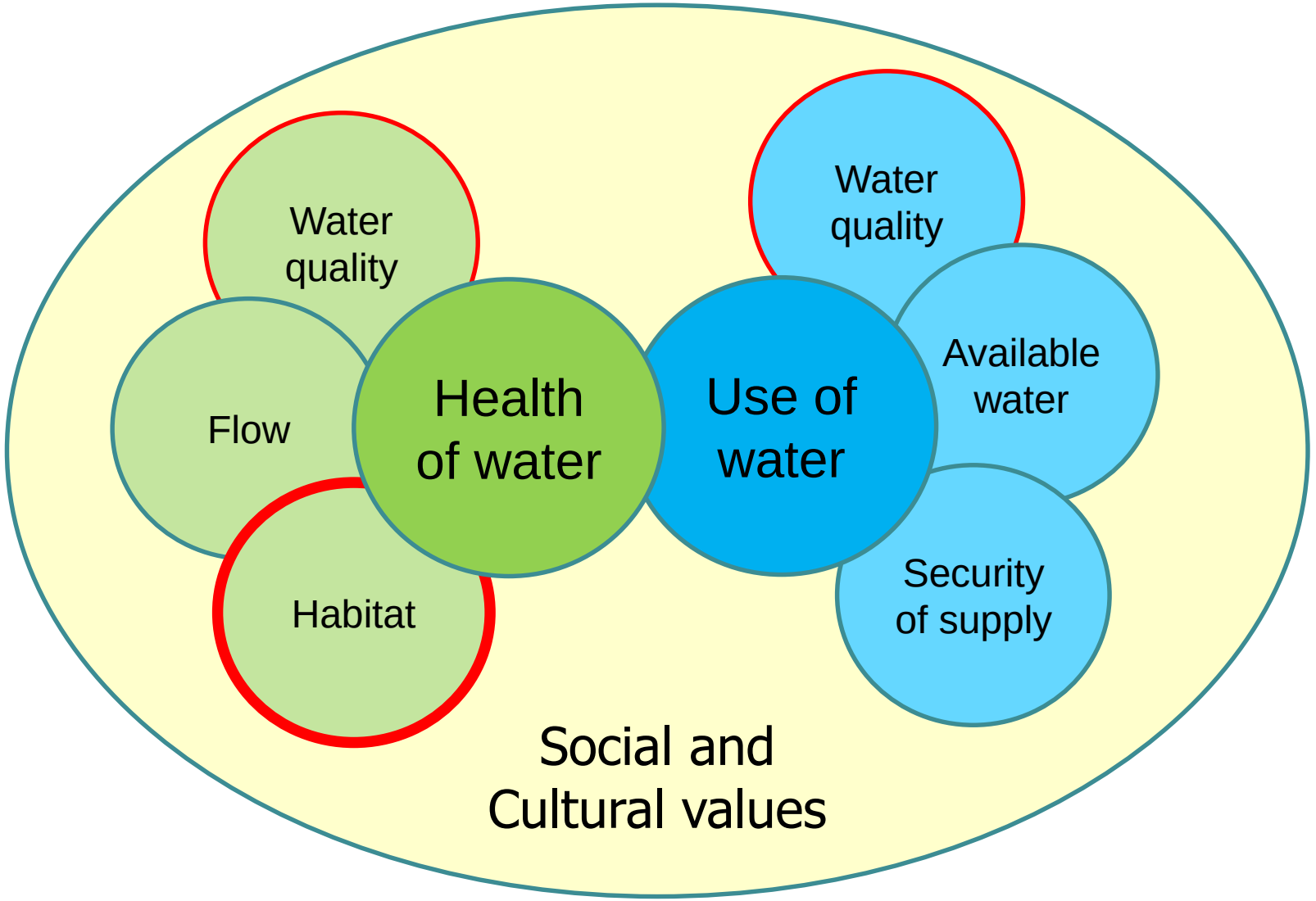
FLAG process – water quality management

- Focus on quality for the health of water – for all values
- Also provides for quality for use of water



FLAG process – habitat management

- Focus on riparian restoration and stock exclusion for both water quality and habitat improvement



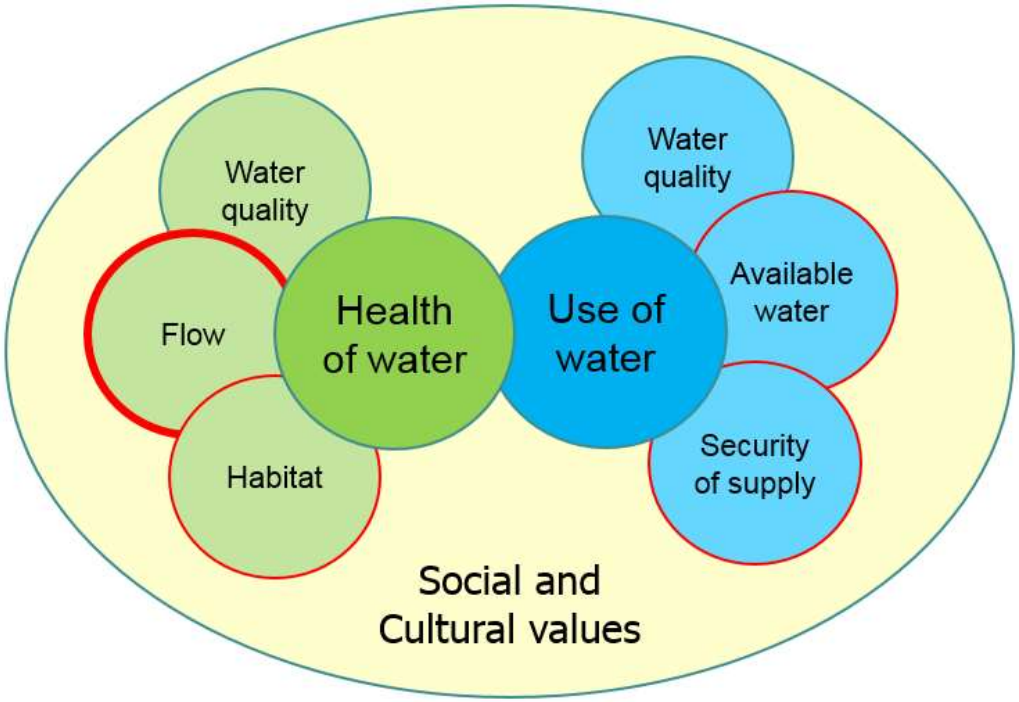
Key attributes across all values

- Mauri
- Water clarity
- Fine sediment
- Riparian and aquatic habitat (incl. shading and habitat)
- Dissolved oxygen and dissolved organic carbon
- Nutrients- nitrates and phosphorus
- Nuisance aquatic plants (eg overgrowth of weeds, algal blooms, etc)
- *E.coli* (as an indicator of disease causing organisms)
- River and spring flow
- Groundwater level
- Security of supply
- Other economic indicator – yet to be defined

Summary of FLAG Interim decisions to date:

- Allocation of water (water quantity)
- Water quality and habitat (water health)

Work done to date: Water Quantity (Allocating water)



Work done to date – water quantity

- Interim regimes for water bodies that could have water allocation:
  - Goal to protect in-stream ecological values during dry periods
  - Enable water use where it is sustainable
  - Advice from Dr Roger Young – freshwater ecology expert (Cawthron)

- Setting minimum flows - low flow to be protected
- Setting allocation limits - amount of flow that can be taken
- Setting cease take triggers – so takes won't affect low flows
  - rivers may still drop lower naturally

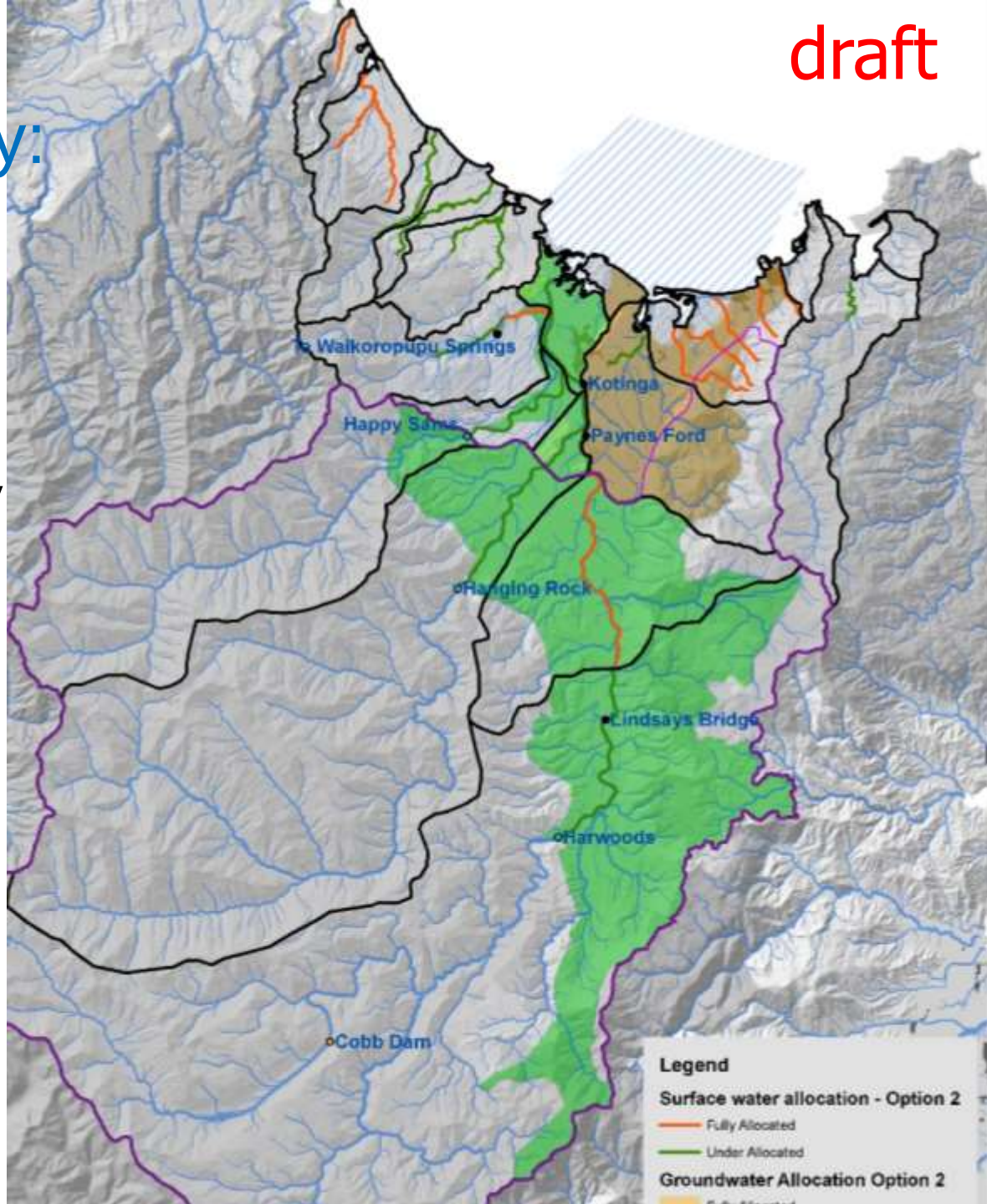
- Review security of supply – options to improve:
  - Reduce allocation limits - ie users get less water, but don't get cut off as often
  - Promote use of storage

- Questions to be resolved regarding some zone allocation amounts
- FLAG to review interim decisions once draft plan change available

Interim allocation decisions summary:

draft

- Groundwater (aquifers) shown as polygons
- Rivers reaches shown as lines
- Additional water potentially available in green areas
  - subject to physical access
  - irrigable area not shown
- No further water in orange areas
- Tukurua:
  - Potential ‘over-allocation’
  - Community water supply



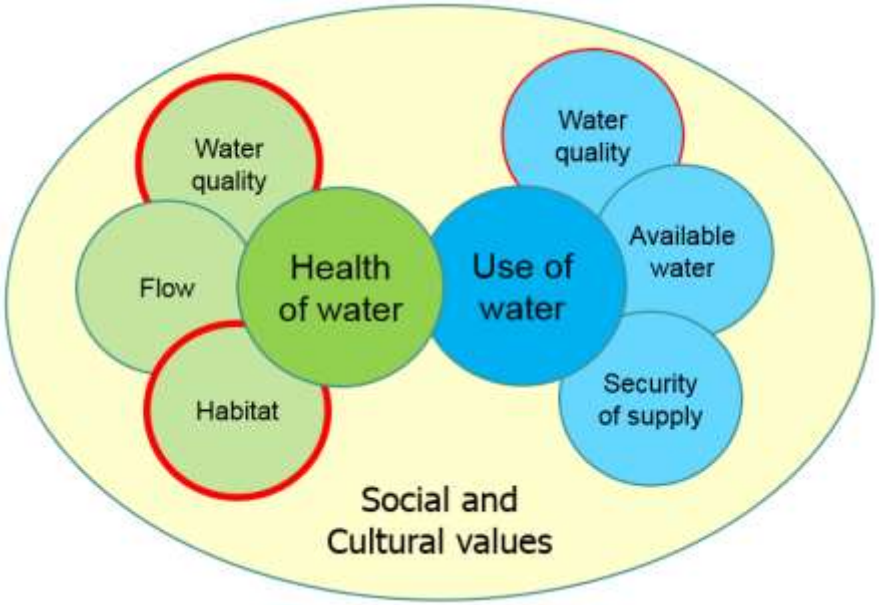
Anticipated Water Allocation Benefits

- Low flows and ecological values for rivers and springs are protected from the effects of consented, consumptive water takes
- Greater certainty for water users on water availability & security of supply
- More water is available for use in many zones:
  - 100% of waiting lists for water can be met by proposed regimes

Anticipated Water Allocation Costs

- Most existing consents will have new cease take triggers
  - Results in a lower security of supply (ie no cease take currently)
  - Security can be increased through storage or lower allocation
- Some zones are at full allocation - no further water available
  - Tukurua may be over-allocated, potential to resolve at consent renewal
- Risks to water quality: increased water use enabling land use intensification or change
  - To be addressed through water quality management methods, including land use and discharge controls
  - Reason: water use is only one cause of water quality risks- eg high rainfall, imported feed, stocking rates, land use practices etc

Work done to date: Water Health (quality and habitat)



Work done to date – water quality

FLAG discussions on:

- Zones with water quality issues to address:
- Zones with good or excellent quality needing to be protected
- Future potential risks to be managed

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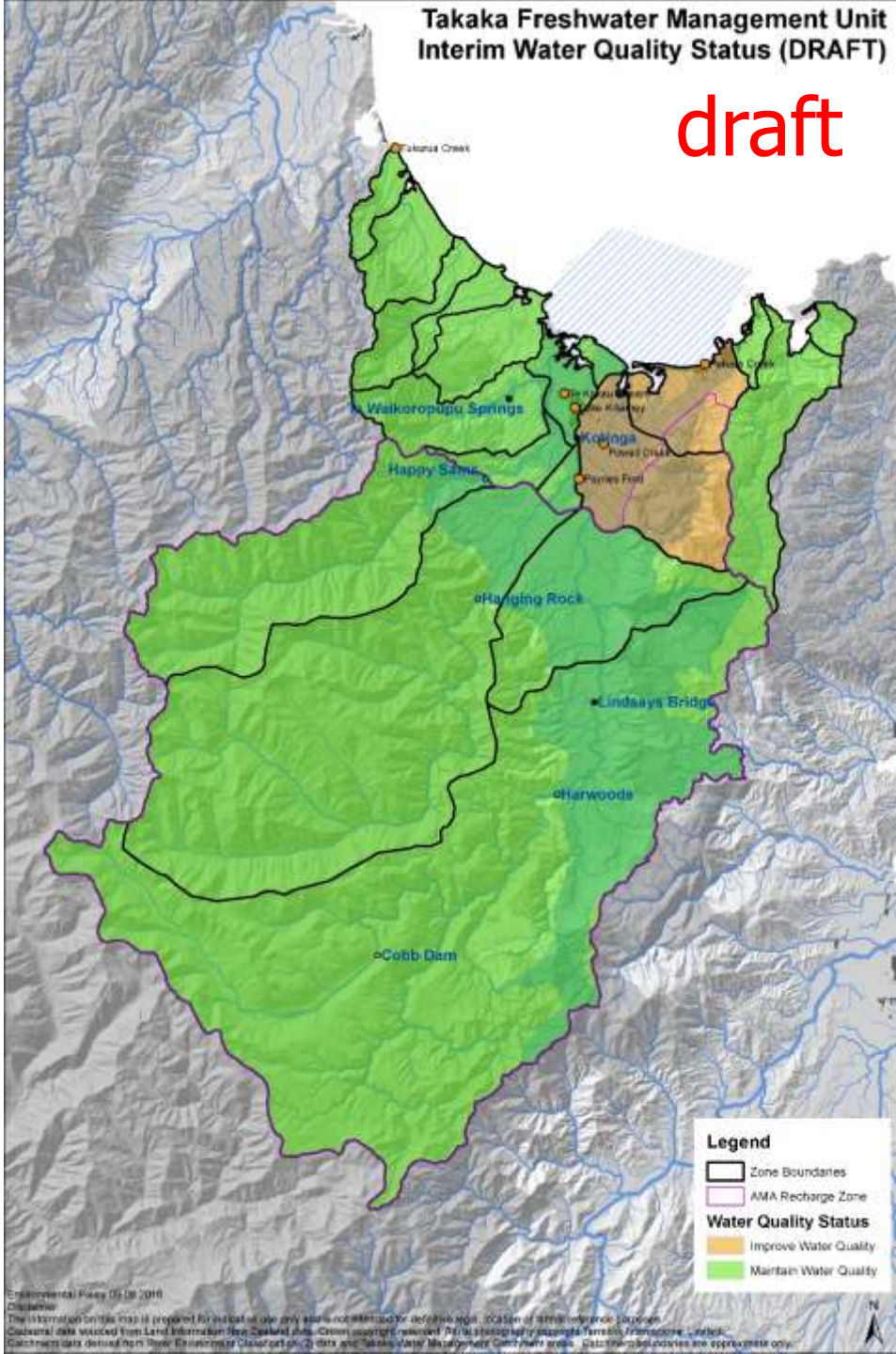
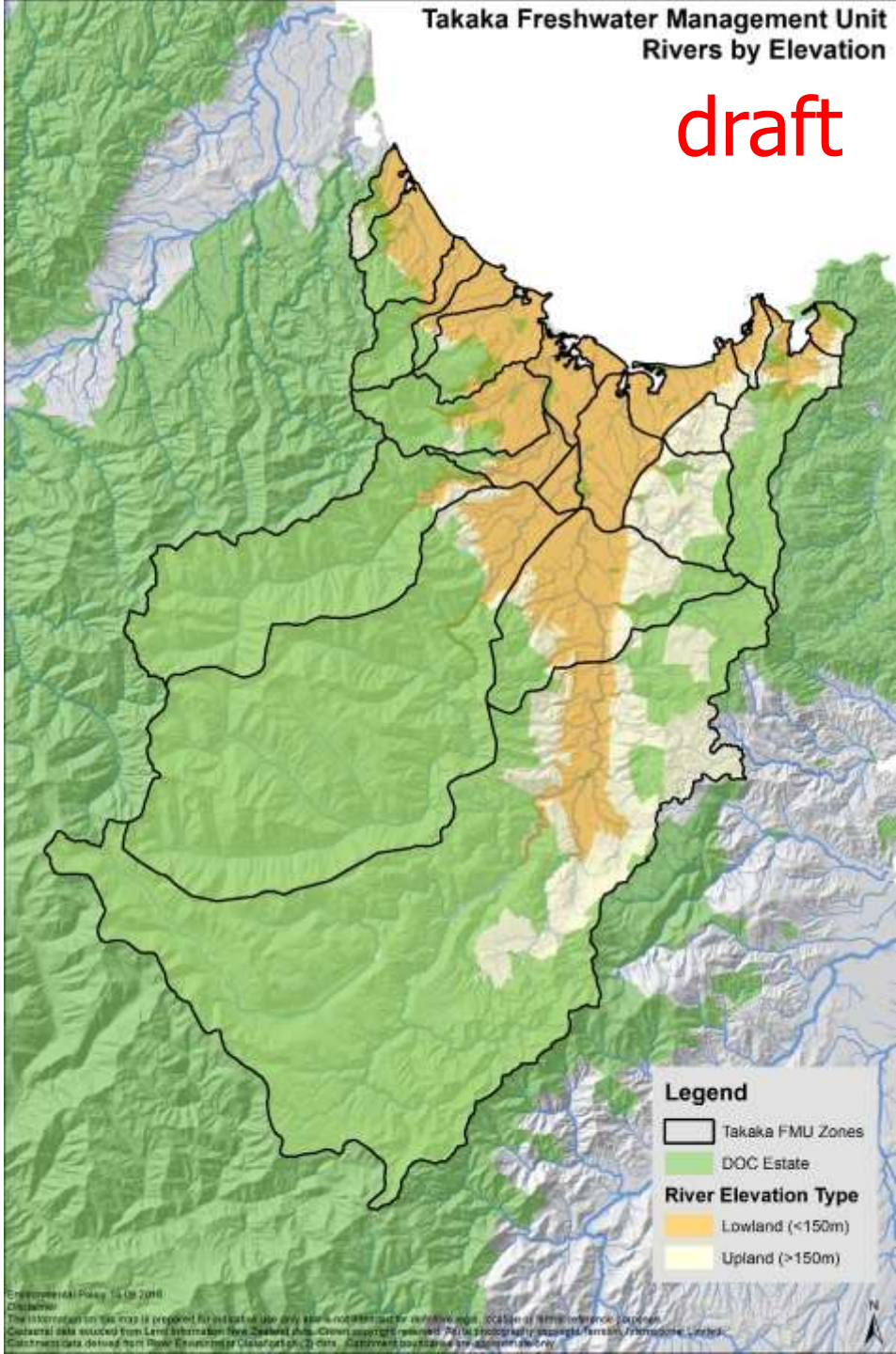
Water Quality Status

- Green areas in a maintain state, orange in an improve state
- Generally water quality is good and FLAG want to keep it that way
  - Especially at Te Waikoropupu
- Motupipi and Pohara-Clifton Zones:
  - Takaka Limestone Aquifer - potentially elevated nitrate
- Sites/reaches with concerns:
  - Te Kakau Stream
  - Lake Killarney
  - Motupipi river and tributaries
  - Swimming holes (eg Payne's Ford)
  - Pohara and Tukurua Creek/Beach
- General FMU wide concerns:
  - Risks from sediment, *E.coli*, nutrients
  - Loss of riparian cover/habitat – esp. lowland streams, close to coast



Water habitats

- Loss of riparian cover and aquatic habitat:
  - Focus on lowland streams:
    - under 150m elevation (orange on map)
    - close to coast - have high fish diversity
    - Smaller streams benefit most from riparian shading
- Stream restoration and replanting is occurring
  - Staff to look at options to support this as part of implementation plan



Water quality management options discussed:

- Explore options during draft plan change and implementation plan development – focus on:
  - Requirement of good land use practices throughout all zones
    - Management of sediment, nutrients, effluent/bacteria, riparian areas, water use
    - Stock exclusion (dairy and beef cattle, deer, pigs)
  - Investigations into potential sources of contaminants at problem sites
    - eg. Bacteria *E.coli* levels – land practice or naturalized populations
  - Ongoing monitoring & additional monitoring to identify future issues
    - Adaptive management (set triggers > monitor > if breached > action)
  - Education and promotion of projects that improve water quality/health
    - eg. stream replanting and restoration
  - Work also still to be done on scoping and costing these aspects

Anticipated Water Quality Benefits

- Improved water quality through targeted projects in areas with issues
- Adaptive management approach to managing future risks
  - Avoids over-regulation & allows for changes to management if monitoring identifies undesirable trends or issues
- Improved aquatic and riparian ecology through support of enhancement projects and networks
- Greater protection and respect given to water bodies

Anticipated Water Quality Costs

- Changes will be needed for higher-risk land use practices:
  - Some may have little direct cost, requiring only behavior changes
  - Some may impact on-farm operating costs or require new investment
  - Compliance monitoring costs for council and industry
- Enhancement efforts such as riparian restoration require funding, and also ongoing commitment from owners
- Some additional monitoring and one-off investigation projects will add costs to Council monitoring budgets

Remaining work for FLAG / staff

- Include iwi input in FLAG recommendations
- Set Freshwater Objectives (step 4 and 5 in NOF)
- Developing drafting plan change and implementation plan
  - Merging good land use practice with a regulatory framework - new approach to water quality management, being grappled with nationally
- Sec 32 analysis of methods: costs and benefit, implications
  - Impact of draft plan change compared to current situation
  - Scoping and costing of non-regulatory methods
- Gain input from stakeholders and public
- FLAG review of interim decisions in context of draft plan change and feedback – seek consensus if possible

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