

Flows and water allocation in Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua

Presentation to Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee 27.10.2018

Paula Hammond – Policy Advisor

Recap of objectives

- Protection of habitat
- Reliability of supply

Terms used

- Minimum flow
 - The flow in the stream at which water takes from the stream must cease
- Allocation amount
 - The amount of water available to be allocated for use
- Mean Annual Low Flow (MALF)
 - The average of the lowest flows measured in each year of a full site record

Current policy direction

- Permitted under RMA – reasonable domestic and stock use
- Permitted activity

Property size	Rate	Volume per day
Greater than 20ha	2.5L/s	20,000L
Less than 20ha	2.5L/s	10,000L

- Consent required for any takes above permitted threshold
 - Policies to determine minimum flow limit (90% MALF) and allocation amount (30% MALF)
 - Policies on efficient use, when minimum flows apply

Limits*

WMU	Minimum flow	Allocation amount
Porirua Stream	128L/s	60L/s
Pauatahanui Stream	101L/s	34L/s
Horokiri Stream	82L/s	27L/s

For all other WMU's a default minimum flow of 90% of MALF and an allocation amount of 30% of MALF.

*The actual numbers that will be included in the PNRP may differ slightly from the table above due to more data being available at the time of the plan change and verification of MALF calculations

What do these limits mean for water users

Number of days per year flow in stream is below the proposed minimum flow

	Median	Average	10 th percentile	Highest in last 10 years (2015/2016)
Porirua Stream	0 days	14 days	47 days	32 days
Pauatahanui Stream	19 days	32 days	82 days	83 days
Horokiri Stream	12 days	21 days	68 days	43 days

Recommendations – permitted activities (s6 Pg36)

1. Greater Wellington removes the permitted activity rule in the PNRP to take water from a waterbody in the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua. Committee decided to dispense with “permitted activity” water takes: all surface water takes beyond reasonable domestic and stock-watering purposes will require a resource consent. Note: Water for reasonable domestic use and stock watering is authorised under section 14(3)(b) of the RMA.
2. Greater Wellington identifies in the PNRP, using narrative and (possibly) numbers (unit/volume/day), the meaning of domestic and stock water use e.g.:
 - Water for an individual’s reasonable domestic needs is the amount sufficient to provide for hygiene, sanitary and domestic requirements
 - Water for the reasonable needs of a person’s animals for drinking water is the amount sufficient to provide for the animals’ health and welfare

Recommendations – permitted activities (s6 Pg36)

3. Greater Wellington investigates mechanisms to incentivise or encourage the installation and use roof-collected rain-water (tanks) for non-domestic uses.
4. Greater Wellington collects better information on water take and use volumes, including for takes under 14(3)(b) of the RMA, in order to provide for more transparent accounting of water use and better management into the future and to ensure the requirements of the NPS-FM are met.

Resource consents – recommendations (s6 Pg 26)

1. Greater Wellington amends the rule in the PNRP to take water from a river in the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua so that it includes the limits listed in Table X. Amendments to the rule should also ensure that no more than 30% of MALF (of the tributary) can be taken from a tributary within a WMU.
2. Greater Wellington develops an information and education to ensure land owners affected by the removal of the permitted activity rule are aware of the new resource consent requirements and provides assistance with the resource consent process.