



Landcare Research
Manaaki Whenua

Improving Water Governance – Stakeholder Views Of Five South Island Catchment Management Processes

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Research Aims

1

Explore the governance factors that create or hinder effectiveness of water management plans and planning processes

2

Determine the appropriate perspectives and scales for tackling and managing water issues

3

Determine the priority attributes for optimal water governance

4

Develop an overarching 'straw man' policy structure that could improve NZ water governance



Method

- Define good governance attributes from water management plans in the South Island
- 5 case studies in 4 jurisdictions
- Interviewed 56 stakeholders
- A cross section of stakeholders from:
 - Government - policy planners, resource scientists
 - Environmental - F+G, DoC
 - Iwi
 - Water user stakeholders
 - In-stream - NGOs, independents



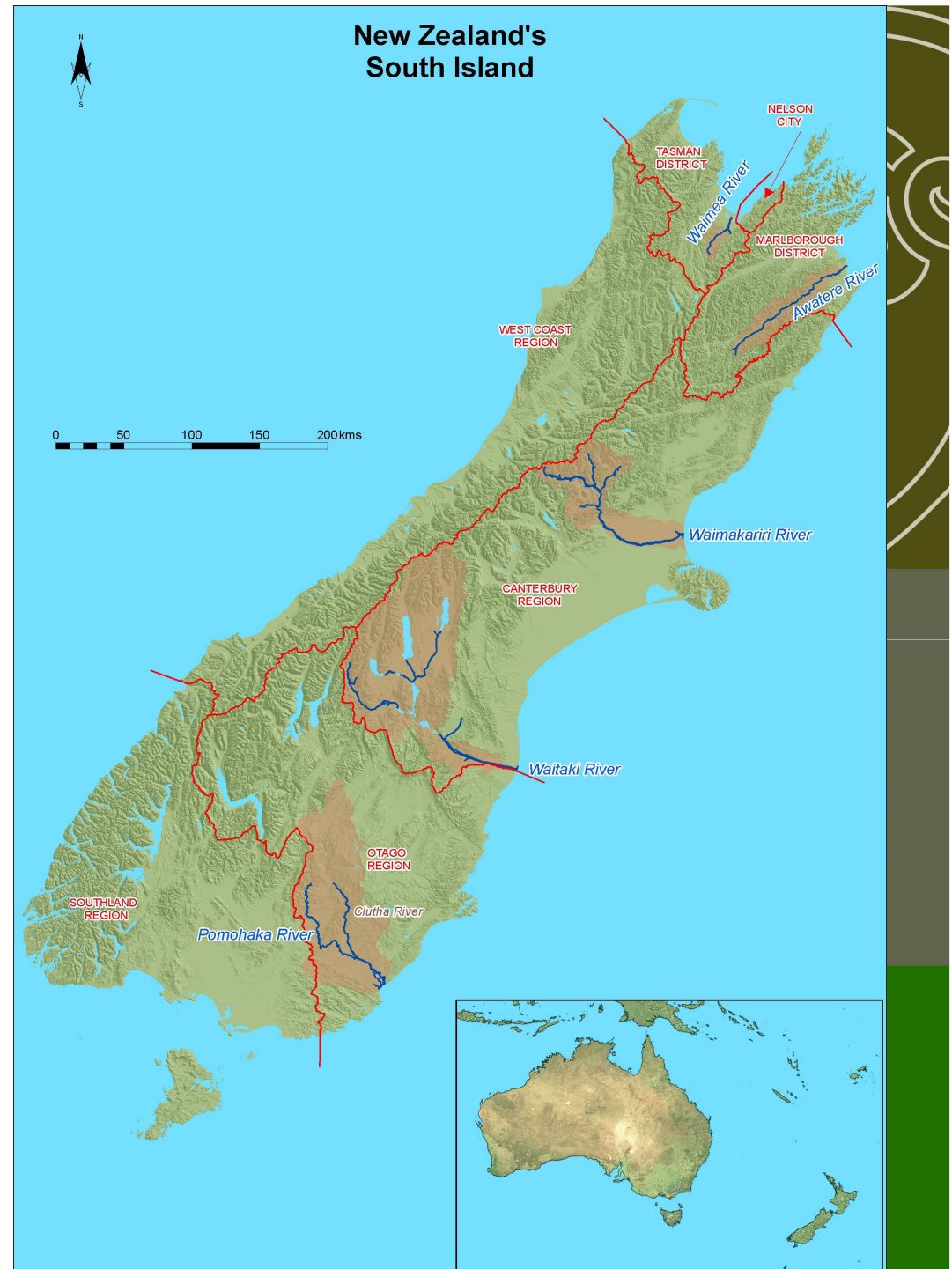
Waimea, Tasman

Awatere, Marlborough

Waimakariri, North Canterbury

Waitaki, South Canterbury

Pomahaka, Otago



Research Methodology

Questionnaires

- Q1 quantitative, S.W.O.T
- Q2 qualitative, good governance attributes

Score sheets

Governance evaluative tool



3D Governance Matrix

Governance Criteria

Use of Science knowledge

Communicative + inclusive

Efficient + responsive

Open + transparent

Coherent + integrative

Sectors

Govt

Enviro

Iwi

Water users

In-stream

Water plans

Water plan A

Water plan B

Water plan C

Water plan D

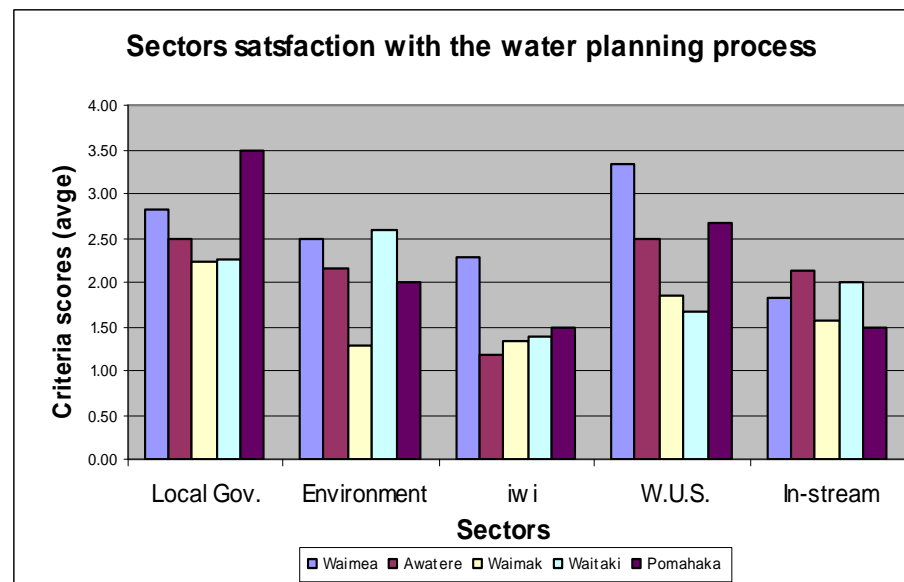
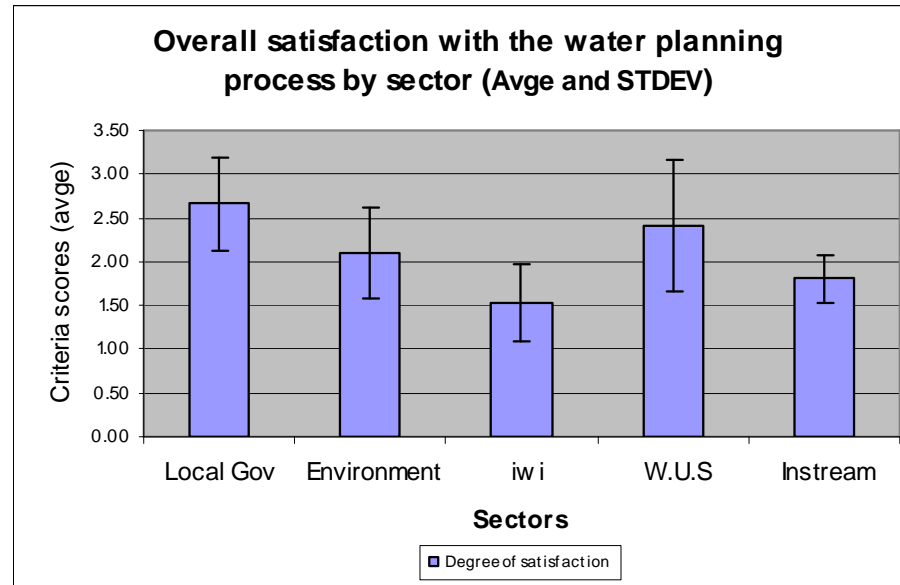
Water plan E

Satisfaction with plan

Satisfaction with process



Satisfaction with the planning process



Good Governance Attributes 1

(from stakeholder interviews)

Planning Process Attributes

- 2 Good and timely communication between the full range of stakeholders and the regional council at the early stages of planning
- 3 Attuning to the whole instead of segment of the whole in catchment management decision making
- 6 Avoid political bias in environmental decision making
- 7 Regular consultation and continuous two-way communication with stakeholders during plan process and implementation phases



Good Governance Attributes 2

(from stakeholder interviews)

Process Attributes (ctd)

- 9 Use up-to-date science and monitoring in decision making
- 10 Plan for and incorporate transition between planning process phase and implementation phase
- 11 Facilitate buy-in to plan from anyone administering or implementing it



Good Governance Attributes 3

(from stakeholder interviews)

Plan Design Attributes

- 1 Determine the actual carrying capacity of water bodies and the desired carrying capacity to meet the present and future needs of the community
- 4 Clearly connected and defined objectives, policies and methods/rules in the plan
- 5 Clear and concise allocation framework through the three principles of sound water management: environmental flows, flow sharing above that bottom line, and allocation caps
- 13 Over-arching resource management vision needed, with generic national priorities on sustainable water management



Good Governance Attributes 4

(from stakeholder interviews)

Plan Design Attributes (ctd)

- 14 Devolve monitoring to stakeholders within a defined management framework to achieve shared goals
- 15 Build in flexibility in the plans and planning processes to respond to new pressures and achieve defined objectives
- 16 Help achieve planning goals through adaptive management



Good Governance Attributes 5

(from stakeholder interviews)

Plan Design Attributes (ctd)

17 Monitor effectiveness and efficiency of plans by measuring them against identified values

19 Water quality targets should influence land-based planning

20 Spread the burden of water management costs among users



Good Governance Attributes 6

(from stakeholder interviews)

Institutional Attributes

- 8 Peer review of science and sharing of intellectual knowledge
- 12 Team approach to water planning and management needed within councils
- 18 Regional councils held accountable to higher regulatory authority for effectiveness and efficiency of plans and implementation



Some Closing Observations

More holistic land-water planning is sought, especially by iwi

Limits on land activities and uses needed, as well as water body standards and limits

Faster planning processes needed to keep up with resource pressures

User-friendly science, widely available

Formalise involvement of water users & stakeholders in planning and implementation

Communication and engagement of water users and key stakeholders in decision-making during water stress periods creates cohesion and confidence in the water management regime



Thanks for listening



Conceptual improved governance structure

