

StAG subcommittee meeting 6 June 2013, 9-12pm

Present: Tanira Kingi, Stuart Morrison (from 10.20am), Hera Smith, Lisa Power, Sarah Omundsen, Anna Grayling, Warren Webber, Simon Park. Apologies from Liam Dagg.

An agenda was put by Simon as follows:

1. Previous StAG subcommittee minutes from 28 May
2. Draft allocation paper – Main item
3. What next on allocation, including low N loss farm paper and Motu paper
4. Incentives advice, including innovation fund and TDR Symposium
5. To do list
6. 18 June meeting structure and facilitation (for discussion 11-12)

1. Previous minutes from 28 May

- Simon acknowledged these need to be circulated more promptly
- Sarah noted (and Simon agreed) that there was consensus on how to treat dairy support within allocation i.e. treat dairy support as part of the drystock sector while recognising the impact of N restrictions, and identify this in ongoing analysis. Further comments were:
 - Dairy support is a fluid land use that is poorly understood, including the extent that small blocks are used
 - Dairy support is captured in the draft allocation paper as a viable option where a dairy farmer provides sufficient NDA (N discharge allowance) to the support owner
- “Small blocks” terminology is preferred to “lifestyle blocks” – related discussion:
 - No clear definition; more information needed on number, area and land use
 - About 1500 land parcels between 0.4ha and 70ha; Rule 11 benchmarking generally 40ha plus; Rotorua District Plan Rural A zone subdivision limit historically 15ha
 - Possible size threshold use in nutrient rules – prepare now
 - **Action:** Anna and Warren to liaise with Deryck Shaw on this clarifying data (desktop analysis) and possibly questionnaire; also liaise with Karl Weaver
- Clarification that Warren’s action to draft an incentive flat rate was for consideration initially by this subcommittee before the full StAG
- Confirmation that subcommittee minutes would be circulated on 1 June with the StAG agenda for 18 June.

2. Draft allocation paper

This paper was prepared by Lisa and Sarah for StAG subcommittee consideration today.

Action: please email feedback to Sarah and Lisa by midday Monday 10 June so that changes can be made to the version due to be emailed on 11 June with the StAG agenda.

Discussion points:

- The paper incorporates previous BOPRC work, recent StAG advice, Motu’s allocation analysis and the expert panel report on low N loss options.
- The report template is staff advice to BOPRC; StAG has input 18 June and 16 July. Once changes are made, it will go to BOPRC’s Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee 6 August.

Action: Add cover page or text box clarifying how the report will be used and that it is being made available now as a draft explicitly for StAG input.

- It is unusual to develop this type of allocation policy when the total load outcome (435tN) has already been set – but that is the task for staff and StAG, noting endorsement of the 435 target by Strategy Group partners and Government.
- This is a major leap forward in the policy pathway, giving effect to the direction set by the RPS, noting previous work (e.g. Lake Rotorua-Rotoiti Action Plan) were light on land actions.
- Paper should capture the key policy steps to date, and the contributions by many, including: Establishing TLI target; Rule 11 proposed & implemented; start of Action Plan process; science/information work e.g. ROTAN; Collective, Waiora & Oturoa agreements; RPS process; public submission processes...
- More consideration of economic benefits is needed, including restoring the lake's mauri – Toby Curtis has spoken recently on this
- The hybrid option is not explored sufficiently given StAG's support, including a fair way of addressing and high and low N loss outliers. StAG's preference can be flagged in this draft version for a hybrid option that is "the least unfair allocation". The way hybrids are considered in detail can be resolved later.
- Concern on using a mix of real and hypothetical data to illustrate grandparenting and sector averaging – real data preferred if possible
- Sector average values should deliver 256 tN – rounding values off can appear to give slippage. Warren presented a table of various dairy and drystock sector values and consequent total pastoral loads (**Action: to be circulated to the subcommittee - Done**)
- Related to the real Vs hypothetical data concern, most farmers and StAG reps will need worked examples of allocation options. Leading to:

Action: Simon to draft a proposal for Sarah, covering:

- a. Seek expert panel input, similar format to low N loss panel
- b. Test various allocation combinations against (ideally) real farms, possibly adjusted to 100ha for anonymity, covering a range of current N losses, both dairy and drystock
- c. Identify gap between allocation and current N loss, and how it varies according to grandparenting Vs sector average Vs hybrid
- d. Identify how a N gap could be met could be met e.g. some combination of mitigation, partial land use change and/or buying N
- e. Intent and progress will be reported to StAG 18 June

Motu Report and the Low N loss report

These have been incorporated within the draft allocation paper and can both be posted to the StAG web page. However, the low N report will not form a direct part of discussion at the 18 June StAG meeting as it would risk diverting too much time on scenario assumptions etc.

Insufficient time to discuss incentives advice, innovation fund and TDR Symposium.

3. Running the 18 June meeting

About 11am, meeting welcomed Kerry Gosling, BOPRC's Community Engagement Team Leader. The meeting agreed that Kerry (and possibly Stephanie McDonald from her team) would assist Stuart and StAG on 18 June and 16 July to get more productive sessions and outputs.

It was noted that although StAG has met seven times, it has never debated how it functions apart from selecting a Chair and deputy, and starting the subcommittee. There is national as well as local expectations that StAG will deliver.

Further discussion re 18 June included:

- Sarah's initial presentation will ID key elements of draft report, including a brief recap on what grandparenting and sector averaging allocations mean, and what outcomes are sought for the day
- Need to check understanding levels – not everyone is at the same level
- Room set up to encourage input from all; name badges to help Kerry & Steph; morning tea
- Observers – including Ollie Parsons (DairyNZ) and Gwyn Morgan (Feds) can participate in discussion but formal advice/motions/voting must be based on StAG members only

Draft of 18 June outcomes sought - identify:

- a. StAG's dominant allocation preference, with relevant conditions
- b. Reasons for that preference
- c. How the preferred allocation could be modified to improve it
- d. What other information is needed by 16 July to enable "in principle" advice from StAG
- e. StAG subcommittee will also consider what work is needed after 6 August

4. Actions summary

Draft allocation paper:

- i. Everyone: get comments and edits to Sarah by midday Monday 10 June
- ii. Sarah/Lisa: Add cover page or text box clarifying how the report will be used + StAG input
- iii. Sarah/Lisa: add potted history of progress to date

18 June meeting preparation

- iv. Simon: liaise with Jenny on morning tea, and subcommittee use of room, lunch
- v. Sarah: prepare intro presentation
- vi. Simon: draft cover email for agenda circulation on 11 June, strongly encouraging StAG members to read the draft allocation paper, invite queries to Sarah / Lisa

Additional work

- vii. Simon: draft a allocation example proposal for Sarah and subcommittee
- viii. Anna and Warren: liaise with Deryck Shaw on this clarifying data (desktop analysis) and possibly questionnaire; also liaise with Karl Weaver

Meeting ended 12.10pm