

## **StAG subcommittee meeting 16 July 2013, 12.50-2.20pm**

**Present:** Stuart Morrison, Tanira Kingi, Karen Parcell, Sarah Omundsen, Anna Grayling, Liam Dagg, Warren Webber, Simon Park, Ollie Parsons, Gwyn Morgan, Wendy Roe, Don Atkinson, Stephen Lamb.

An agenda was pre-circulated by Simon as follows:

1. StAG debrief on process, outcomes
2. Further advice development of a combined allocation and incentives package
3. StAG meeting timeline: 13 August & 16 September and beyond
4. Tasks, secretariat handover to Warren

### **1. StAG Debrief**

A round table discussion noted:

- The StAG process / structure is working well, helpful having Kerry and Steph
- Respectful, everyone gets a hearing although sometime too much one to one debate
- Very fast pace of policy development but certainty needed - sooner the better
- Important to progress both allocation and incentives together but maintain distinction between them (avoid confusion)
- Onus on subcommittee to prepare and test material before full StAG
- More focus needed on farms as a business with investment needs, risks
- Much goodwill – also at TDR – important to build on this, maintain momentum
- Policy development is step-wise – each report/presentation builds on the last
- RDC intend (subject to elected member agreement) to withdraw the TDR component of the proposed District Plan to allow StAG and BOPRC policy process to develop further
- Concern about how Councillors and farmers outside StAG will view evolving policy – will they be on board? Collective exec plan to meet evening before and improve communication with its wider membership
- More effort needed with Maori landowners, plus encourage TALT to attend StAG
- Devil is in the detail – key examples needing a small working group:
  1. Consents timing, when requirements kick-in etc
  2. Review clause – a lot hangs on this for managing risk
- Well done Gisele and Stuart on the Collective presentation
- Broader comms focus needed on policy development since RPS has changed the context
- Valuers placing heavy reliance on Rule 11 benchmarks

### **2. StAG Paper Development**

- Principles ID'd at the end of StAG will form the core of a new StAG position
- New emphasis on making best possible progress to 2022 – pragmatic approach with high level of farmer buy-in is important
- Comprehensive farm nutrient management plans (by 2015) important - not a soft option
- Some differences remain on the merits of funding above/below the line (35/13 in Collective paper)
  - Incentives needed for some farmers who will find it too difficult

- Conversely, retaining all \$45m for below the line will give Councillors more confidence of success
- Clarity needed on the hardest 100 tN and defining sharing of responsibility

**Report Structure for 17 September BOPRC Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee:**

1. A relatively short staff cover report with background, option summary & preference, plus:
  2. appended “Option A” with:
    - a. principles from final session of 16 July StAG, using numbers to illustrate principles and show how they can add up to meet targets, importance of wide buy-in & viable farms
    - b. holistic package is key: include TDRs, gorse, industry farm plans etc (use link diagram)
    - c. collaborative process, evolution of advice via StAG, staff, Collective thru’ to “Option A”
  3. appended “Option B” based on staff’s draft paper to June StAG
- Note that even if Option A is preferred by staff, providing multiple options helps protect Councillor decision-makers
  - Need to address incentive options also as advice to MfE due prior to December Cab paper
  - There is no need to continue separate development of a Collective paper

**3. StAG meeting timeline**

- 13 August next subcommittee – time?
- 30 August RTALSG scheduled may change – Anna to advise. This impacts Chairman’s report from Tanira (assisted by Warren) – these meetings have long agenda lead times!
- Postpone 16 September StAG to 23 September, as little value in meeting one day before SPP considers StAG’s advice/paper

**4. Secretariat handover to Warren**

- With Warren as secretariat, Don will attend subcommittee meetings
- Simon is on holiday from 20 July but will have limited email availability until 7 October

Meeting ended 2.20pm

**Action list**

1. **Anna** to explore targeted Maori session 12 August prior to next StAG, linked to wider BOPRC iwi engagement plan if possible
2. **Anna** to consider another rural professionals event as RPS has changed things
3. **Anna** to advise Warren & subcommittee on next RTALSG date
4. **Warren** to present wider comms issues to next subcommittee
5. **Warren** to schedule 13 August and subsequent subcommittees, liaise with Jenny on room
6. **Warren** to sort full StAG 16 to 23 September reschedule with Jenny
7. **Warren** to lead on writing “Paper A” supported by subcommittee
8. **Sarah** to test proposed paper structure with senior BOPRC management
9. **Simon** to send secretariat task list to Warren

**Next StAG subcommittee meeting is 30 July, time to be advised by Warren**