

Glossary of Terms used within each of the options

Abstraction: - Removal of water from any source – surface or ground - either temporarily or permanently.

Allocation: - Decisions made by resource consenting processes on who gets access to water for what purpose.

First in first served allocation: - Where water is allocated in order of application for consents, irrespective of the intended use of the water. This is the most commonly used approach under the Resource Management Act.

Merit-based allocation: - A method of allocating water that is based on some sort of assessment of the “value” or “merit” of the different options for use of that water.

Aquifer: - An underground layer of rock, stones, shingle, sand and clay through which surface freshwaters percolate from rivers and from rainfall.

Collaborative approach: - working together as a community to manage the water resource.

Consents: - Permission to abstract water, granted by a regional or local authority

Demand Management: - Efficient use and avoidance of wastage by managing the distribution, and use water.

Ecosystem Protection: - Safeguarding ecosystems and species (biodiversity)

Environmental Flows: - The amounts and patterns of flow that remain in rivers, streams, lakes, wetland and aquifers.

Environmental Limits: - Water quality standards and environmental flows we set in our water bodies to achieve the fundamental principles.

Ground Water: - Water that lies beneath the ground surface in underground streams or aquifers.

Infrastructure: - Anything built that delivers water, stores water, treats water or removes wastewater. It can range from very large storage dams, piped distribution systems and on-farm storage to rain tanks for a house.

Mitigation: - Lessen effects

Narrow braided gravel-bed rivers: - Eg: Pareora, Selwyn and Waipara. Have their headwaters in the foothills and provide a stable habitat for native and introduced fish.

Wide braided gravel-bed rivers: - Eg: Waimakariri, Rakaia and Rangitata. These rivers have their headwaters in the Southern Alps and are prone to large floods. Visually braided rivers have a number of channels that separate out and come back together hence the name braided. Flows are naturally highly variable

Reticulation: - The distribution of water through a network of pipelines

RMA: - The Resource Management Act (RMA) is a piece of legislation that is centred on the concepts of sustainable of resources

Small spring-fed streams: – Eg: Avon River and Ohapi and Buchanans creeks. Flow in single channels and have small infrequent floods. They provide an important spawning habitat for native and introduced fish.

Surface Water: - Water that collects on the ground or in a streams, rivers, lakes, or wetlands.

Stakeholders: - All those with a direct interest in water for whatever use – production of goods and services, economic, environmental, social, cultural or recreational.

Water quality: - A measure of the presence of limits on nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment and other contaminants in water bodies.

Land use: - The management of activities on the land surface that have the potential to alter water quality. This includes management of surface water runoff from urban and rural land, direct input of waste to water bodies, and management of drainage carrying some contaminants through the soil into aquifers.