

Workshop Notes

Session 4: Ecosystem services in decision making – learnings from two catchment processes

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This session was presented by Suzie Greenhalgh, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research. Working as a plenary, to recap key aspects from the case studies, likes, and concerns, participants reflected on:

What were some of the implications for their jobs from what they had heard about the processes?

What were some things you were going to do tomorrow based on what you they had heard?

Likes and concerns about the catchment processes

What participants liked about the catchment processes:

- Breaking out the costs of different options so that landowners could see where the cost were and also for them to understand what they could do to reduce those costs from their perspective
- The catchment process in the Mangapiko brought together different areas of council with different KPIs (key performance indicators) enabling them to interact and try things they would not normally do (e.g. change approach to willow clearance and stream restoration)
- The Rangitaiki catchment was a largely forested catchment rather than a ‘trashed’ catchment
- The two processes dealt with different scales with one case looking at what the benefits were to farmers

Some of the concerns about the catchment processes:

- How transferable such a process may be to areas such as peri-urban areas
 - Corporate agribusinesses are not individual farmers and not sure how you would get optimal outcomes when a farm is managed from afar. So, we may not get the same kind of outcomes where there are more corporate farming operations
 - Potential costs of running these types of catchment processes
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Implications for your job and what will you do tomorrow

Implications for the jobs of participants:

- That participatory processes can be used for more than just water issues
- That these kinds of processes can work across scales
- The need to be more explicit about ecosystem services (many people do it but just don’t talk about it)

- You can use ecosystem services and catchment processes to see the broader benefits of land management
- The challenge is resources, not necessarily the willingness
- Need to know what data is needed to track biodiversity, believe we need more specificity on what aspects of biodiversity is being talked about
- Need to work out how farm environmental plans (FEPs) are being used (it is not a compliance tool). We shouldn't expect all FEPs to be the same

Actions participants identified they could/should take on board immediately:

- Use consistent terminology
- Try to bring ecosystem services into the biodiversity protection story (but still looks like we need more data/info to help tell that story)
- Try to apply the Māori worldview more broadly. We often look at things from an environmental perspective, but we need to think more from a worldview perspective