

TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FRESHWATER REFORMS



Evaluating Collaborative Processes

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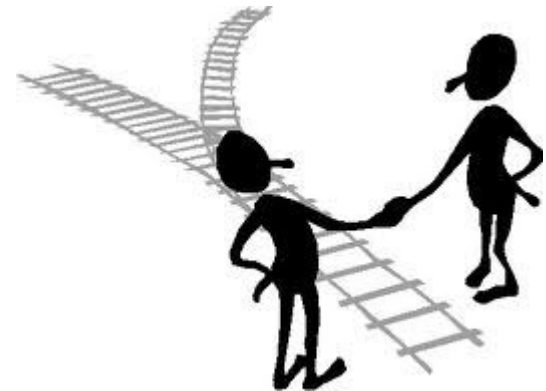
Evaluated participants & the community



What should collaboration achieve?

For participants within a process:

- Greater understanding of different aspects of issues & options
 - More robust decisions
- Greater understanding of different values; greater tolerance of different perspectives
 - Less conflict between different groups/people



What should collaboration achieve?

For community members outside a process:

- Greater awareness of decisions being made
- Less conflict over the final decision
- Greater trust in the outcome



Participant Perceptions of Collaboration

Do people or process matter in collaborative processes?

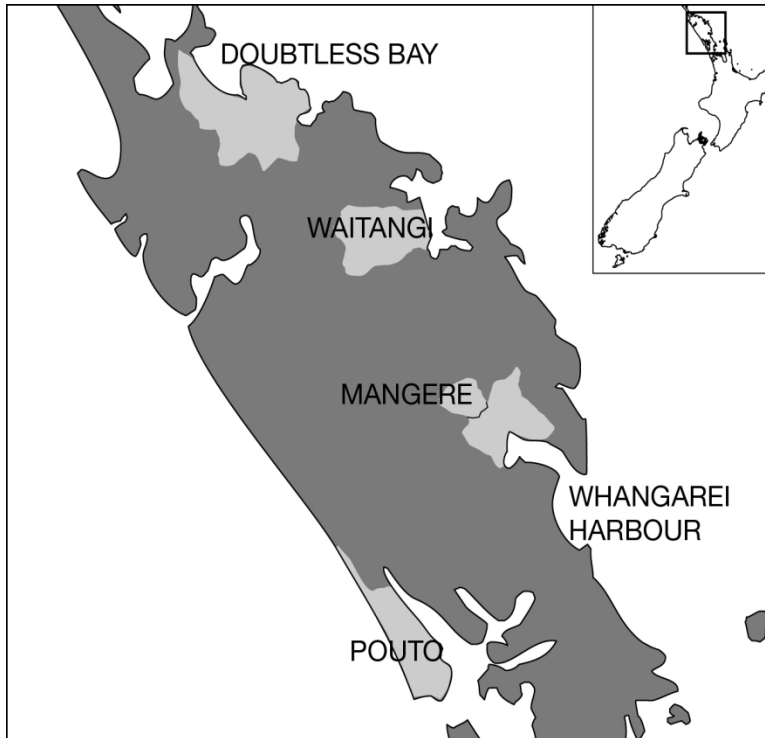


Approach

Participant surveys

- Across time (TANK)
- Across space (Northland)

5 catchments – same design – similar timing



1 catchment – same design – different timing



Agree TOR

Field trip

Interim
report

Agreement
status check

Survey covered

- How they wanted freshwater to be managed
- Design of the process
- How the process is working
- Information provided in the process
- Outcomes for freshwater mgt
 - Reconsider what is important
 - Learnings & new perspectives



Participant Perceptions of Collaboration



Northland

- Perceptions varied between processes
 - Is your participation making a difference
 - Are participant opinions closer than when process started
 - Has process led you or others to reconsider what is most important
 - Learning – understanding of environmental, social, cultural & economic interests changed
- Catchment where most participants wanted a collaborative decision process had best perception of the process
 - ➡ People do matter

Participant Perceptions of Collaboration

TANK

- Perceptions varied across time
 - Noted the waning in a process (both in process & implementation)
 - Frustration with delays

➡ Process does matter



What does this tell us?

- Measuring success at a single point in time maybe problematic
 - Processes are dynamic
 - Track & adjust process based on the social dynamics
- Personalities are important
 - Understand what people want
 - Manage the personalities in a process (one size does not fit all)



Community Perceptions of Collaboration

Approach

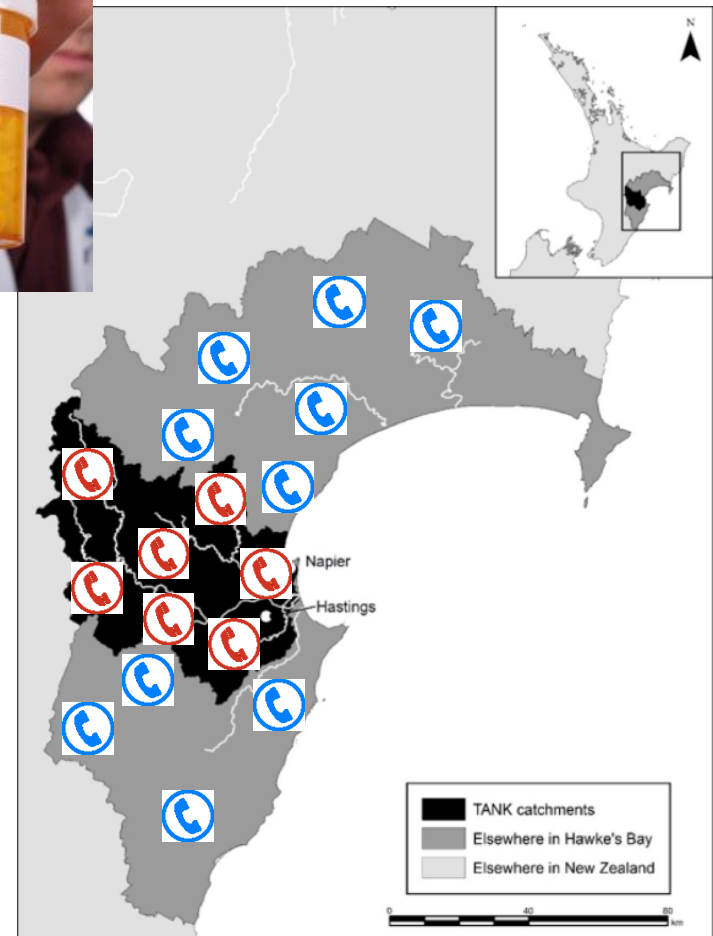
Medicine - “Clinical trial”

120 random patients,
60 receive a test drug,
60 receive a placebo.
Compare outcomes.

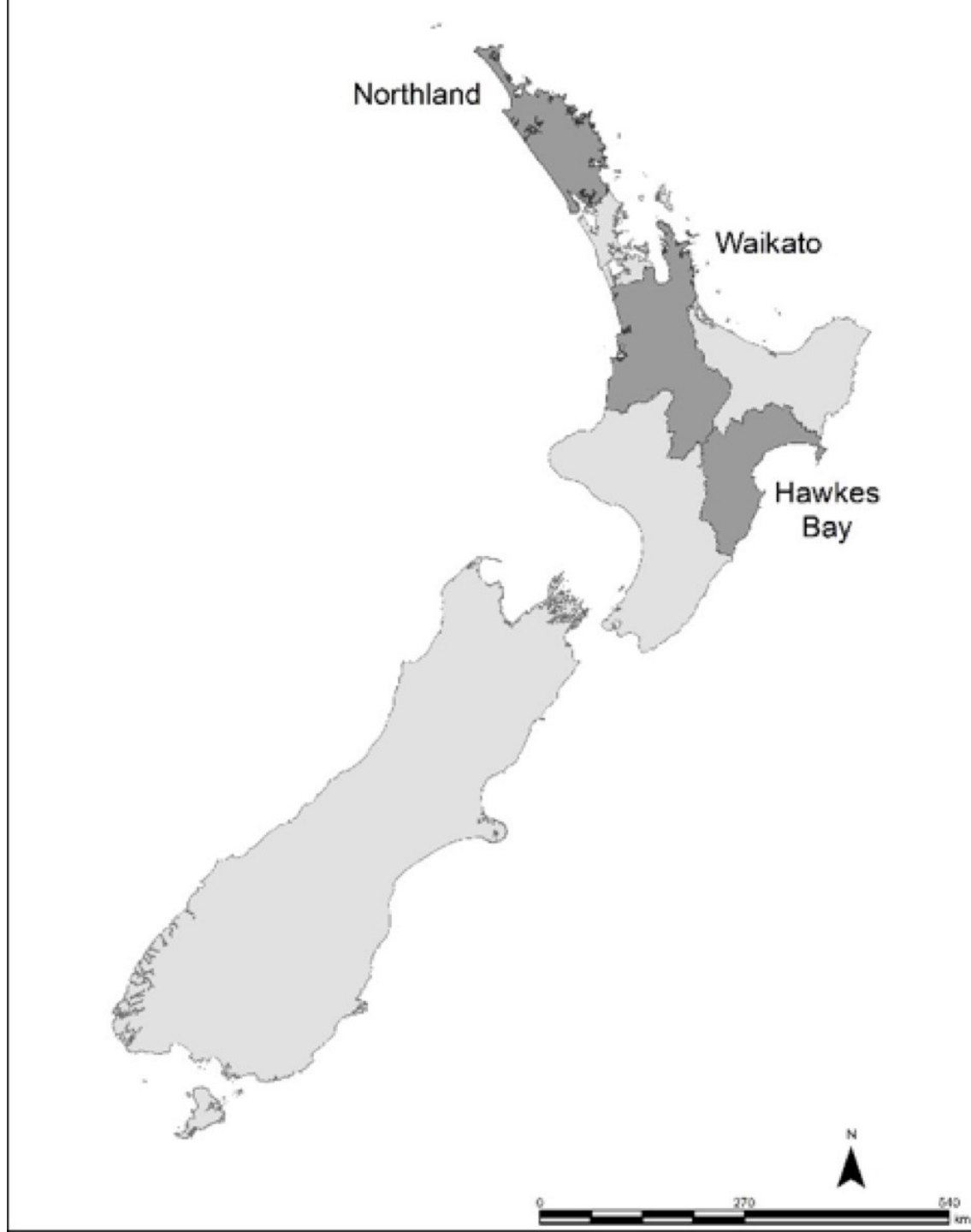


Our research - “Natural experiment”

120 random residents of Hawke’s Bay
60 in areas with collaborative processes
60 elsewhere.
Compare results.



Three regions surveyed



Survey covered

- Perceptions of the quality of freshwater mgt
- Degree of conflict over freshwater mgt
- Fairness of water mgt
- How well people feel that their interests are represented & taken into account by the regional council



What did we expect to see?

1. More positive media coverage about freshwater mgt
2. More positive perceptions of freshwater mgt
3. Greater sense that process is fair
4. Belief that community interests are taken into account by regional council

→ Should hold even with low awareness



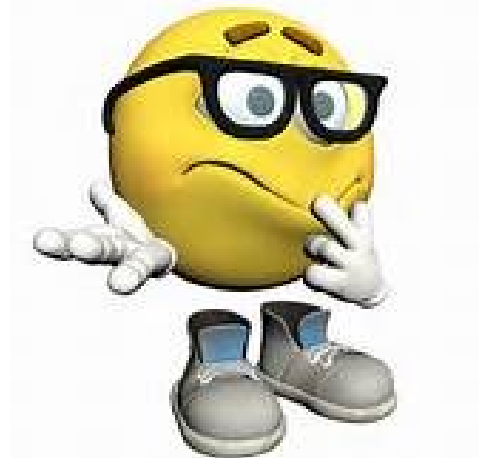
Findings

- Overall low awareness
 - 21% were correctly aware of processes in their catchment
 - 15% incorrectly thought there were processes in their catchment



Concern if coll. group is expecting public input during process

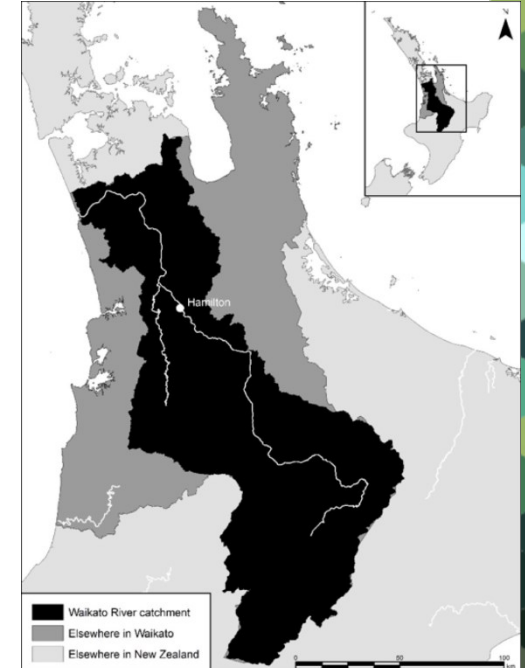
But given processes are still underway not surprising there is low awareness



Waikato findings

No discernible differences in perceptions:

- Freshwater management
- Agreement between interests
- Fairness
- Their interests taken into account by council



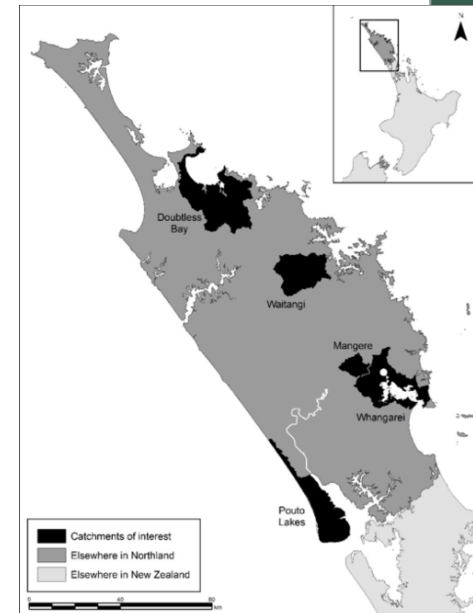
Northland findings

No discernible differences in perceptions:

- Freshwater management
- Agreement between interests
- Fairness
- Their interests taken into account by council

Compared to Waikato

- Lower perception of freshwater mgt



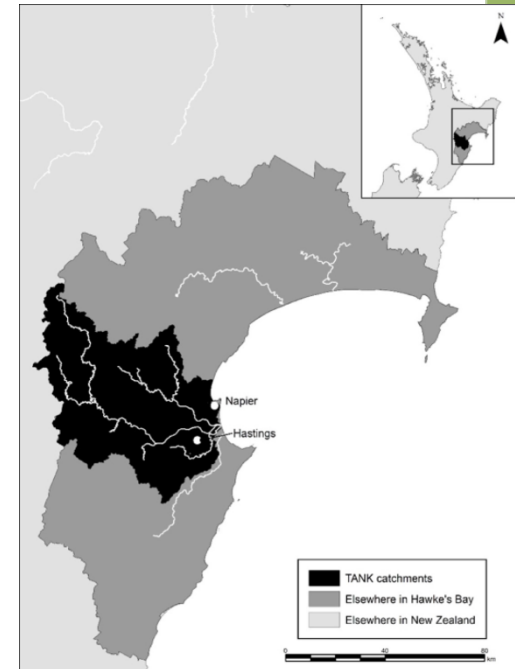
Hawke's Bay findings

People within TANK catchments perceive:

- Council has better freshwater mgt practices
- Mgt is fairer

Compared to Waikato

- Perceive more conflict over freshwater
- But! Those is TANK catchments perceive less conflict than those outside of TANK.




Other interesting findings

- Māori – rate council mgt lower than non-Māori
- Forestry – believe greater agreement
- Forestry & water/environment – believe freshwater mgt is fairer
- Engaged respondents felt
 - Rate council mgt performance lower
 - Perceive greater conflict (i.e. less agreement)
 - Believe freshwater mgt is less fair
 - Believe that it is less likely that the council will account for their interests



What does this tell us?

- Knowledge of collaborative processes is low
- Engaged persons most sceptical about freshwater mgt

 Concern for process if greater participation reflects greater understanding of issues

- Tracking these perceptions may help achieve beneficial outcomes where coll. processes are used
 - In catchments with challenging problems or
 - Where council is not well regarded



Benefits of Evaluating Processes

With participants:

- Track how participants believe the process is operating
- Understand the level of trust with process, between participants & with council

 **Make process adjustments where necessary**

- Understand level of agreement with final outcome



Benefits of Evaluating Processes

With community:

- Understand level of community awareness & support
 - Esp. engaged persons
- Anticipate what challenges may arise
 - Potential legal challenges
 - Lack of trust in process & outcome

 **Identify what & how you may need to engage wider community**





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or

www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/portfolios/enhancing-policy-effectiveness/vmo