A close-up photograph of a person's hand turning a water tap handle. The tap is a standard kitchen faucet with a brass-colored handle and a brass-colored aerator. Water is flowing from the tap into a clear glass. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a white building. The overall tone is clean and fresh.

The four bottom lines of water transfer

***Environmental, Social,
Economic, Cultural***

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Presentation Content

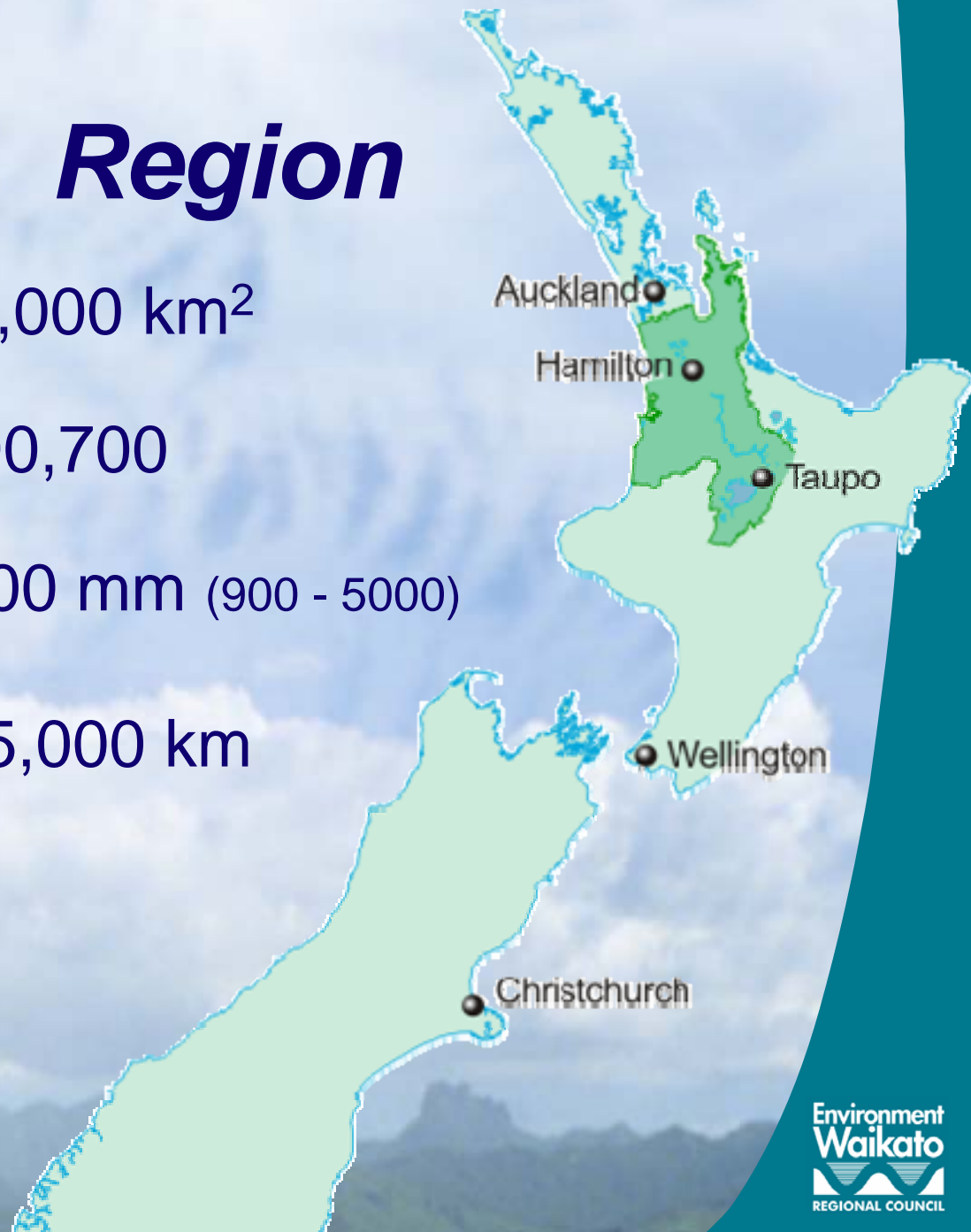
- Background
 - The Waikato Region
 - Water Allocation and Use
 - Public attitudes to water
- Water and the Resource Management Act
- Water Allocation – Waikato Regional Plan
 - Transfer and ‘trade’





The Waikato Region

Area	25,000 km ²
Population	390,700
Rainfall	1200 mm (900 - 5000)
Water ways	45,000 km



Water - Public Attitudes and Perceptions

- Access to clean water is a common right
- Commercialisation of water is unacceptable
- Rivers are a part of our identity & culture
 - NZ has a strong indigenous identity and association with water

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green forest. A large, tree-covered island is situated in the middle of the river. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the surrounding forest is dense and vibrant green. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Ko au ko te awa,
ko te awa ko au**

Water Management - NZ

- Natural Resource Management Governed by the Resource Management Act, 1991
 - excellent act based on sustainable management of natural and physical resources
- Presumptions of the RMA
 - permissive regarding land
 - restrictive regarding water
 - maximum consent life span = 35 years
- Resource allocation managed by Regional Councils
 - control the taking and use of water and discharges to water

How We Use Our Freshwater In The Waikato



Environmental Flows

- Balance the 4 bottom lines of sustainable management
 - Economic – ecosystem services (tourism)
 - Social – recreation & aesthetics
 - Environmental - water quality, biodiversity
 - **Cultural** – mauri (life force) of water, access
- Developed by
 - scientific methodology (often debated), expert panel process & community consultation

Environmental Flows

- Environmental flows are set as a % of Q5
 - currently range from 130% to 70%
 - generally determined by **water quality** limits
 - not physical habitat
 - if in doubt the default is 0% (natural state) or 10% (modified catchments)
- Allocable flows are set as a % of Q5
 - currently range from 0% to 30%
 - can be challenged through consent process at the applicants expense

*In most catchments, the
water available for out of
stream use is now fully
allocated*

but demand is rising

Our challenge ?

- Develop a re-allocation system to:
 - **maintain** environmental flows
 - currently, over-allocation is relatively rare
 - provide for growth
 - economic and social
 - minimise council intervention & costs
 - ensure equity & efficiency
 - provide for cultural values
 - incentivise water quality improvements

Transferable Water Permits

- Cap to protect environmental flows
 - inflexible & beyond challenge **once set**
 - Regional plan provides review opportunities
- Capped allocable flows
 - open to challenge (non complying consent) but difficult and expensive
- No consent required for permit transfer / trade
 - Subject to limitations

Transferable Water Permits - limitations

- Common consent expiry
 - every 15 years (infrastructure pay back)
 - catchment based
- Permitted Transfer
 - same catchment, downstream only
 - require use consent
 - excludes non consumptive & priority users
 - telemetered metering

Transferable Water Permits- issues

- Windfall for existing consent holders
 - limited new user opportunities
- Perceptions of privatisation of water
 - culturally & socially unacceptable
- Water Barons
 - perceived risks of water hoarding
- Investment uncertainty
 - short consent term

*“Water, taken in moderation,
cannot hurt anyone”.*

– Mark Twain