

Marlborough Marine Futures

Meeting Notes 27 September 2015

Roy:

People want solutions straight away, what we need to do is deal with the issues and understand them before we can start coming to the solutions.

We need a quality process and need to have patience.

Marlborough Marine Futures is about looking to the future, which will take quite a lot of time to work through.

Politically things are changing - moving towards the approach where communities come to their own solutions. We don't have a commitment or mandate from government. We're getting good feedback but they're not quite there in committing and that's what we need to have to move forward.

Comprehensive integrated management strategy is the link we're working towards.

General discussion

Common goals - in the past not a lot of success - how does this group avoid going down the same path? How do we move forward?

Raymond:

There are benefits in seeing some of the other projects that have been successful, have gone through stakeholder engagement process similar to this and achieved a lot of satisfaction for a lot of different sectors. There are no guarantees.

Larnc:

Make sure there are patience, and be engaged. Community can only make it work.

Peter:

We need to have a commitment to completion. Need to realise yourselves as leaders. Depends on the degree to which you can trust each other. Strong collective representation. There are times when you need to be patient, and times to push through to completion to a particular point. Some of those other processes have had that missing. Although you worked in diverse groups, you agreed on a lot of things.

Roy:

I have been in the Sounds for 25 years and no matter how we have decided to work, people go back to their original positions. I think this process is a new approach and it will work, but we need to be patient.

John:

There are plenty of examples worldwide where communities have taken this approach.

Steffan:

We have been through this process for such a long time, and I'm a bit impatient. But I understand the need to be patient and discussions do take time. We must get on with some things - what has evolved from this group?

Peter:

You need the mandate from the mandaters. We haven't got that clearly yet.

Steffan:

Spatial planning may get us to the level where we'll get the mandate. Could the group right now say we think dredging, for example, in the Marlborough Sounds should be stopped? If you got consensus would you say that this group has agreed?

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We need to rank what the issues are, then we get the list that we can all agree on. You don't just jump to one.

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Steffan's point is very confrontational and there will be fireworks because you have two enemies disagreeing. No-one should be excluded, it's about better management by a group whether it's dredging or some other issue. They are entitled to be there, there's a social, economic and environmental impact to be looked at and they need to be taken into consideration. This needs to be worked through and outcomes agreed on.

Steffan:

We need to prioritize and collectively agree, dredging was just an example.

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Rankings are outputs, they may not be directly related to outcome. Outcome is about the future of the Marlborough Sounds. All these outputs may work against each other. With guardians people gave up things they were passionate about for the overall gain. We need to look at the bigger picture of where we want to get to.

John's summing up:

I think the really important thing is process, not about results. The more we talk to each other the better the process will be. Listen to each other, that's the critical part. We got something good to work from today and that's encouraging. There is clearly consensus we have something precious we are trying to achieve. We want a sustainable Sounds for all uses.

Next month is the third forum, the most important thing for that forum is to get the working group to get up and running. We started this process some time ago and were keen to get a working group up and running straight away, but we heard you wanted to do working together first, we need to now get focussed on the task.

It was a good mornings discussion. Thank you so much for giving up your time to be here.