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Subject Initial views on review of WQO

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Dear Sirs

Further to the meeting last Saturday we offer the following views.

1. That Beneficial Uses is a broad term and that we need to identify 'Polluting or Discharging Uses' and 'Beneficial Uses'.
2. We can then identify criteria for amount, type and risk factor of the 'Discharging or Polluting Uses' (example: currently WSD does to allow 'leisure boating' on water reservoirs in fear of pollution. If we have a mechanism of identifying the discharge by different classes of uses, we can develop a system for deciding on which uses can be acceptable.)
3. Beneficial Uses require a certain Water Quality Standard - whether this is for safety or protection or otherwise. We need a system for assigning and reviewing WQS for different classes of uses. (Example: wind surfing may require cleaner water than sailing Etchells or larger sail craft - rather than a single blanket 'secondary contact' group).
4. Water Quality Objectives can be aspirational targets irrespective of current conditions, and based on desired or aspired beneficial uses. Cost includes the efforts of making sure objectives can be met, and the quantity of discharge which need to be contained resulting in discharging uses which must then be disallowed.
5. Beneficial Uses Zones (not unlike land zoning) can identify the desired or intended beneficial uses of the water bodies. (Example: with the ongoing redevelopment of industrial waterfront sites and the closure of cargo handling areas along Victoria Harbour EAST of the Central/TST Star Ferry, this part of the Harbour is more and more recognized as the 'leisure harbour' where cruise vessels, harbour cruises, yachts and sail boats become the dominant users. The area is covered by four WCZs. The 'ferry services' zone and the 'commercial shipping zones' are East of the Star Ferry.)
6. The alternative is to adjust WCZs based on this major shift in uses. From looking at the WCZ overview - it is specifically the 'leisure harbour' where the BUZ and WCZ differ a lot - which is to be expected given the change in development.

Regards

Paul Zimmerman