

Refreshing water and valuing the priceless: Better freshwater management

Water New Zealand Conference & Expo

18 September 2019

Hamilton

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The New Zealand Initiative

- Better freshwater management is environmentally and politically necessary.
- Doing the most good for the environment requires cost-effective and politically durable solutions.

NZ Election 2017: The environment election

John Hartevelt – Projects Editor • 14:00, Aug 25 2017

Tuesday, 19 September 2017

Focus on swimmable rivers, exporting water

By **Dene Mackenzie**



News > Election 2017

Jacinda Ardern concludes water policy speech - "the path forward lies not in blame but commitment to do things differently"

Clean rivers are a priority for politicians and election 2017 has put the pressure on the major parties to explain what they will do to provide swimmable rivers, reports Dene Mackenzie.

NEW ZEALAND



Election policy series: The battle over our rivers

The water battle in election 2017: a beginner's guide



Nicole Buxeda | Guest writer

Freshwater is fast becoming one of the hottest topics ahead of the September vote. What are the main policy differences when it comes to ownership, pricing and exportation? Nicole Buxeda dips her toe in

Facing the problem: MfE survey, October 2018

New Zealand's main natural environmental issues



Top 3 environmental issues New Zealand needs to take action on?

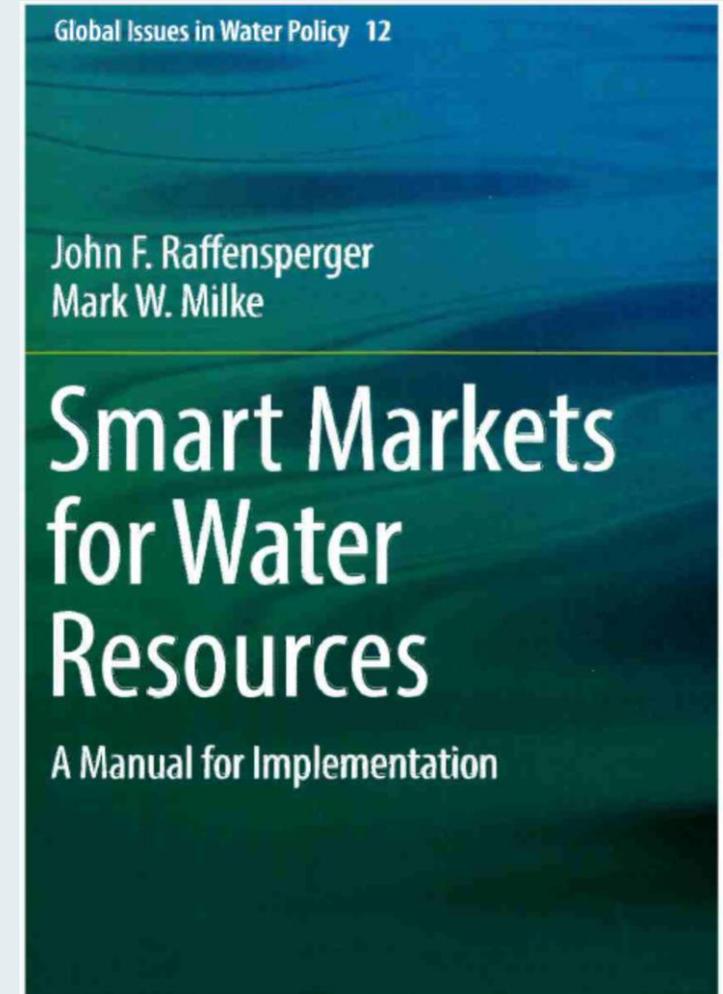
	Water quality		High levels of air pollution from cars and fires		Adverse weather/flooding as a result of climate change:		Sea level rise		Land use		Plastic pollution in seas		Reducing waste		Responses
	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count
No.1 issue	304	47.6%	49	7.7%	67	10.5%	19	3.0%	23	3.6%	95	14.9%	81	12.7%	638
No. 2 issue	110	17.2%	80	12.5%	65	10.2%	45	7.1%	57	8.9%	152	23.8%	129	20.2%	638
No. 3 issue	82	12.9%	68	10.7%	90	14.1%	54	8.5%	75	11.8%	111	17.4%	158	24.8%	638

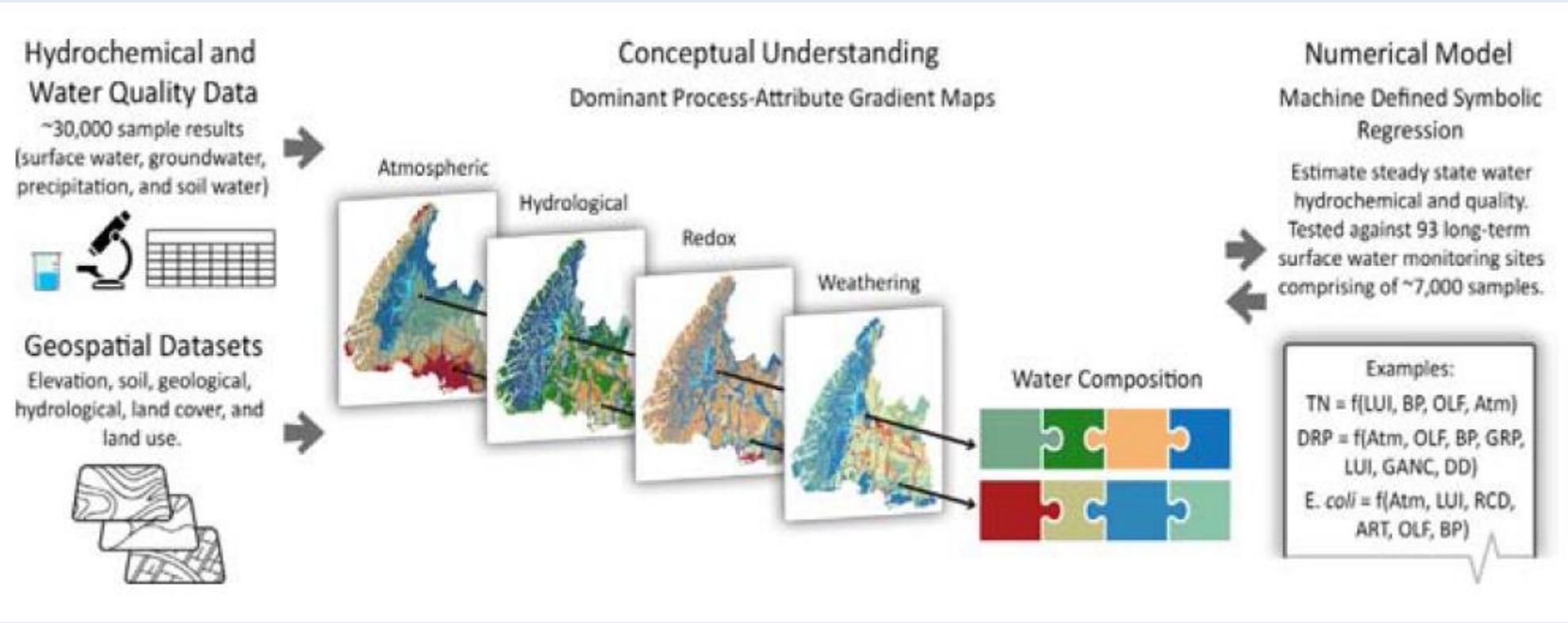
- Tweaks to the status-quo solve neither the environmental nor the political problem.
- Good solutions reflect local conditions.
- As water becomes more scarce, being able to trade water becomes more important.

- Alex Tabarrok: “*Prices are a signal wrapped in an incentive.*”
- Pricing environmental effects encourages efficient mitigation
- Pigovian taxes? Or cap-and-trade?

- The Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) *caps* total emissions; *trading* puts a price on carbon emissions.
- Cap-and-trade systems let prices work their magic.
- They can also provide the most cost-effective way of reducing environmental burdens.

- Catchment-based smart-markets can automate complex and lengthy council approval processes
- Raffensperger & Milke: maximise total value ***subject to*** hard environmental bottom lines.





A hydrochemically guided landscape classification system for modelling spatial variation in multiple water quality indices:

Process-attribute mapping

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Allocating for sustainability and political durability

- Failure to address iwi rights has stymied progress.
- Established water consents must count in any water refresh.
- The cost of achieving sustainable solutions must be shared.

Allocating for sustainability and political durability

- Permanent rights with annual derivatives?
- Bundles of annual rights extending over, say, 25 years and eroding over the period?
- Rights structures also need to reflect the desired burden-sharing.

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