



Takaka FLAG

Water Quality Management Options

Lisa McGlinchey, Steve Markham and Rochelle Selby-Neal

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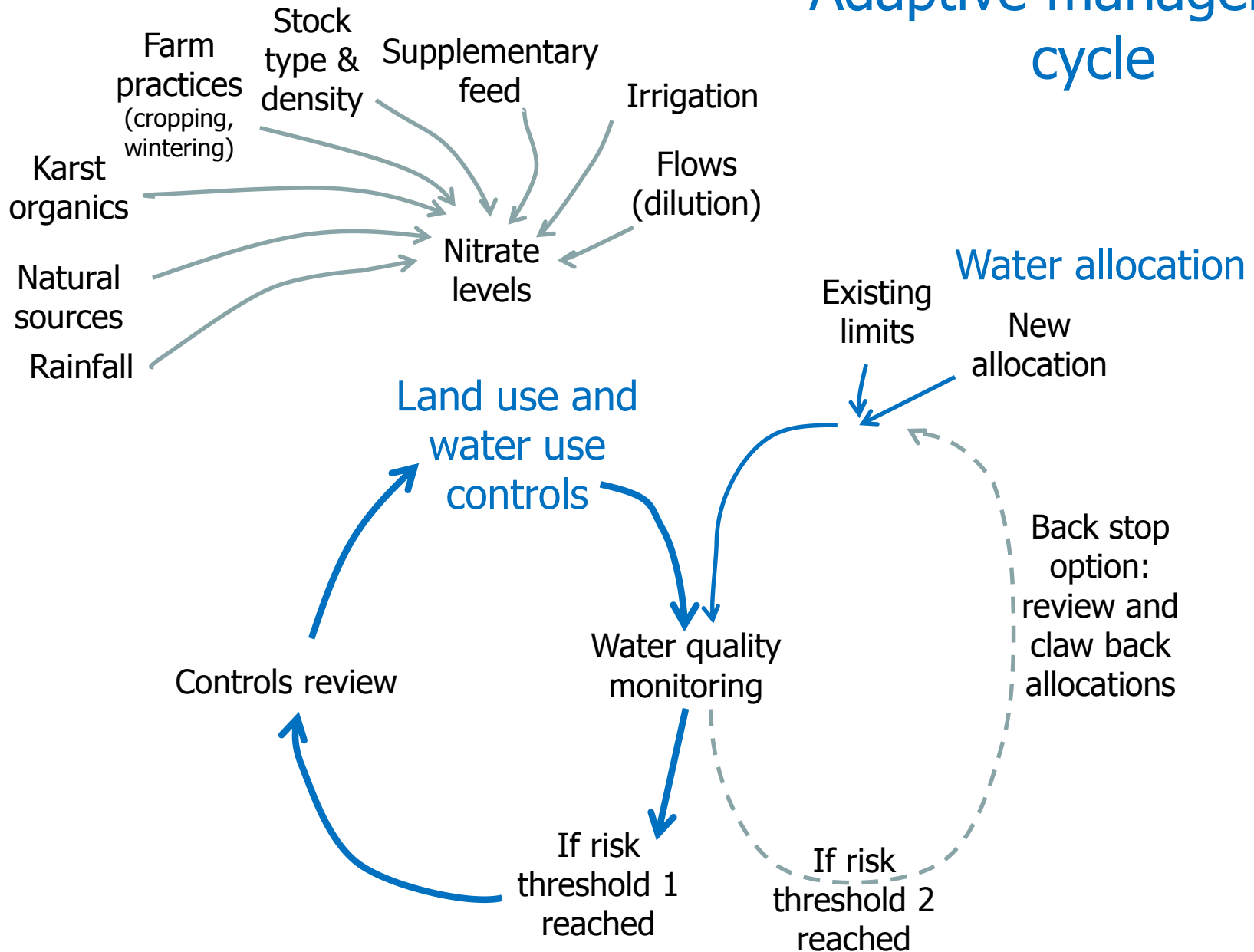
Outline

- Water quality management approach
 - Allocation vs discharge and land use regulation
 - Adaptive management cycle
 - Attribution of effects

Water quality management approach

- Water quality is best managed through **discharge and land-use regulation** rather than allocation processes as:
 - Land use, rainfall and soil types are the key drivers for nutrient leaching
 - Rainfall drives higher leaching rates, rather than irrigation
 - Water use is only a driver in that it allows for more intensive land uses
 - Some land uses can be intensified without additional water use:
 - eg use of supplementary feed or fertiliser use to increase production
 - A portion of total nutrient leached is from natural sources
 - Available allocation may be taken up by less or non-leaching land use types and industries
 - The Cobb Dam influence on the AMA system is greater than allocation
- Allocation management could still be a tool within an adaptive management approach
 - Eg if other methods failed to produce results

Adaptive management cycle



Attribution discussion points

- Is the uncertainty in catchment models too high to use outputs in decision making and regulation?
- Can this 'black box' be side stepped by:
 - Agreeing land use (particularly intensive land use) affects water quality
 - Agreeing that all land uses must meet minimum **good** practice standards
 - Agreeing that where water body values are at greater risk that land uses must meet minimum **best** practice standards
- Focus our resources on defining good and best practice, rather than attempting to attribute effects to particular land uses
- Your thoughts?