

Statement of Robin Murphy – Summary of the ZIP Process

1. My name is Robin Timothy Murphy. I am the Chair and Regional Committee Representative of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Zone Committee. I have been a dairy farmer in the region since 1975 and am also the Chair of the Morven Glenavy Ikawai Irrigation Company and the Waihao Downs Irrigation Company.
2. I will provide a brief summary of the Zone Committee's process and its recommendations for the South Coastal Canterbury area, which is set out in greater detail in Section 4 of the Section 42A Report.
3. The Zone Committee members are set out at paragraphs 4.8 and 4.9 of the Section 42A Report. There are three members representing rūnanga with interests in the Zone; a representative of each district council; a representative from Meridian Energy, a Canterbury Regional Council Commissioner; and six community members. The Zone Committee operates as a joint committee of Waimate and Waitaki District Councils and the Canterbury Regional Council.
4. [introductions of members present]
5. In brief, the primary purpose of the Zone Committee is to facilitate community engagement in the development and periodic review of a Zone Implementation Programme ("ZIP") that gives effect to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy in the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury zone.
6. The community over the years are familiar with working together and an example of this is the Waihao-Wainono water users society who have been around since 1999. To continue the theme of involving the community, the Zone Committee decided it was important to establish other catchment groups. As a result the Otaio-Makikihi, Hook (in the Wainono catchment) and Upper Waihao catchment groups in the South Coast Canterbury Area have been established.
7. These catchment groups provide a way for the community to learn about new ways of doing things and finding ways of working together. As examples the Hook catchment group voluntarily undertook to do environmental farm plans. While the Upper Waihao group agreed for those who have taken shares in the Waihao Downs Irrigation scheme (water supplied from the Waitaki river) to give back their water rights to the Waihao river. It was also agreed that water given back to the Waihao river should not be reallocated and the minimum flow lifted accordingly.
8. The ZIP is a non-statutory document that contains a collection of integrated actions and proposals to give effect to the vision and principles of the CWMS in the zone. The ZIP was agreed to at the Zone Committee's meeting in February 2012. The ZIP covers the whole of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone and contains the Zone Committee's priority outcomes in five themes across the whole of the zone, the priority outcome areas are:
 - a. The Lower Waitaki River;
 - b. Water quality, water use efficiency, reliability of supply;
 - c. Wainono Lagoon;
 - d. Biodiversity Protection; and
 - e. The Hakataramea Catchment.

9. Since the completion of the ZIP, the Committee has produced an Addendum to the ZIP that contains specific recommendations for issues in the South Coastal Canterbury Area. These recommendations form the "Solutions Package" to deliver the outcomes in the ZIP for South Coastal Canterbury. The Committee has produced a separate ZIP Addendum with specific recommendations to address issues in the Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan, which included a recommendation that an allocation of water in the Waitaki Allocation Plan be reserved for environmental enhancement of Wainono Lagoon.
10. The Committee began work in August 2012 on a process that would lead to a ZIP Addendum for South Coastal Canterbury. The ZIP Addendum includes recommendations on catchment load limits and flow and allocation limits and other non-statutory actions. The resulting overall vision set out in the ZIP Addendum for the South Coastal Canterbury Area is to continue to increase economic development while achieving the environmental and cultural outcomes.
11. We took the original outcomes from the ZIP and retested these with the Committee and the wider public. One challenge was how to pull together the monitoring data, modelling and scientific reports into a form that would help our deliberations and involve the community in developing solutions. In order to reach consensus on the recommendations eventually set out in the ZIP Addendum, we developed 3 main scenarios and sub-scenarios to test a range of 'what if' questions and to deliver the outcomes in the ZIP. These scenarios packaged up the technical analysis about the effects on the environment and allowed us to receive community analysis. We held two community workshops in 2013 involving up to 70 community members at each workshop to test the scenarios.
12. From the technical and community analysis we received, it became clear that a solution space giving us the best chance of delivering on all the outcomes, was to be found with a combination of:
 - a. Providing for the consented irrigation schemes;
 - b. Augmenting Wainono Lagoon;
 - c. Increasing river flows when alternative water sources were available;
 - d. GMP as the minimum requirement for agriculture; and
 - e. Realising the gains from Wainono restoration project.
13. A draft ZIP Addendum was developed based on the identified solution space and the ideas from the community during the scenario phase. The Zone Committee held an open day for the community and also hosted one-on-one appointments with key stakeholders to seek feedback on the draft ZIP Addendum, which resulted in changes to the draft document.
14. In February 2014, when the Committee was due to complete its final addendum, we heard from a number of farmers who were unsatisfied with the nitrogen allocation framework that was proposed. The group asked the Committee to request an extension to the process so that the full implications of different allocation options could be explored. The Committee requested and received an extension of five months.
15. As a result a Nitrogen Allocation Reference Group (NARG) was established. The Zone Committee set the scope for the group, being not to revisit the proposed limits or other actions, but to explore allocation options and describe the consequences. The group quickly started working, not just to describe implications, but to reach consensus on a preferred allocation method. The process involved farmers from a

range of systems and catchments and wider stakeholders such as rūnanga. The group reported back to the Zone Committee in July with a consensus on a method which involves GMP, flexibility caps and maximum caps. The Zone Committee unanimously adopted the NARG recommendation and finalised its ZIP Addendum by consensus.

16. Colin Hurst elected chairman for the NARG group and led the debate with diligence. I also want to acknowledge the technical support provided for the NARG group.
17. The recommendations in the ZIP Addendum (which form the basis for the provisions in PC3) were agreed on the 16 July 2014 at the Zone Committee meeting. In total we hosted 83 meetings and workshops involving the community in the process.
18. For the Waihao Wainono Area, the Zone Committee's solutions package set out in the ZIP Addendum aims to reduce the trophic level for Wainono Lagoon from the current 6.5 to a Trophic Level Index score of 6 or less, improve Waihao and other tributary flows over time, and for the streams provide a protection level of 90% for nitrate toxicity, while the irrigated land area increases 27,000ha via the consented Waihao Downs and Hunter Downs Irrigation Schemes.
19. For the Northern Streams Area, the package aims to improve flows and habitat in the streams over time while maintaining a protection level of 90% nitrate toxicity, and providing for development at good management practice.
20. For the Morven-Sinclairs Area, the package aims to protect the current groundwater quality.
21. In summary, the key actions of the ZIP Addendum recommendations include:
 - a. The use of Farm Environment Plans throughout the South Coastal Canterbury Area, specifically to help reduce the loss of sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen;
 - b. Good management practice requirements for agricultural, urban and industrial discharges;
 - c. Realising the gains from the Wainono Restoration including, but not limited to, on-farm actions such as stream battering, wetland rehabilitation and identification of critical sediment source areas;
 - d. Abstracting Waitaki River water to provide for additional irrigation development;
 - e. Augmentation of Wainono Lagoon to improve lagoon health;
 - f. Capping current water allocation and reducing over-allocation overtime as new water sources are available and irrigation efficiency improves, enabling alternative sources of water, and signalling a future date for higher flows to be implemented; and
 - g. Restricting nitrogen load losses from the catchment and introducing flexibility caps, maximum caps based on soil type and Nutrient User Groups.