

**41st MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 1:30-6pm

**TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Andy Pearce (Chair)

Community Representatives	
Hugh Canard	Hamish Cuthbert
John Donkers	Rochelle Hardy
Jane Demeter	Hugh Logan
Zone Representatives	
Matt Hoggard	Kaikoura
Vacant	Hurunui-Waiau
Claire McKay	Waimakariri
Steve Lowndes	Banks Peninsula
Vacant	Christchurch-West Melton
Ron Pellow	Selwyn-Waihora
Ben Curry	Ashburton
John Talbot	Orari-Opihi-Pareora
Barry Shepherd	Upper Waitaki
Bruce Murphy	Lower Waitaki-South Coastal Canterbury
Christchurch City Council	Phil Clearwater
District Council Representatives	
Winton Dalley	North Canterbury
Angus McKay	Mid Canterbury
Peter Scott	South Canterbury
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	Rebecca Clements
Ngā Rūnanga	Vacant
	Vacant
	John Wilkie
Commissioners	David Caygill
	Tom Lambie
Central Government Observer	Nick Vincent Kevin Steel
CDHB Observer	Alistair Humphrey

VENUE: Lincoln Event Centre, Meijer Drive, Lincoln
<http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/venue/lincoln-event-centre-selwyn-lincoln>

BUSINESS: As per Order Paper attached.
 Agendas are available on our website three days prior to the date of the meeting -
<http://ecan.govt.nz/news-and-notice/minutes/Pages/Default.aspx>

Everything is connected

*Facilitating sustainable development
in the Canterbury region*

P.O. Box 345, Christchurch 8013

P: 03 365 3828

F: 03 365 3194

www.ecan.govt.nz



**Environment
Canterbury**
Regional Council
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 DECISION-MAKING REQUIREMENTS

Except as below, a statement of compliance and a completed decision checklist is required for any agenda item on a council committee or the council recommending that a decision be made. This will be the responsibility of the person signing off the agenda item.

The compliance statement and checklist will not be used for:

- Recommendations that information be received or that the Council make a decision.
- Decisions taken under the Resource Management Act 1991 or the Biosecurity Act 1993 in relation to resource consents, decisions required when following the procedures set out in Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, other permissions, submissions on plans, or references to the Environment Court.
- Decisions taken to proceed with enforcement procedures under various primary or secondary legislation or regulations, including procedures under the Resource Management Act 1991, the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Local Government Act 2002, and Environment Canterbury Bylaws.
- Administrative and personnel decisions that are entirely internal to Environment Canterbury.
- Other decisions where the procedures to be followed are set out in Legislation.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The council committee (or the council) must formally certify that:

- (a) It is satisfied that it has sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, in terms of the region's social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being and the effects on community outcomes, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions.
- (b) It is satisfied that it knows enough about and has given adequate consideration to the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

INFORMATION CHECKLIST

(a)	A Statement of the Proposed Decision
(b)	A Statement of the Objective of the Proposed Decision and the Issue or Problem being addressed
(c)	A list of all reasonably practicable options, (including doing nothing).
(d)	For each option in (c): An evaluation of the Benefits and Costs, in terms of the region's social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.
(e)	For each option in (c): A statement of the extent to which community outcomes would be promoted or achieved in an integrated and efficient manner.
(f)	For each option in (c): A statement of the Impact, if any, on Environment Canterbury's capacity to undertake its statutory responsibilities
(g)	If the Proposed Decision is a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, a statement of how Maori values have been taken into account
(h)	A Statement of significant inconsistencies, if any, with any Existing Policy, Plan or Legislation arising from the Proposed Decision.
(i)	A statement how the views and preferences of affected or interested persons have been given adequate consideration during the definition of the problem or issue, the objective, the assessment of options and the development of the proposed decision, including the particular contribution of Maori to the decision-making process.

Notes:

The significance of proposals and decisions determines how much time, money and effort is put into exploring and evaluating options and obtaining the views of affected and interested parties. The significance of proposals and decisions is determined through reference to criteria contained in the policy on significance.

The policy on significance together with Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002 set out the Council's requirements in relation to decisions. Some decisions can only be made through the Long-Term Council Community Plan, or after the Special Consultative Procedures set out in the Act have been used, (refer to the policy on significance and the Act).

All decisions of Environment Canterbury are subject to the decision-making requirements of section 76 of the Act unless inconsistent with specific requirements of other legislation.

CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

ORDER PAPER

		Page No.
	KARAKIA	
1.	APOLOGIES	
2.	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST <i>(REFER TO REGISTER CIRCULATED FOR AMENDMENTS)</i>	
3.	MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – 15 DECEMBER 2015	3
4.	MATTERS ARISING	
5.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	
6.	ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WORKING GROUP REPORT AND EEL SUBMISSION 	19
7.	FINANCING ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WORKING GROUP REPORT 	24
8.	ANNUAL REPORT	34
9.	RECREATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCOPE OF SWIMMING REPORT PRESENTATION 	35
10.	CANTERBURY REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	37
11.	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT (RMA) BILL UPDATE	40
12.	TARGETS REVIEW	41
13.	ZONE COMMITTEE UPDATES	42
14.	GENERAL BUSINESS	
	KARAKIA	

	CLOSURE OF PUBLIC MEETING	
--	---------------------------	--

**MINUTES OF 40TH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN BAYLISS LOUNGE, LINCOLN EVENTS CENTRE, MEIJER DRIVE, LINCOLN
ON TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2015 AT 1.30PM**

CONTENTS

1. APOLOGIES
2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – 13 OCTOBER 2015
4. MATTERS ARISING
5. CORRESPONDENCE – LETTER FROM UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER COMMITTEE

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

6. ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY
7. REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP REPORT
8. LAND USE AND WATER QUALITY
9. FARM ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS
10. FINANCING ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE
11. LINES ON MAPS
12. REGIONAL COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016
13. ZONE COMMITTEE UPDATES
14. GENERAL BUSINESS

KARAKIA
CLOSURE OF PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT

Chair: Andy Pearce

Community: John Donkers, Hugh Logan, Hugh Canard, Jane Demeter and Hamish Cuthbert

Zone Representatives: Claire McKay, Steve Lowndes, Ron Pellow, John Talbot, David Eder and Barry Shepherd

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu: Rebecca Clements

Ngā Rūnanga: John Wilkie

Environment Canterbury Commissioners: David Caygill, Tom Lambie

Central Government Observer: Murray Doak (MPI) and Lucy Bolton (MfE)

CDHB Observer: Alistair Humphrey

IN ATTENDANCE

Christina Robb (Programme Manager CWMS), Barbara Nicholas (Team Leader Zone Facilitators), Dann Olykan (Principal Strategy Advisor Water), Ellie McNae (Senior Strategy Advisor Water), Peter Ramsden (Tangata Whenua Facilitator), Ian Fox (Deputy Regional Harbourmaster), Ian Brown (Principal Strategy Advisor) and Therese Davel (Senior Administration Officer)

WELCOME

Hugh Logan opened the meeting at 1.36pm as interim Chairperson until Andy Pearce arrived. Hugh welcomed everyone and asked Peter Ramsden to do a karakia.

ITEM 1 - APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Andrew Feierabend, Matt Hoggard, Ben Curry, Mayor Angus McKay, Peter Scott, Mayor Winton Dalley, Nick Vincent, Kevin Steel and Hugh Thorpe.

ITEM 2 - CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflict of interest schedules were circulated.

ITEM 3 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of meeting of 13 October 2015
(Refer pages 5-15 of agenda)

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Regional Water Management Committee meeting held on 13 October 2015, amended to read:

Under PRESENT Delete Cr before the name Peter Scott

be received and confirmed a true and accurate record.

Andy Pearce / Hugh Logan

Andy Pearce arrived 1.49pm and chaired the rest of the meeting.

ITEM 4 - MATTERS ARISING

(Refer separately circulated document on Resource Legislation Amendment Bill)

Ellie McNae circulated a document on Resource Legislation Amendment Bill to inform the Regional Committee about some key points.

Ellie read through the document and noted that additional information will be provided to the Regional Committee at its first meeting in February 2016. The Committee discussed whether it would make an independent submission on the Bill and the consensus was that the submission made by Environment Canterbury in conjunction with other local authorities will be sufficient.

ITEM 5 – CORRESPONDENCE – LETTER FROM UPPER WAITAKI ZONE COMMITTEE

(Refer page 16 of the agenda)

The Committee noted the correspondence from the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee which supports the next steps outlined in the paper on Sustainable Management of Longfin Eel in Canterbury.

ITEM 6 – ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY

(Refer pages 17 - 95 of the agenda)

Steve Lowndes presented the item, noting the Working Group had a meeting with Chris Keeling providing context in terms of achievements through implementing the Biodiversity Strategy and CWMS targets. Principal thoughts include money i.e. where does funding come from; Commissioners taking a lead; improved cooperation between agencies; acknowledgement of much more work to be done.

During the second part of their meeting, the Working Group reviewed one of the flagship projects (Rangitata and Rakaia braided rivers) during which time three main issues emerged: Cooperation was deemed to be successful by Environment Canterbury, LINZ, DOC and volunteer groups; funding had been a consistent issue which allowed interested parties to focus on their work; and there was a need for a similar review every 2 years. It may not be as intensive but once the projects are up and running, continued review and maintenance would be needed. The job is never 'over.

Hugh Logan noted there should be more effort in lowland streams. Hugh Canard noted that ECan's role was important in providing a core where agencies can get together. David Eder commented on the continued need to spend money keeping weeds etc under control, or the initial effort would be lost.

Tom Lambie noted the Commissioners' work plan placed an emphasis on Biodiversity and includes reviewing the Regional Pest Management Plan which currently addresses pests that limit production; looking at ways to work with land owners and talking with major agencies in Canterbury as well as making sure it's done on a community level base.

There was some discussion about funding from Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and Environment Canterbury staff would circulate the MfE document detailing long-term environmental goals.. The Committee also discussed the sub-regional plans and the fact that Waitaki and Waimakariri have their own regional plans.

The BEWG was encouraged to identify some of the critical issues and look for solutions. Tom Lambie referred to the Regional Pest Management Plan which was now public with meetings scheduled for 2016. It contained good neighbour rules in the Biosecurity Act for the first time, and would be a valuable document for the Working Group to look at.

Andy complimented the Working Group on its excellent submission on the Fisheries Management Review 2015.

Resolved:

That the Regional Committee

Receives the progress update from the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Working Group.

ITEM 7 – REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP REPORT

(Refer pages 96 – 114 of the agenda)

David Caygill presented this item referring mainly to pages 106 and 108, on the South Canterbury Modelling Framework. Andy Pearce commented that the model had to do with ownership and sharing the financial burden and benefits, reflecting on historical rights.

David Caygill commented that some components may be feasible in engineering terms but simply won't pay for themselves, so one would have to consider both the economic and environmental challenges.

There was some discussion about whether the model should be costed first, or whether a slightly different form of governance might be needed; who would own a project and Andy Pearce commented it needs a group to take a leadership role in progressing the concept, a group of interested parties to decide which parts may be feasible or not.

Resolved:

That the Regional Committee
Receives a progress update from the Regional Infrastructure Working Group

ITEM 8 – LAND USE AND WATER QUALITY

(Refer pages 115 - 137 of the agenda)

Hugh Logan presented the item and noted, referring to page 120, that the group reviewed the proposed nutrient management plan change through the lens of four areas – rules; standards; tools; and processes.

There was some discussion about how the plan would work in practice. John Talbot commented it would be useful to have a bottom-up point of view as well to hear comments from the ground. It was acknowledged that the way in which the information was provided, needed to be done with sensitivity. John Donkers noted Overseer and MGM would collect a lot of data which could provide useful feedback.

Resolved:

That the Regional Committee
Receives a progress update from the Land Use and Water Quality Working Group

ITEM 9 – FARM ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

(Refer pages 138 - 139 of the agenda)

Dann Olykan presented this item. The PowerPoint presentation he used showed the overview of rules and tools relating to Farm Environment Plans, in particular the process which is aimed to allow farmers to progress towards Good Management Practice (GMP).

In response to a question as to who certifies the auditors responsible for Farm Environment Plan (FEP) auditing, Dann noted it would be Environment Canterbury. For clarification, Claire McKay asked whether the same process of auditing would be applied to scheme members, where the scheme itself is responsible as consent holder. Dann advised that the expectation was that scheme auditors would have the same process.

There was a suggestion to use the terms 'historical' and 'current' in terms of the data rather than 'actual' and 'budgeted'. Dann also noted that the reasoning for using the figures 20ha and 50ha would be found in the s32 report. Tom Lambie noted that the key behind the reasoning was the level of risk associated with the size of the land.

Resolved:

**That the Regional Committee
Receives a presentation on Farm Environment Plans Rules & Tools.**

*The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea 3.16pm – 3.33.
Rebecca Clements left at 3.20pm*

Item 11 was taken at this time.

ITEM 11 - LINES ON MAPS

(Refer pages 143 – 144 of the agenda)

Dann Olykan presented this item noting there seems to be wide-spread confusion in communities on the definition and use of 'draft riverbed lines'. Dann told the Committee the lines were drafted in 2012 because of issues of land development on the margins of specifically braided rivers. Environment Canterbury River Engineers plotted the extent of braided rivers as defined by the Resource Management Act (RMA), in Canterbury using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). It was found that the definition of a riverbed as applied to braided rivers, may include areas of land that might be covered during periods of high flows.

The lines on maps (riverbed lines) are being used when Environment Canterbury staff talk with landholders to confirm the extent of the legal riverbed.

Dann noted that these lines are not driven by ECan policy or plans but defined by the RMA. The issue is therefore not one of ownership but rather consents for permitted activities. The lines are an attempt to show people what area of a river bed they may need consents for.

Because this has not yet been widely communicated and is only used internally by Environment Canterbury, staff now seek feedback from the Committee as to a suggested communication approach. The proposed approach is a three-pronged one starting with the Hurunui-Waiau Zone and ensuring on-site support from staff, as well as developing a working relationship with LINZ. There are also 7 key messages staff hope to get across and Dann requested inputs from the Committee.

During the discussion, the three-pronged approach was amended to add that the Hurunui-Waiau Zone would be a start but that it should be rolled out to wider Canterbury.

The seven key messages were discussed at length and amended as follows:

- Keep all points, apart from point 3 in lieu of adding the following point after point 1. :
 - Activities within a river bed require consent, given that they are not expressly allowed by a rule.

Jane Demeter suggested a further discussion about the LINZ process and accretion. Environment Canterbury staff will invite an official from LINZ to address the next Committee to provide information as to how they manage land in riverbeds.

Resolved (as amended):

That the Regional Committee

1. ***Notes the need for communication on the draft River Bed Lines;***
2. ***Provides feedback on the proposed communication approach; and***
3. ***Invites LINZ to the next Regional Committee meeting to inform the committee on how they manage land in riverbeds.***

Item 10 was taken at this time.

ITEM 10 – FINANCING ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

(Refer pages 140 - 142 of the agenda)

Ellie McNae presented the item and asked the Committee to note the need for additional funding; and consider establishing a Working Group to assess options to finance environmental infrastructure and restoration. Ellie mentioned a number of infrastructure projects that would have an environmental benefit, including some that would be established purely for environmental reasons e.g. the construction of a sediment retention basin and wetland on Wairewa.

The Working Group would be tasked to look at different options to raise funds and explore criteria against which projects would be assessed. Multiple potential projects have already been identified, including Hunter Downs flow augmentation; Wairewa constructed wetland; and targeted stream augmentation in Selwyn-Te Waihora.

During the discussion the Committee made the following comments, amongst others:

- This related to new projects with no clearly defined funding source; so differentiation between green field projects and for example, add-ons to existing brown field projects;
- John Talbot requested that the phrase *environmental infrastructure* not be used but rather *public good infrastructure*. He noted that when he had referred to the term *environmental infrastructure* in the past it was to draw a parallel to *infrastructure* that is designed for delivery of water. A systematic and integrated approach to the development of infrastructure has resulted in the creation of reservoirs, connections and irrigation schemes etc. to irrigate paddocks. A similar integrated approach needs to be taken to designing the environmental (biodiversity) reservoirs and connections across the region. He felt that there was a risk in using the term “*environmental infrastructure*” in the context of this proposal, as it could be interpreted to refer only to grey infrastructure (concrete/solid infrastructure) that incorporated a public benefit.
- The issue needs to be considered in a broader economic context as well, with the ultimate goal of generating more prosperity in Canterbury.
- That the timeframe for delivering recommendations was quite short. They discussed options for providing recommendations in stages.

Christina Robb assured the Committee that the Working Group would receive any support it needed. Members who volunteered were David Caygill, Tom Lambie, Ron Pellow, Steve Lowndes, John Wilkie, Hugh Logan and Murray Doak as an observer. The members were to get together after the Regional Committee meeting to discuss its brief and chairmanship.

Resolved (as amended):

That the Regional Committee

1. ***Notes the need for additional financial support to enable the achievement of the CWMS targets;***

2. **Considers changing the term environmental infrastructure to public good infrastructure;**
3. **Establishes a Working Group to assess options to finance environmental infrastructure and restoration; and**
4. **Requests that the Working Group report back to the Regional Committee with recommendations in February 2016.**

Item 12 was taken at this time.

ITEM 12 – REGIONAL COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016

(Refer pages 145 – 152 of the agenda)

Ellie McNae presented the item and referred to the attached schedule of **dates** suggested for 2016, including Regional Committee and Working Group meetings. The Committee agreed to the meetings.

Ellie also referred to the **work programme** which builds on the exercise of the October meeting where broad areas of work were identified. She explained that staff had put some content together of what the Working Groups may get involved in during the next year.

The Committee agreed to the eight recommendations and made the following additional comments:

1. Add the Funding Working Group, to provide advice to commissioners on financing the public good components of infrastructure
2. Add the Regional Infrastructure Working Group to the list, asking it to;
 - a. liaise with the new Funding Working Group;
 - b. continue its work on infrastructure projects in south Canterbury.
3. The Biodiversity and Ecosystems Working Group to
 - a. consider more specific ideas and initiatives for implementation,
 - b. continue work on eels and lupins
 - c. increase linkage between the working group and the zone committees for information purposes
 - d. seek further funding for the flagship projects
4. Consider re-introducing the Recreation and Amenity Working Group, once recreation groups have presented to the Regional Committee.
5. Commission a report on swimming in Canterbury, similar to the recent jet boating report. Through this process, and the current mapping project, document the location of swimming holes in each zone.
6. Climate change should be considered by all Working Groups in all the work they do, and the Regional Committee should be informed of relevant research e.g. inviting NIWA to present to the Committee in the New Year; and
7. Invite someone from Land Research to present on soil loss.

Dr Humphrey left at 5.16pm

ITEM 13 - ZONE COMMITTEE UPDATES

(Refer pages 153 – 156)

An amended version of the Item was handed out at the meeting. Some representatives added information during the meeting (see below highlighted in blue).

Orari-Opihi-Pareora Zone Update (John Talbot)

John Talbot presented at the meeting and noted the changes happening in the Committee.

OOP ZC has put in place subcommittees to address 3 key tasks - catchment group support, ZIP delivery, and sub regional planning.

Catchment group coverage now includes pretty much all rural areas in the zone.

We have been forming priorities for the Zone Delivery Team, and high level outcomes for shaping the ZIPA and subregional plan.

We have spent time considering what we can learn from consenting issues arising from construction of a farm track in the Orari Gorge - a 'special place' for many in the zone.

An update on South Canterbury water resource modelling has been presented.

Changes:

Dermott O'Sullivan our foundation chair is stepping down from the Committee, also Tony Howey another 'original' member.

There is a small boundary change on our southern border with Lower Waitaki - our zone is now bigger!

Our name is changing to Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora ZC (i.e. from "OOP" to "OTOP")

Ashburton Zone Update (Ben Curry)

The Committee met for the last time in 2015 in November. Sheryl Stivens decided after 4 years of loyal service on the Zone Committee to step down. Her contribution to the work of the committee was acknowledged by chairperson Donna Field on behalf of all of the members. Sheryl will be replaced by Longbeach farmer, Bill Thomas.

The committee received an update on the roll-out of FEPs for the Barrhill Chertsey scheme from the environmental manager, Eva Harris.

A deputation was made by 2 local farmers regarding the lack of water in a drain that has been reliable. These 2 farmers have put down groundwater bores but are prohibited from extracting water due to the LWRP. The farmers hoped that the forthcoming decisions on the Hinds Plain variation (PC2) would allow them pump water.

The decisions on PC2 were due to be briefed to the Zone committee in early December, but the Hearings panel have delayed the decision release date to early Feb 2016.

Hurunui – Waiau Zone Update (David Eder)

David noted that the Committee had a few membership changes with two people retiring and 4 new members appointed.

Dry conditions are creating some real concern in the area with inland Dry Land Farmers having had virtually no Rain all year.

We have had two public workshops starting to prepare for our sub-regional process. The application to take water for 500ha of Irrigation and to also have a back-up Power supply for

Hanmer Springs from Kakapo Brook in the Lewis Pass has been declined. It has been confirmed the water in the Hurunui River has neither improved nor declined over the last Eight years, which is a great result in light of the increase in Dairying in the area. There is a lot of Mitigation work going on and AIC will have all its Members with a FEP by the end of 2015. An Immediate Steps Grant has been given to Dry Creek to further enhance the area where the fresh water mussels have been found.

A letter has been sent to the ECan Commissioners about FEP Auditing for Dry Land Farmers. A joint Field trip with the Kaikoura Zone Committee to the Clarence River via Hanmer was very informative on the protection measures for the White Fronted Tern and other endangered species in the area as well as the need for weed control. We had a very informative presentation from Charlotte Butler from Irrigation NZ on the training and accreditation scheme.

A run through on the proposed plan change 5 to the land and water regional plan was also made. It is good to note that in the Draft Guide to Attributes in Appendix 2 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 there is provision to give some recognition to Rivers that are naturally high in minerals i.e. P in the Waipara River, and that Natural level puts it into a Red Zone even though there are No intensive Farming operations in the area.

This will be my last attendance at the Regional Committee as my 5 years on the Zone has also ended. CWMS is a great strategy and to think we now can get all parties around the table and better understand each other's points of view is a great step forward, and an amazing amount of progress towards better sustainability in farming practices has been already made and this will continue.

We also need to keep Urban People aware that the two worst polluted rivers in Canterbury are flowing through Christchurch, that there is work to do there, as well as the continuing work being done out in the countryside. There needs to be a balance in what is being reported as too often it is only the Farming Community which is taken to task by unbalanced articles both in the papers and on TV.

I have really enjoyed my time on the Regional Committee, met a lot of great dedicated people, seen a lot of progress made and I am sure the CWMS is the only way forward for Canterbury to use its water resources wisely so the whole region benefits in the future.

Lower Waitaki–South Coastal Canterbury Zone Update (Andrew Feierabend)

Plan Change 5 Waitaki is likely now to be notified in February next year. So community meetings on this will now be deferred until it is notified. ECan will do an email update to everyone involved in the next few weeks so they are kept in the loop.

The Infinity decision appeal is going straight to court (April/May) – This relates to allocation of water in the Hakataramea. The expectation of the Zone Committee is that Environment Canterbury will defend the decline decision (joined by WIC, Fish and Game, and other water users).

The December Zone Committee meeting (16/12) will be Robin Murphy's last. Robyn has chaired the Committee from its inception and has made an outstanding contribution which will be recognised at his last meeting.

Selwyn-Waihora Zone Update (Ron Pellow)

Ron added that they were excited about Var 1 which would be operative as from 17 December, this was quite significant for them.

The Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee has met twice (November and December) since the last report to the Regional Committee [13th October].

Key aspects of these meetings and related activities include:

1. **Variation 1 rules can now be treated as operative.**
 - a. The appeals to the High Court on Variation 1 (Selwyn Te Waihora sub-regional section) have been resolved through mediation (notified to Zone Committee members 3rd December). The High Court has accepted the changes to Variation 1 and the appellants (Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Society, Federated Farmers and Forest and Bird) have signed the settlement of the appeals.
 - b. This means that the rules, inclusive of the changes made through the High Court settlement, can be treated as operative.
 - c. **The key changes are:**
 - i. Farmers in the Phosphorus Sediment Risk Area and Cultural Landscape Values Management Area can leach up to 15kgN/ha/yr. Farmers in these areas still need a controlled-activity land use consent.
 - ii. The wording has been tightened to make it clear that the further reductions in N losses by 2022 apply to farmers in irrigation schemes (i.e. CPW) and that the catchment N farming limit includes the N lost from CPW.
 - d. **What next:**
 - i. There is a process to go through to make the Selwyn Te Waihora plan change formally operative. It is expected the Regional Council (Environment Canterbury Commissioners) will agree in February 2016 to notify the operative Selwyn Te Waihora plan change.
 - ii. Community briefings and other communication on the Selwyn Te Waihora plan are likely to occur in February 2016.
2. The November ZC meeting featured research updates on local stream augmentation, nitrate risk maps for private drinking water and waterway rehabilitation. The increased flow in the initial trial at Boggy Creek resulted in a decrease in water quality fluctuations and an increase in habitat for aquatic species.
3. The committee also received a report from Environment Canterbury on the areas with high nitrate risks in the zone and how this may impact on private water supplies. An update of the 2013 report "Risk maps of nitrate in Canterbury groundwater" was released in June 2015 by Environment Canterbury and Canterbury Public Health to provide information about the risk of nitrate contaminations in groundwater used for drinking. High readings portrayed in the map are the highest concentration at any point historically and not a reflection of the most recent nutrient concentrations. Members discussed the mixed message this provides to the casual observer.
4. SWZC was also briefed on the Canterbury Region Dairy Report for the 2014-2015 Season. The report shows nearly 70% of farms in the Selwyn-Waihora Zone were compliant with all the conditions of their resource consents. This is a significant increase in the level of compliance compared with 2013–2014 (54%).

5. The December meeting started with an update from CPW on the Central Plains Water scheme. This was followed by a visit to the scheme, stopping at two points where the canal crosses the road / is visible from the road, and a third stop nearer Dunsandel where the scheme is working with Selwyn District Council to provide 150 L/sec through the stock water race and into a wetland that feeds the lowland streams.
6. Stuart Miller, an inaugural member of the Selwyn Waihora Zone committee has retired and was thanked and farewelled following the December meeting.

Waimakariri Zone Update (Claire McKay)

Since the last report, the committee has received briefing from:

- Irrigation NZ on its Efficient Irrigation Strategy and rolling out the Smart Irrigation campaign, aimed at increasing public awareness of the need to use water widely.
- Dairy NZ, on the roll out of their Sustainable milk plan (SMP) in our zone, starting with all dairy farmers in the Orange zone who may have a requirement to get a consent early 2016.
- ECan, on its commissioned Research on farmer attitudes to CWMS, and knowledge of LWRP regulations, and attitudes to water management in general.
- ECan staff on the Life style block template and its use. Of note, is that our district has 6816 rated properties 10 ha or less and 1843 larger. Collectively small land holdings are significant for our ZC.
- ECan planners on proposed PC 5, and the stages of SR planning process we are due to embark on in mid - 2016

ZC had a stand at the Rangiora A & P, manned by Members and ZC support staff, to raise our profile and provide material of interest to the urban audience particularly.

As part of community awareness and knowledge transfer, we have commenced our second series of community meetings, to be completed early December.

Upper Waitaki Zone Update (Barry Shepherd)

Barry added there was a public conservation meeting scheduled for February and noted some of the meetings held.

- The Zone has held two meetings since the last report.
- The Zone Committee was invited to a meeting on the 31st October regarding the Shared Vision Forum for the McKenzie Basin. It was reported to the meeting that the Zone Committee had picked up all it was able to under the CWMS mandates, (mostly Environmental, Water Quality and Quantity issues). A Group was selected to form a Trust to administer other issues (Joint management agreements, Land swaps, raising funds etc.). Three Groups felt strongly enough of Central Governments treatment of the issue to withhold their vote on the formation of a Trust. A group was selected to set up a Trust despite this action.
- A support letter was sent to the Regional Committee in support of the Long Fin Eel commercial fishing ban.
- The Zone Committee meet with the Waitaki Lakes Shore Line Committee to reinforce the public toilet issues around the Lakes. The Zone Committee will be represented at the WLSC meetings in future.

- The Zone has one contact recreation hot spot, at Loch laird. The Zone Committee have agreed to determine the source of the E.coli contamination.
- A monitoring frame work is proposed for the Waitaki Catchments that is easily accessible to all.
- The objectives of the monitoring frame work are to:
 - Measure the effectiveness of the plan.
 - Provide data for future reviews.
 - To share data between ECan and the Community.
- Scientific staff have started to develop this frame work.
- Approval was given for immediate steps funding to be allocated to a project to clear wilding pines from a site near the Lake Ohau Road that is providing a seed source for the Ohau moraine kettle holes and QE 2 covenanted land. The project value is \$30k with \$18k from immediate steps funding.
- The Committee received a presentation of the MGM Farm portal. Some farmers attended this part of the meeting.
- The next meeting will be a workshop (18th December) field trip to understand changes in the lower part of the Zone over the last 12 months.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE UPPER WAITAKI ZONE
COMMITTEE.



Kaikoura Zone Update (Matt Hoggard)

Lake Rotorua

No change from last agenda.

Lyell Creek / Waikoau

The success of the Love the Lyell campaign continues to grow. The Kaikoura Youth Council has arranged to maintain and water one of the community planting areas along Lyell Creek and Fonterra and neighbours are maintaining other areas.

Clarence River / Waiau-toa

A field trip was held with the Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee to look at work which has been funding in the upper Clarence. This provided a great opportunity to showcase some of the issues of this braded river. An excellent 3min video produced for LAWA can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVaP8KS87ys&feature=youtube>

Nutrient Management Group

Following ongoing discussion greater community understanding exists of the reasons for the Red Zoning in Kaikoura.

Banks Peninsula Zone Update (Steve Lowndes)

Steve noted climate change as a current topic and a number of other exciting pieces of work currently under way.

- As the Peninsula begins to dry out people flock to the harbours and bays for their holidays and demand for water soars. This is a time that puts pressure on the many small creeks that supply the bulk of water for households and stock on the Peninsula. The zone committee is encouraging individuals and communities to develop storage capacity (ie. rainwater tanks, farm and firefighting ponds) and adopt water efficient habits and technologies as the effects of climate change are likely to make this annual occurrence more severe in the future.
- A new water treatment plant at Akaroa was commissioned in October. The plant provides a water supply for Akaroa and Takamatua which meets the requirements of the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand. Water for the Akaroa water supply scheme is taken from four streams and two wells. The treatment process includes coagulation, flocculation, membrane filtration, chlorination and pH correction. Birdlings Flat water supply has also been upgraded and is now sourced from a deeper well on Jones Road (close to Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere).
- Reducing sediment (and phosphorous) from the highly erodible loess soils of the Peninsula is a real challenge. The committee has been tackling this issue in the Wairewa catchment. Plan Change 6 to the LWRP restricts all livestock from the stream edges on the valley flats around Little River. Nine submissions have been received on the Plan Change. Hearings are expected April 2016. The zone committee also recommended the establishment of a drainage rating district which is now up and running and the first willows removed.
- Next year the zone committee is looking forward to leading the development of the Lyttelton/Whakaraupo catchment plan. This is an action that Ngati Wheke, ECan, CCC and the Port Company agreed to during the Lyttelton Port Recovery Plan process. This will mean the zone committee's terms of reference will be extended to cover the marine environment. The zone committee has until June 2016 to complete a stocktake of scientific and cultural information and will need to complete the plan by December 2017.

Christchurch-West Melton Zone Update (Vacant)

Resolved:

That the Regional Committee takes the report as read.

ITEM 14 - GENERAL BUSINESS

Andy Pearce thanked everyone for their participation during the year.

He noted that this was David Eder's last meeting as he has resigned. He thanked him for his participation and noted he was a member of the Committee from the start. He has always been a positive contributor.

Hugh Canard thanked David for his work as Chairperson of the Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee. He noted how David worked in a collaborative manner with a group of people Hugh led, to look at options / concerns around HWP initial proposals for storage in the zone (raising Lake Sumner and Hurunui River impacts on white water sports). David responded that he had enjoyed being on the Committee and found it a positive experience.

CLOSURE

Steve Lowndes ended the meeting with a karakia on behalf of Peter Ramsden.

The meeting closed at 5.43pm.

Date: _____

_____**Chairperson**

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6.	SUBJECT MATTER: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH WORKING GROUP
REPORT: Regional Water Management Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 9 February 2016
REPORT BY: Barbara Nicholas, facilitator	

PURPOSE

To receive an update on the work of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Working Group (BEWG)

BACKGROUND

BEWG met on Tuesday 26 January. The meeting

- considered a proposal from staff to develop 5-year outcomes to inform work programmes. Agreed to hold a workshop with key funders to explore what they are doing and why, and identify options to develop framework and outcomes to work collaboratively towards CWMS biodiversity outcomes.
- considered the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Review discussion document, and agreed to support the inclusion of Russell lupins as a new pest, thus providing an means to control their spread
- discussed the opportunities for biodiversity to be included in farm environment plans, and potential for collaboration with primary sector over plantings to provide shade and shelter
- noted the call for submissions on options to separate long and short fin eel stocks in the South Island for purposes of fish management; and agreed to recommend to the regional committee that it submit in support that the two stocks be managed separately. This position is consistent with the submission made to MPI in late 2015. The working group has also requested staff to progress further development towards improving eel habitat in Canterbury.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the committee note:

- Receive the report of BEWG
- Agree that the attached draft submission be sent to MPI on the separation of long and short fin eel stocks in the South Island

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft submission to MPI on the separation of short and long fin eel stocks
- BWEG meeting notes from 26 January 2016

BEWG meeting notes January 2016

Present: Steve Lowndes, Hugh Logan, John Talbot, John Wilkie [staff: Chris Keeling; Stephen Bragg, Barbara Nicholas]

5-year outcomes

Chris talked to his paper proposing a collaborative approach to agreeing 5 year outcomes to drive a joint work programme. In discussion people noted:

- Lupins: was noted that positive research info still on Merino NZ site, although they are no longer actively promoting this as a fodder crop
- Braided rivers have been a demonstration of where collaboration has worked
- Use internal expertise to assist with prioritisation. NB Commissioners looking for community –driven approach
- Need to develop a regional framework – critical interventions/clarity about rules/supported e.g. by FEPS/threats based mechanism
- ECan needs to model internally what committee wants to happen
- DOC has strong prioritisation framework, but noted many of the issues of biodiversity are on private land
- not all the river engineers had been working on had been brought to the committee for consideration

Requested:

- River engineers talk to committee about how they manage rivers and what they do to contribute to biodiversity outcomes in lower reaches of braided rivers, river mouths and drains. [Are there standard operating procedures SOPs?] Focus on CWMS targets.

Decided to hold a workshop with key funders to explore what they are doing and why, and identify options to develop framework and outcomes to work collaboratively towards CWMS biodiversity outcomes

Regional Pest Management Plan

Chris reviewed the approach in the Regional Pest Management Plan Discussion document, and asked for any comments

- Queried what risk assessment done on change on current pest management. What would happen if landowner does not manage pests? (Would be prosecuted under Biodiversity Act. Different ways on managing pests in different areas, can be more targeted)
- Note 'good neighbour' rules. Crown entities (e.g. DOC/ LINZ/NZTA/KiwiRail, etc.) can now be required to manage pests where they may affect adjacent land.

Agreed

- Stephen Lowndes to write on behalf of committee in support of russell lupins being included as a pest

Longfin Eel in Canterbury

Agreed to make a submission in support of MPI's option 1: to split the longfin and short fin eel quota in the South Island

Noted MPI are to formally consult with tangata whenua over the next month regarding the option to split the quota in this instance. It is also noted that the CWMS rūnanga reps have a forum meeting on the 26 of Feb, and it is envisaged that the splitting option will also be discussed at this hui.

It is thought it best that the BEWG leave it to tangata whenua to “lead” in terms of the MPI review process and that outcomes achieved here would inform the BEWG endeavours going forward. Sufficient at this stage that BEWG I submit to MPI in support of the proposed splitting of the South Island eel stocks as indicated by option 1.

Further, there will be another opportunity for this committee (BEWG) to put forward a view on the question of total allowable catch (TAC) of longfin eel during the review. This is the next step following tangata whenua consultation on the splitting of stocks. It's fair to say that the majority of views expressed by parties spoken to so far by the BEWG i.e. regarding the proposed sustainable management of this species, is to simply cease the commercial harvest of the longfin in Canterbury. It is thought that this would achieve the most immediate gain for the species. In effect this could be achieved by MPI simply reducing the current TAC of longfin to zero. It is understood that MPI could do this at any time under their current legislation and rules. It was requested that Stephen assist with the development of a work plan for the BEWG focussing on habitat enhancement for longfin. The chair thought this could begin in parallel with the MPI review process. This could be woven into work with other key parties such as DOC via a collaborative process.

Stephen will check in with tangata whenua about directions/actions on longfin eels and report back. It is noted that there are a number and range of people and groups within Ngāi Tahu whānui that require discussion with on this matter.

Agreed

- Draft submission as tabled to be recommended to the regional committee

Farm Environment Plans

Discussed opportunities for biodiversity to be integrated into FEPs. Timing is an issue as people get used to FEP.

Value in ECan signalling that FEP provisions can include biodiversity. Unclear how that can fit into current planning framework. Ecan could provide some templates as part of helping people. Issue to be highlighted to regional committee. [Noted ECan has contracted some work on how cultural considerations – as in Selwyn-Waihora cultural areas – can be integrated into a FEP. Could be useful for biodiversity issues.]

**THE BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH WORKING GROUP
SUBMISSION
PROPOSED SEPARATION OF SOUTH ISLAND EEL STOCKS, JANUARY 2016**

26 January 2016

1. The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Working Group (the Working Group) is a working group of the Regional Water Management Committee of Canterbury Regional Council, functioning under the non-statutory Canterbury Water Management Strategy framework.
2. The Working Group thanks the Ministry for Primary Industries for the opportunity to make a submission on the Proposed Separation of South Island Eel Stocks, January 2016.
3. The Canterbury Water Management Strategy was signed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in 2009. It is a partnership between Environment Canterbury, Canterbury's city and district councils, Ngāi Tahu, and water stakeholders.
4. There are 10 water management zones throughout Canterbury – each has a committee made up of community and rūnanga appointees as well as regional and local council representatives.
5. The following submission is offered on the basis of Canterbury Regional Council's roles, functions and responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act 2002. We also note our formal obligations and policies under the *Canterbury Regional Policy Statement 2013* (Chapters 9 and 10 cover ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity and beds of rivers and lakes and their riparian zones, respectively).

Background:

6. In June 2015, the Regional Water Management Committee recommended: "That the Environment Canterbury Commissioners lead a process to develop a sustainable management approach for longfin eel/tuna in Canterbury by October 2015 and is jointly agreed upon by Environment Canterbury, Papatipu Rūnanga, MPI, commercial eel fishermen, local communities, etc."
7. The Working Group has been recently been acting to explore and promote the sustainable management of longfin eel in Canterbury with the aim of facilitating increased species numbers throughout Canterbury.
8. The Working Group has since hosted a series of workshops to inform this approach. These workshops have included presentations from commercial eel fishers, ngā rūnanga from three case-study catchments, the Department of Conservation, the Hurunui-Waiarau, Selwyn-Waihora and Upper Waitaki Zone Committees, NIWA, Fish and Game, Forest and Bird, Meridian Energy, and the Hurunui District Council.
9. The Working Group provided a submission to the Fisheries Management System Review 2015 summarising information gathered by the Working Group to date to help inform the review with regards to the management of longfin eel in Canterbury.

Submission Points:

10. The Working Group supports the progression of a package of management measures to increase the longfin eel population and improve the long-term sustainability of longfin eels.
11. The Working Group supports the preferred **Option 1** with a view to providing the best framework to promote the long-term sustainability of longfin eels.

Recommendation:

12. The Working Group recommends that the Ministry for Primary Industries:
 - a. Adopts **Option 1** and separates eel stocks
 - b. Continues the progression of the package of management measures to increase the longfin eel population and improve the long-term sustainability of longfin eels.

Conclusion:

13. The Working Group is pleased to offer this submission on the Proposed Separation of South Island Eel Stocks, January 2016. We look forward to further engagement with the Ministry for Primary Industries as the review is finalised and the package of management measures is progressed.
14. For further queries please contact:

Steve Lowndes, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Working Group
Chairperson

Email: lowmo@xtra.co.nz

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7	SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING WORKING GROUP REPORT
REPORT: Regional Water Management Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 9 Feb 2016
REPORT BY: Ellie McNae, Senior Strategy Advisor, Environment Canterbury	

PURPOSE

- To inform the Regional Committee of the Infrastructure Funding Working Group's discussions and recommendations.

BACKGROUND

At their meeting on 16 December 2016, the Regional Committee established a temporary working group to consider ECan commissioner's request to provide advice on the establishment of a regional funding mechanism for environmental infrastructure. This working group, consisting of David Caygill, Jane Demeter, Hugh Logan, Bruce Murphy, Ron Pellow and John Wilkie, met on 26 February. Murray Doak, Chris Keeling, Ellie McNae, Barbara Nicholas and Christina Robb also attended. Apologies were received from Tom Lambie and Peter Scott.

A background paper (attachment 1) was circulated to the Working Group prior to their meeting. This included the introduction of the term 'environmentally beneficial infrastructure'. The new term was introduced to address previous concerns around the use of the term 'environmental infrastructure' and to remove some of the perceived ambiguity around the term 'public good infrastructure'. The Working Group agreed to the use of this term, noting that it could be further tested and defined if necessary through the Council's policy development process.

The working group then discussed whether there was a general case for publically funding environmentally beneficial infrastructure. They determined that a key test would be assessing who the beneficiaries of a project might be, and the nature and scale of those benefits.

Following this the committee worked through a number of potential projects (listed in the background paper), first individually and then in two groups, assessing whether each would be a contender for public funding. Through this process each group formed a list of potential criteria, against which projects could be tested for suitability for public funding. These were included in their final recommendations below.

RECCOMENDATIONS

That the Regional Committee:

- Note the Working Group's conclusions that:
While public funding should be a last resort, there would be a case for Environment Canterbury to provide public funding (through a rate) to an environmentally beneficial infrastructure project if the following criteria were satisfied.
The project:
 - delivers significant, demonstrable environmental and community benefits over and above the alternatives*

2. *requires only a one-off capital investment¹*
3. *is a cost-effective way to achieve goals*
4. *benefits a group wider than the immediate users (clear test of beneficiaries required in the assessment project)*
5. *addresses the impacts of other governmental policies or strategies (optional)*
6. *addresses a legacy issue (optional)*

and that:

Good investment principles should be followed when assessing the projects (including a risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis). In addition, an assessment of the scale of the benefits and the affordability of the project, including the ability of a local community to meet the costs, would help to determine the mix of funding and how to rate (targeted or regional).

2. Ask Environment Canterbury staff to present these conclusions to Commissioners.

¹ The Working Group determined that other funding mechanisms, such as the use of operational expenditure, would be more appropriate for ongoing activities i.e. the maintenance of stock-water races for ecological values.

Financing Environmentally Beneficial Infrastructure

1. Purpose of working group

Provide advice to Environment Canterbury Commissioners, through the Regional Committee, on options to finance environmentally beneficial infrastructure.

In doing this, the Working Group could address the following questions:

1. Should a regional mechanism be developed to finance environmentally beneficial infrastructure?
2. If yes,
 - a. what types of projects should this mechanism support, and
 - b. what are some key criteria/issues and risks to be considered when identifying these?
3. How could the Council identify options for private/philanthropic support?

This paper outlines a number of the funding options available, as well as suggesting criteria that could be used in a regional mechanism, should the Working Group agree to explore that approach.

2. Background

The CWMS aims “to enable present and future generations to gain the greatest social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits from our water resources within an environmentally sustainable framework”. One mechanism for achieving this vision is the establishment of private infrastructure projects which can also deliver environmental benefits. These schemes can have positive economic and environmental impacts that go beyond the immediate users of the scheme. The users benefit by being able to develop their land, while the public benefits from enhanced environmental values. Occasionally, designing infrastructure to include environmental benefits can make private developments financially unviable.

There are also proposals, noted in various CWMS ZIP Addenda, to establish infrastructure solely for an environmental benefit e.g. Managed Aquifer Recharge. The absence of a commercial element to these proposals, and the limited availability of public funds is likely to prevent their initiation. This funding gap was raised by the Regional Committee’s Funding Task Group in 2014, who noted the need to identify additional funding sources and/or develop partnerships to achieve some of the non-regulatory targets of ZIPs.

A function of the CWMS Regional Committee is to “provide advice to Environment Canterbury on regional issues associated with implementation of the CWMS”. The Committee has had experience in considering funding issues through discussions held by the Funding Task Group in 2014. For this reason, Environment Canterbury Commissioners requested that the Regional

Committee provide them with advice on when and how to provide financial support to proposals to establish environmentally beneficial infrastructure (as defined below).

At their 15 December meeting, the Regional Committee discussed this request and agreed to establish a temporary working group that would report back to the wider Regional Committee with their recommendations on 9 February 2016.

3. What is “environmentally beneficial infrastructure”

Initial discussions around this issue used the term “environmental infrastructure”. At their meeting on 15 December, the regional committee expressed some unease with the use of this term. Therefore we have re-phrased it as “environmentally beneficial infrastructure” – being any private or public development that measurably improves (either as its primary purpose or a side-benefit) environmental values. This umbrella term includes both “grey” infrastructure, such as an irrigation canal, and “green” infrastructure, such as the creation of a habitat corridor to facilitate the movement of native fauna. An improvement in recreational values could be a co-benefit of such projects due to an improvement in environmental values such as water quality and flow rate. “Soft” infrastructure (institutions, non-physical assets etc.) are not included in this definition.

We acknowledge that there may be a level of discomfort with this term, but felt it to be less ambiguous and more widely understood than that of “public good infrastructure”. Due to the tight timeframes for the current discussions, we suggest proceeding with the umbrella term “environmentally beneficial infrastructure” for the present. Should the Working Group’s recommendations to Commissioners require the development of an alternative term (such as the establishment of a regional funding policy), we could explore that at a later date.

4. How could projects be funded?

There are three key areas from which funding could be obtained:

1. Private
2. Philanthropic
3. Public

Ideally funding would come from the mix of these sources that best reflects the distribution of benefits, and the presence of any legacy issues. These three areas reflect the discussions of the Land and Water Forum and the 2014 Funding Task Group. However, we note that the list below is not exhaustive and may have some omissions.

The flow-chart in Appendix 1 walks through the various funding options, and the points at which checks could be taken to determine what level of funding would be appropriate.

Private

Private funding could be provided through banks, shareholders/landholders, or in the case of a non-commercial project, through a sponsorship arrangement. For example, the Fonterra Living Water scheme which sees the company partnering with the Department of Conservation to undertake projects in the Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere catchment.

Philanthropic

Philanthropic support could be sought through local or international providers. This could include support from established foundations and/or from the community through crowd-funding platforms. It is unlikely to be provided for private or commercially driven projects, but may be an option for restoration work such as the construction of wetlands or sediment retention ponds. Such projects may be more likely to gain funding when driven by a community group, rather than through the councils.

Public funding

Public funding includes support from central or local government. Key considerations to determine whether a project could qualify for public funding could be:

1. Whether there is a clear market failure that prevents private funding covering the entire project e.g. the delivery of the public good of environmental improvement
2. Whether public funding would be the best method to ensure the delivery of community/governmental objectives
3. Whether there are legacy issues that need to be addressed.

If a project did not meet these tests then we believe that the provision of public funding would expose the funder to unnecessary risk – specifically a reputational risk around the use of public funds. In these instances, it would be better for applicants to revise their proposal, or to seek private or philanthropic funds.

Central Government

Key Central Government funds that may relate to the provision of financial support to infrastructure projects are:

1. Irrigation Acceleration Fund
2. Crown Irrigation Investments
3. MfE \$100 million land acquisition fund – signalled in election discussions

It is outside scope of this Working Group's task to provide advice on how to access central government funds, or whether the amount available should be increased. Therefore, no further discussion of the above funds is provided here.

Local Government

Financial support from local government would most likely need to be raised through rates, unless the council had accrued financial assets from another source i.e. Bay of Plenty Regional Infrastructure Fund. As rating is the most likely option in Canterbury we have not evaluated alternatives in this paper.

The spatial scale at which a rate could be levied, whether regional or local, would be a key consideration for a funding mechanism. This could be tested through the imposition of criteria, which are discussed in the following section. We should also note that the use of rates must meet Local Government Association requirements and principles such as “polluter pays” and “beneficiary pays”.

5. What should be publically funded?

A fundamental principle when determining whether or not to spend public funds on an infrastructure project should be ensuring that all funding go to where it will have the highest social value (taking into account all economic, environmental and social/cultural benefits). This could be tested and assured through the formulation of criteria, against which a proposal could be assessed.

Potential criteria are suggested below and shown in the flow-chart in Appendix 1, which illustrates a decision matrix through which projects could be considered.

Spatial impact of the project

The financial implications and risks associated with rates funding are related to both the amount required and the spatial distribution of a rate. To determine the scale at which a rate could be levied, we suggest assessing projects against the following criteria:

1. Does the proposed project have regionally significant environmental benefits?
2. Would a local rate place an unjust financial burden on the community?

Criteria 1 could be tested through the presence of regionally important water bodies in the area, whether the ecosystem that would be improved was regionally significant etc.

Criteria 2 considers the level of commitment and contribution from land owners in the catchment relative to their economic situation – where there is a lower ability to contribute, regional funding could be more justified. For example, financial support for proposal A requires rating for \$12.8 million over a 20 year period. When rated over a small community, this could result in an increase of over 60% to their regional rates, while if rated over the entire region the increase would only be 1%. The first rating scenario places an unjust burden on the local community, particularly if the benefits arising from the proposal are regional in scale or the environmental problem being addressed is a legacy issue.

Benefits of the project

The level of public benefit from the project, and some of the risks, could be tested through the imposition of criteria. Some suggestions are given below:

1. *Environmental benefit*: would the environmental benefit be realised without the project?
2. *Public support*: as public funds would be expended on the proposal, endorsement of the proposal by the CWMS Zone and Regional Committees would be essential. If the proposal already featured in a Committee's ZIP or ZIP Addendum then this would be a clear indication of support. In addition, support by the CWMS Committees would assist should public notification be required under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. *Financial viability of the project*: a test that, if the project is a private/commercial proposal, it is the addition of environmentally beneficial infrastructure that makes the project non-viable financially, not that the project itself is not financially sound. By testing this, the Council can be assured that public funds are only supporting the aspect of infrastructure from which the public will benefit. If the project required public funds to support other elements and was unable to obtain this from private sources, we would suggest revision of the project/proposal. Financial support of such a project could result in significant risks for the Council.

Risks of the project

The following non-exhaustive list of risks would also need to be considered when determining whether to provide public funding:

- *Reputational risk*: the inclusion of environmental benefits in a large infrastructure proposal can offset environmental externalities of agricultural intensification. However, using public funds to pay for these offsets removes the perception of a public benefit from the project. Support therefore poses a reputational risk for the Council.
- *Displacement of private sector funding*: the establishment of an independent funding mechanism may function as a disincentive to the private sector seeking other sources of funding. It may also serve as a disincentive to innovation, with developers being less inclined to explore more cost-effective options.
- *Long-term financial risk*: the Council may establish a long-term connection to a project, creating a risk if the developer became insolvent, or the project were unsuccessful.
- *Opportunity cost*: the Council may raise public funds to support a project that, within the payback lifetime of the fund, is superseded in importance by other issues.
- *Accountability*: accountability of the project developer to the Council, and of the Council to the public, needs to be ensured.
- *Cost-effectiveness*: how effective is the approach likely to be in achieving the desired environmental benefits? Are there more cost-effective approaches?
- *Establishment of perverse incentives*: check that the project does not incentivise behaviour contrary to the purpose of the fund or strategy (e.g. CWMS).

The impact of each could be assessed through a detailed cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment of the proposals, prior to funding being approved. Additionally, the application of robust assessment criteria, such as those suggested above, could reduce the level of risk and result in stronger projects.

6. Potential projects

The following projects have been raised either through Zone Committee ZIPs, or suggested in conversations with internal parties. They are included here to test assumptions of the need for public funding, the level at which this public funding could be provided, and to assess the value of various criteria. Some may qualify for funding, some may not.

Wairewa constructed wetland (Banks Peninsula): In the Wairewa ZIP Addendum, the Banks Peninsula Zone Committee suggested the construction of a 15 hectare, three metre deep sediment retention basin at the head of the lake, augmented by a five hectare wetland on the lake fringe

Managed Aquifer Recharge (Ashburton): In its ZIP Addendum, the Ashburton Zone Committee supported the use of MAR, in conjunction with on-farm mitigation, to reduce nitrate concentrations in lowland waterbodies. Consents have been applied for the trial and discussions are underway with central government around funding.

Targeted stream augmentation (Selwyn-Te Waihora): The Selwyn-Te Waihora ZIP Addendum recommends supporting the use of managed aquifer recharge, targeted stream augmentation and other methods of augmentation to increase base flows in lowland streams. These projects would increase ecological flows in the targeted lowland streams, improving environmental values. An initial trial of this concept has been tested at Boggy Creek, and a larger pilot trial is now being developed for the Irwell. Funds have been allocated to this project through the CWMS portion of the General Rate. At present these are insufficient to cover the full costs of the project.

Klondyke storage/recreation facilities (Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora): a proposal by Rangitata Diversion Race Management Ltd to establish a storage facility close to its existing intake from the Rangitata river. The company is currently exploring options to establish a white-water kayaking course on the storage facility outlet.

Maintenance of stockwater races for ecological values (Selwyn-Waihora): As stockwater races are retired due to the establishment of alternative, more efficient, systems, there is a risk that the ecological values that these waterbodies support will be lost i.e. habitat for long-finned eel and other indigenous biodiversity. The races could be maintained primarily for this purpose.

Construction and maintenance of toilets (Upper Waitaki): The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee aims for “all lakeside campground and huts [to] have contained wastewater systems, or other technical solutions, that mitigate any effects on water quality” and that options to fund these facilities are developed.

Removal of lupins on braided rivers (Waimakariri): the spread of Russell lupins through braided river beds is a significant threat to natural ecosystems and species that occur there. Funding would be required to support any large-scale removal efforts and to address the likelihood of re-introduction.

Hunter Downs (Lower Waitaki – South Coastal Canterbury): Hunter Downs proposes to increase the capacity of their scheme infrastructure to allow for the augmentation of flows to Wainono Lagoon. This approach is supported by the Zone Committee and would improve environmental values in that area, but also increase the cost of the infrastructure. However, recent discussions (Wainono Integration Workshop on December 16), have raised questions around the level of certainty that the proposed approach would deliver the desired level of environmental improvement.

Establishment of regional habitat corridors (Regional): the establishment of large-scale habitat corridors could facilitate the movement of indigenous species throughout the region, rehabilitate degraded biodiversity levels and drive a 'ki uta ki tai' approach to biodiversity management in the region.

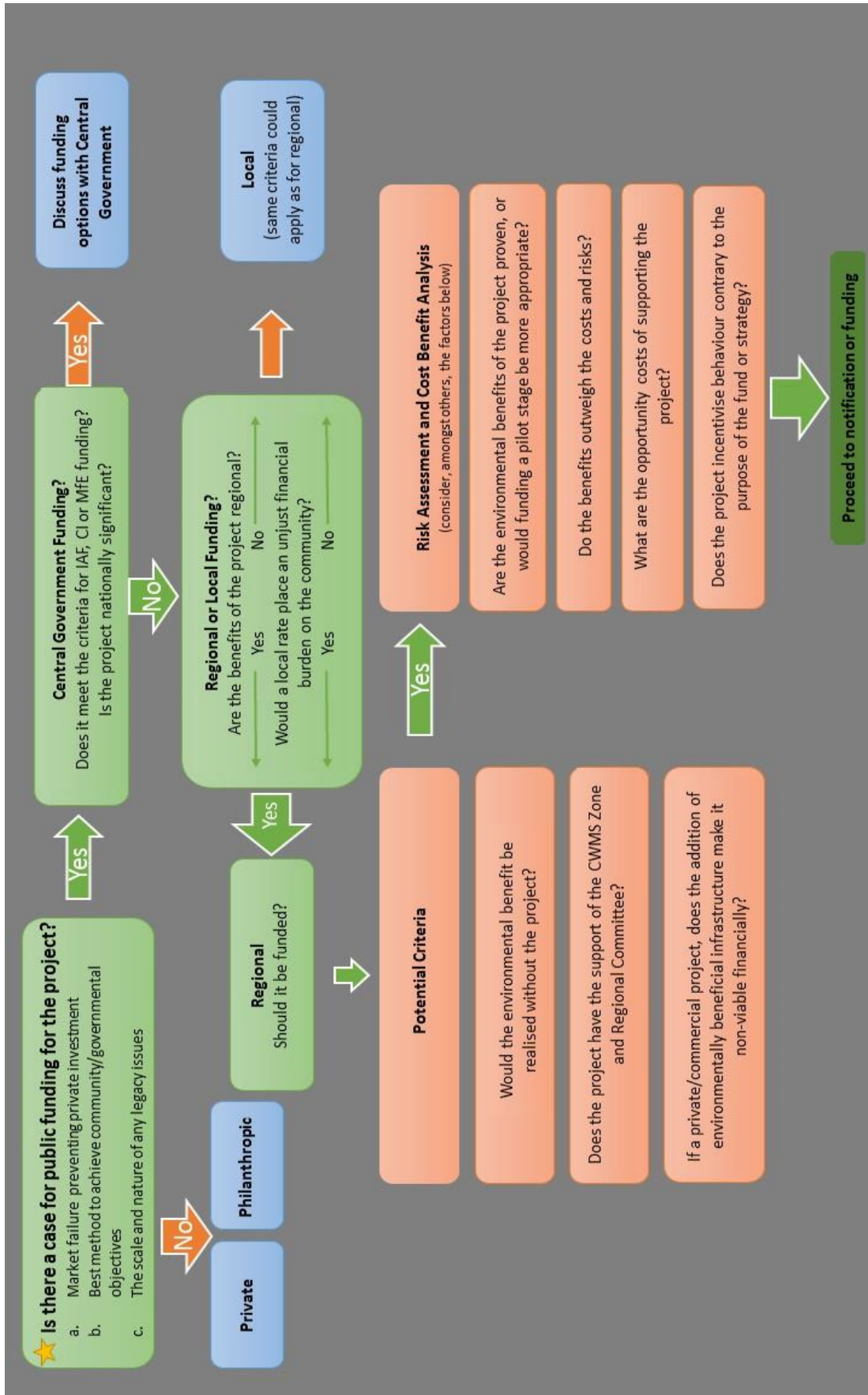
7. When should projects be funded?

Projects could be funded in either the development phase, or the construction phase. The separation between the two is essentially where the level of uncertainty around the design and cost of a project are reduced to a point where private financing is an option.

The feasibility/design testing of a proposal is a necessary, but potentially expensive component of the development phase. The provision of regional funding at this point could improve the quality of projects and their associated business case, to a point where further investment from the council may be no longer necessary. The costs of construction could then be covered entirely by private investors, or through a central government initiative i.e. CIIIL. Environment Canterbury has taken this approach with the MAR and TSA trials, raising money for pilot studies through a targeted rate in Selwyn and Ashburton, along with seeking support from the Irrigation Acceleration Fund.

When assessing projects and conducting cost-benefit analyses, a key consideration is the level of certainty around the purported environmental benefits of a project. Where these benefits were uncertain, the Council could recommend funding exploratory work to test assumptions, or partnering with a university to do this.

Appendix 1: Determining the case for public funding



AGENDA ITEM NO: 8.	SUBJECT MATTER: ANNUAL REPORT WORKSHOP
REPORT: Regional Water Management Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 9 February 2016
REPORT BY: Barbara Nicholas, facilitator	

PURPOSE

To identify key messages to be included in the annual report to Environment Canterbury

BACKGROUND

The Regional Councils' Long Term Plan requires the CWMS zone and regional committees to prepare an annual report to district and regional councils with interests in their work.

At the meeting the committee will begin to identify the key messages it would expect to see in its report, in terms of

- achievements to date
- current and emerging strategic issues
- future work programme.

This will inform a draft report for consideration at a future meeting prior to submission to Councils.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 9	SUBJECT MATTER: SWIMMING REPORT SCOPE
REPORT: Regional Water Management Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 9 Feb 2016
REPORT BY: Ellie McNae, Senior Strategy Advisor, Environment Canterbury	

PURPOSE

- To provide the Regional Committee with an opportunity to review a scope for the report into swimming values in Canterbury.

BACKGROUND

The recreation and amenity targets of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy included the aim to see 'a positive trend in the availability and/or quality of recreational opportunities in each zone' by 2015/2020 and to have 'restored at least one major fresh water recreational opportunity in each zone that is not currently available in 2010' by 2040. In the absence of a comprehensive understanding of the current availability and quality of recreational opportunities across the region, and in each zone, it will be impossible to conclude whether these targets have been met.

Progress has been made in quantifying the extent and state of recreational opportunities in Canterbury, with research being commissioned by the Regional Committee into jet-boating and kayaking values and flow requirements. In addition, the information from Fish and Game's angling surveys informs our progress monitoring. However, there are still significant information gaps. One of the most significant being around swimming in freshwater.

Recognising this, the Regional Committee have requested that Environment Canterbury commission a research report into freshwater swimming in Canterbury. The following scope provides a potential outline for this research. We now seek the Committee's feedback on this scope.

PROPOSED SCOPE

The contracted party will deliver a research report to Environment Canterbury that assesses the full range of values associated with freshwater swimming in the Canterbury region. This will include the following factors:

- Identification of locations where people swim, and the relative popularity/value of these sites at both a local (CWMS zone) and regional scale,
- Values that are key to a 'good' swimming spot e.g. presence of amenities, flow rates, presence of a pool, scenic values
- The barriers to people swimming in freshwater e.g. accessibility, perceived water quality, knowledge of sites
- The appropriateness of current locations for recreational water quality monitoring
- The value of current indicators used for recreational water quality monitoring
- The value of the current methods for reporting recreational water quality

The report, and the data it includes should be in an accessible form that is able to be used by a wide range of user groups, including:

- Environment Canterbury hydrologists
- Planners including Consent Planners engaged in resource consent audits

- The Canterbury Water Management Strategy zone and regional committees
- Hearings commissioners
- Recreational user-groups
- The public wishing to explore recreational opportunities in their area

Further details will be provided in the final scope and contract.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Regional Committee;

1. Note Environment Canterbury's intention to commission a swimming research report,
2. Suggest additional factors (if any) that they would like the research report to assess.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 10.	SUBJECT MATTER: REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW
REPORT: Regional Water Management Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 9 Feb 2016
REPORT BY: Sarah Hemmingsen, Environment Canterbury	

PURPOSE

- To inform the committee on the Regional Pest Management Review Plan

BACKGROUND

Changes to the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the development of a National Policy Direction by Central Government in collaboration with Regional Authorities signals significant changes to regional pest management.

As a result of these changes Environment Canterbury is reviewing the current Regional Pest Management Plan. Plans must be consistent with the National Policy Direction and a national template has been developed so there is consistency across regional pest management plans nationally.

Environment Canterbury is seeking feedback from the community on how pests will be managed in our region over the next few months. A Discussion Document has been developed to help the community discuss potential changes and seek the community's views on the best approaches to be taken in a new plan. The review is an opportunity to focus on becoming more resilient as a region, with pests managed well for both production land and biodiversity protection purposes.

The full discussion document can be found at <http://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/Pages/canterbury-regional-pest-management-strategy-review.aspx>

DISCUSSION

The Discussion document was tabled with BEWG at its meeting on 26 January. BEWG noted and supports the proposal to include russell lupins as a new pest.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the committee notes the Regional Pest Management Strategy Review

ATTACHMENTS

- Information sheet on the Regional Pest Management Plan Review

Canterbury's Regional Pest Management Plan is being reviewed.

Changes to the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the development of a National Policy Direction by Central Government in collaboration with Regional Authorities signals significant changes to regional pest management.

As a result of these changes Environment Canterbury is reviewing the current Regional Pest Management Plan. Plans must be consistent with the National Policy Direction and a national template has been developed so there is consistency across regional pest management plans nationally.

We are seeking feedback from our community on how pests will be managed in our region over the next few months. A Discussion Document has been developed to help the community discuss potential changes and seek the community's views on the best approaches to be taken in a new plan. The review is an opportunity to focus on becoming more resilient as a region, with pests managed well for both production land and biodiversity protection purposes.

This discussion document is the first step in the review of the current Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan. There will be further opportunities to provide feedback as the review process progresses.

Possible changes to pest management in Canterbury may include;

Reduced regulation within property boundaries

Environment Canterbury may change the pest control enforcement approach for some pest species (e.g. rabbit, gorse and broom) within properties.

More responsibility on individual landowners to manage pests on their properties themselves, with compliance inspections focusing more on preventing pest spread to neighbouring properties

Less emphasis and resources on existing widespread pests

The proposed new approach would continue to set rules for pest management across the region, but more responsibility would be placed on landowners to manage legacy pests on their properties themselves.

Likely fewer inspections for widespread pests in higher density areas such as Nassella tussock and Old man's beard with land managers taking more responsibility

Potential to declassifying some current pests such as nodding thistle and ragwort

More emphasis and resources preventing pests establishing or becoming widespread

There would be more support for identifying new threats to the region and attempting to intercept new incursions.

More resources for eradicating pests at low levels will help prevent them becoming widespread.

Opportunity for land manager responsibilities to be addressed through on-farm biosecurity and the inclusion of pest management in farm environment plans.

Increased focus on managing pests for biodiversity gains

There will be better support for the biodiversity the work we do.

For example, biodiversity protection projects being undertaken in the Upper Clarence River rely on animal and plant pest control to deliver good biodiversity outcomes.

Facilitation of collaborative partnerships

There is continued opportunity to work with groups to facilitate 'self-funded' pest control to protect ecological, agricultural, or human health at specific sites

Improved education, communication, and advice

More emphasis on improving land managers knowledge of pests, how to identify them, their behaviours, control them and use 'best practise' to improve farm management, managing ecological sites and prevent pests establishing initially.

Environment Canterbury would have more of a leadership role, especially in the early stages of pest infestation

Have your say
Feedback open until 28 February 2016
More info available

www.ecan.govt.nz/PestStrategy or phone 0800 324 636

AGENDA ITEM NO: 11	SUBJECT MATTER: RESOURCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL UPDATE
REPORT: Regional Water Management Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 9 Feb 2016
REPORT BY: Ellie McNae, Senior Strategy Advisor, Environment Canterbury	

PURPOSE

- To update the Regional Committee on the preparation of Environment Canterbury's submission on the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill.

BACKGROUND

At their last meeting on 16 December, the Regional Committee received a summary of the CWMS-relevant elements of the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill that is currently before the select committee for Local Government and the Environment.

Environment Canterbury is currently preparing its submission on this bill, due on the 14 March 2016. This submission will be discussed with the members of the Canterbury Regional Policy Forum on 29 January. A verbal update on these discussions, and key elements of Environment Canterbury's submission, will be provided to the Regional Committee as per their request on 16 December.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 12	SUBJECT MATTER: REVIEWING THE CWMS TARGETS - MEASURES & INDICATORS.
REPORT: Regional Water Management Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 09 February 2016
REPORT BY: Dann Olykan	

PURPOSE

To note that a process for reviewing the CWMS Targets – Measures & Indicators is underway.

SUMMARY

- The project scope is limited to a review of the measures and indicators of the CWMS Targets to improve their appropriateness and enhance the reporting of the 2020 targets
- This is not a revision or rewrite of the CWMS targets themselves
- The regional committee members will be involved via a range of stakeholder workshops (which will include Regional Committee members, ECan Staff and key organisations)
- The project will conclude with a report and recommendations to the Regional Committee and the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

BACKGROUND

Reporting of progress on CWMS targets for 2013 and for 2015 has proved challenging particularly where progress reporting requires data/information that is not readily available. For some of the CWMS targets the basic data is not being produced or collected; For others, the monitoring of activities (projects, programmes, surveys etc.) by stakeholder organisations is not producing measurable baselines or results.

Where stakeholders have limited or no data available, it may indicate a need for more resource or the redesign of a programme or project rather than a change of the measure.

OBJECTIVE

In order to maintain interest in the CWMS it is important to report progress so that we can improve decision making and make any policy and resourcing changes alongside key stakeholders. Meaningful reporting will assist in building accountability and give credit where credit is due, while allowing us to identify any knowledge gaps.

There are a number of objectives from this CWMS Targets – Measures & Indicators Review;

1. Ensure the 2020 targets have measures and indicators that are appropriate and reportable,
2. Maintain the integrity of the agreed CWMS targets – penned and agreed in 2009,
3. Identify data, and knowledge gaps,
4. Re-establish accountability for measuring targets and data provision across key agencies for the 2020 targets report,
5. Encourage partner organisations to review their programmes and projects such that appropriate data is available in 2020.

PROJECT SOPE

The project will involve;

1. An initial desktop review of the measures and indicators for each target.
2. 10 focus groups with stakeholder organisations and Environment Canterbury staff.
3. A final report shared with the stakeholder groups, the Regional Committee and the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

PROJECT COMPLETION

The project is expected to be completed by 22 April 2016.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 13.	SUBJECT MATTER: ZONE COMMITTEE UPDATES
REPORT: Regional Water Management Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 9 February 2016
REPORT BY: Barbara Nicholas, facilitator	

PURPOSE

To provide opportunity for updates from recent zone committee meetings

BACKGROUND

Several of the zone committees are meeting in the two weeks immediately prior to the regional committee meeting, but a number have been in recess since the regional committee meeting in December 2015.

An opportunity will be provided for zone representatives of those committees that have met for a verbal update.