

ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

A **Meeting** of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee will be held as follows:

DATE: Tuesday 26 July 2016

TIME: 1:00 pm

VENUE: Council Chamber
2 Baring Square East
Ashburton

MEETING CALLED BY: A Dalziel, Chief Executive, Ashburton District Council
B Bayfield, Chief Executive, Environment Canterbury

ATTENDEES: Mr Chris Allen
Mr Ben Curry
Mr Gordon Guthrie
Mr Bill Thomas
Mrs Jackie Wright
Mr John Henry (Te Runanga o Arowhenua)
Mr Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)
Cr Stuart Wilson (Ashburton District Council)
Commissioner David Caygill (Environment Canterbury)

Zone Facilitator

Olivia Smith

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Environment Canterbury

Committee Advisor

Louise Glennon

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Ashburton District Council

Tangata Whenua Facilitator

Peter Te Rangihiroa Ramsden

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Environment Canterbury



5 Register of Interests

Representative's Name and Interest	
Chris Allen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm owner of sheep, beef, lambs ,crop • Water resource consents to take water from tributary of Ashburton River and shallow wells • National board member Federated Farmers of New Zealand • Member of Ashburton River Liaison Group
David Caygill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Chair – Environment Canterbury Commissioners • Chair - Business NZ's Energy Council • Chair – Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Water Nutrient Allocation
Ben Curry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive Officer – Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited
Gordon Guthrie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO Electricity Ashburton Limited (t/a EA Networks) • Director – Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation (incl. Water Utilities Limited) • Farming partnership – Winchmore (Ashburton North branch)
John Henry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of Arowhenua Runanga • Chairman Tangata Tiaki-Kai Tiaki Committee • South Canterbury representative on Mahinga Kai Hi Ika Komiti • Member of Arowhenua Company Ltd • Ngai Tahu representative on Central South Island Fish and Game • Governance member of South Canterbury Trap and Transfer program • Member of Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee
Arapata Reuben	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustee – Tuahiwi Marae • Trustee – Tuhono Trust • Trustee – Mana Waitaha Charitable Trust • Member - National Kiwi Recovery Group • Rūnanga Rep and Chair – Christchurch – West Melton Water Zone Committee
Bill Thomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm owner of Longbeach Estate Ltd (sheep, beef, lambs, arable, dairy) • Member of Eiffelton Irrigation Scheme
Stuart Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashburton District Councillor and Chair of Service Delivery Committee • A son who is a Director of Mayfield Hinds Irrigation Co and RDR
Jackie Wright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed by Canterbury District Health Board • Married to Ashburton District Councillor, Russell Ellis • Committee member South Rakaia Bach Owner's Association • Shallow Bore user • Dry land owner breeding Dexter cattle (Wakanui area, low acreage)

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 28 June 2016, commencing at 1pm in the Council Chamber, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Commissioner David Caygill, Ben Curry, Cr Stuart Wilson, Jackie Wright, John Henry (Arowhenua Runanga), Bill Thomas and Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Olivia Smith (Facilitator) and Peter Ramsden (Tangata Whenua Facilitator) and Louise Glennon (Business Support Officer – minutes).

Approximately 2 members of the public attended the meeting.

1 Welcome and Karakia

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the opening karakia was offered by Peter Ramsden.

2 Deputations

None

3 Apologies

Gordon Guthrie, Chris Allen

4 Extraordinary Business

None

5 Register of Interests

David Caygill advised that he has been asked to chair the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Water and Nutrient Allocation but didn't think there was any conflict of interest.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 31 May 2016, be taken as read and confirmed.

Wilson/Caygill

Carried

6.1 Matters Arising

Jackie Wright advised that she is still to receive a copy of Donna Field's report which was requested at the last meeting and also Andrew Guthrie's presentation on the Ashburton stockwater network. Olivia to provide.

Jackie also asked about information requested at the previous meeting regarding groundwater allocation and consent conditions and was advised that there was some difficulty in producing a report at this time but hopefully it will be available later in the year. It was later clarified that the information requested was for the 2014/2015, not the 2015/2016 and it was then acknowledged that this information should be available and Olivia will follow up.

7 Correspondence

A letter of congratulations has been received from Dame Margaret Bazley, Chair of the Commissioners at Ecan regarding the Hinds Drains Working Party report. It was noted that Ecan look forward to working with the Committee further on the delivery of the recommendations.

Olivia Smith shared an email she received from a community member, Kara, interested in the consents associated with Lot 9. The letter raised a number of questions and concerns regarding the consents and sought feedback from the committee on their opinion on the consents and the planning

framework they were granted under. Olivia has advised the community member that the Committee is not involved in decisions to grant consent applications and nor did the committee play a role in developing planning framework under which the two consents were given (the Natural Resources Regional Plan). Olivia also provided the member with a copy of the Section 42a report which outlines the matters considered by Council when granting the consent (to also be circulated to interested committee members).

David advised that unless the environmental impact is more than minor there is no need to publically notify consents.

The committee suggested they respond to Kara confirming the Zone Committee's role. In addition, Ben Curry suggested that we answer as many of her questions as possible. It was also agreed that an open letter should be provided to the Guardian outlining what the Committee does.

Bill Thomas tabled correspondence received from Environment Canterbury relating to water consent compliance which had been the subject of recent media attention.

Brief note from Bill Bayfield (CEO Environment Canterbury) about the upcoming elections. Bill explained that committee members are able to stand for council but need to declare this publically.

8 Compliance Priorities for 2016/17

Richard Purdon advised that there are currently 600 medium and high risk consents in the Ashburton zone. Last year over 900 consents were monitored and at present there are 3,950 consents in the zone. 600 of these consents have been prioritised for monitoring. It was noted that there is an issue with water meter readings as they are only provided once a year so it can be difficult to rectify an issue/ issue a warning/abatement notice so long after the incident/breach has occurred. Ecan are currently in the process of moving to real time data, and some consents require it now but not all. Richard advised that with more real time data it is likely that more infringement notices will be issued due to more accurate reporting.

Richard discussed the high level outcomes for compliance monitoring. These are to monitor all high and medium consents and enforce the water metering regulations. There is currently a pathway and timeline in place for getting people compliant with the water metering regulations (there are around 500 meters that need to be installed). In addition, it was noted that consents for water abstractions must be monitored and enforced.

It was suggested that responses to pollution hotline complaints be undertaken in accordance with priorities, unauthorised discharges to water, water abstractions, wastewater discharge, diary effluent discharge and odour.

It was noted that it would be extremely helpful to have some reporting on significant non-compliance. A reporting timetable will be issued in due course. Update to be provided around October 2016.

9 Plan Change 2 Update

Don Vattala advised that the majority of the water quality provisions are still under challenge. Federated Farmers have narrowed the scope of their appeal but the provisions which relate to swapping to deep groundwater are still under challenge as there is concern regarding the depth of groundwater. David advised that there has been a preliminary meeting with Federated Farmers and a proposal is being worked on with a view to resolving this. If there is valid point of law change agreed then the matter would be pursued in the High Court. Don confirmed that the transfer (not swap) of water consents is possible but 50% of the volume would need to be surrendered at the time of transfer.

10 Rakaia Enhancement Fund

Jackie advised that no formal appointment to the committee has been submitted. There are eight committee members and a quorum of six is required. On this basis, a designated alternative is required from each organisation involved. There is currently \$474,000 in the fund and this is in the process of moving to a society banking account. Not yet at a stage to call for expressions of interest for funding however this should take place in the next few months.

John Henry and David Caygill nominated Jackie to represent the Zone Committee on this group.

The designated alternative decision has been put on hold until further committee members are voted in.

Meetings are currently monthly until the group is fully up and running and then it will revert to twice a year.

Jackie will provide updates to the Committee.

11 Messaging on nutrient rules and GMP in Ashburton Zone

Jennifer Rochford distributed to the Committee a template with the regional rules which will be available online, along with other relevant information, once the website is live. This will be once testing has been done with farmers. Jennifer recommended having a proactive advocacy programme to encourage the adoption of good management practices. The farm portal will be up and running from August which will enable farmers to work out if they will require a consent.

Currently a pilot programme is running in Selwyn and Waimakariri working one on one with farmers.

Jennifer mentioned that they are looking to promote the farmer focused website as a standalone site rather than referring people to the Ecan website, although there will be a link available there too.

David mentioned that there is a lot of work going on here to get landowners to adopt good management practices. This is more about behaviour change rather than mere compliance.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.36pm until 3.03pm.

12 Zone Delivery Update

Donna Lill was pleased to confirm that all staff are now in place. They are doing some workshops with FAR next week for arable farmers to attend. They will be holding five workshops with a maximum of sixteen farmers per workshop. Work on implementing a variable flow trial in boundary drain is progressing and discussions have started with farmers in bands 1 and 2. A consent will be required for this to go ahead and Donna hopes this will be a fairly easy process. She is keen to get the trial started this year. In addition, monitoring needs to be set up as well. The team has also been working on a plan for the Ashburton River to protect and enhance braided river habitat which should hopefully be completed by August.

Bill Thomas requested ongoing updates on the MAR project as appropriate and Ben will be providing these as required. The trial is ongoing and there are still issues with air entrapment which is resulting in lower infiltration rates, and these are currently sitting around 140 litres per second. Bob Bower was pulling together an app and Ben will clarify with him where he is up to on this.

13 CWMS Regional Water Management Committee Update

The minutes were distributed to the Committee for review. John advised that he has now left this group.

13 CWMS Drinking Water Targets

Olivia advised that there are 10 different target areas in the CWMS and for the purpose of this meeting the focus was on key issues and actions associated the CWMS drinking water targets.

Olivia explained that a review by Environment Canterbury took place in 2015 of the risk of nitrates to groundwater and a new area of risk has been identified. The review demonstrated that Nitrate and E.coli levels continue to be the key issues affected groundwater quality.

A CDHB Nitrate Communications Plan update was issued to the Committee advising that there is now an alert on HealthPathways to remind clinicians to check with clients that if they have their own water supply to get it tested for Escherichia coli and nitrate. Leaflets will also be handed out with details of risks. In addition, Ashburton based midwives have received a presentation on the nitrate communication plan to enable them to make mothers aware if this applies to them.

The committee reviewed other actions that are been undertaken to reduce risk to drinking water. These include nitrate limits, Farm Environment plans and MAR. In addition, Ashburton District Council drinking water supplies with the exception of two suppliers, have essentially been upgraded from a water quality standpoint. Methven Springfield and Montalto are defined as rural agricultural water supplies and ADC will consider two options for upgrading these. ADC are currently looking into practicability and cost of these options at present.

Regarding monitoring, Melrose Farm has had a replacement well drilled recently. CPH are sampling downstream of MAR trial site. Ben advised that FAR and sustainable farming fund are doing some well sampling in the northern area of the zone for nitrate levels but this is very early in the process. ADC supply wells are also being tested monthly.

Ben asked for comment from the Committee regarding the MAR programme. Bill suggested we table this for the next meeting. Ben would like Brett & Bob to attend a future meeting to discuss this further, possibly in the spring. David would like PC2 to be operative before looking into this further.

Olivia made a request for targets for next month's meeting. In addition, Angela Harvey from Dairy NZ will come along to speak to the Committee.

Jackie would like a workshop on CWMS strategic framework in 2009 and how it has evolved. Olivia will have a conversation with Jackie to discuss further.

14 Reports for Committee Information

14.1 Consents Update

Stuart Wilson suggested that KB & RA Townsend are using 'phantom' water from a consent they can't take from. He was advised that this is not the case and there is no increase in their supply. Update from consent team to be provided at the next meeting for clarification.

The Committee are interested in reviewing a summary of groundwater data showing consented volume versus actual use for the period 2014/15 not 2015/16. Olivia will arrange for this to be distributed/presented at next meeting.

It was confirmed that the Chair election will take place at the next meeting as there were a couple of apologies for this meeting. The Committee has a current vacancy and a discussion took place around the appointment of a new member.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held on Tuesday 26 July 2016, commencing at 1pm.

The meeting concluded with a karakia by Peter Ramsden at 4.16pm.

Dated this 26 day of July 2016 _____ (Chair)

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 26 July 2016
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Olivia Smith (Facilitator)
Subject Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

9 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

Purpose

To outline the role of the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Background

The role of the chair is to:

- chair zone committee meetings
- liaise with the facilitator on zone committee work planning
- speak for the zone committee outside of including public meetings
- liaise with the media.

The role of the deputy is to fill the above roles when the chair is absent.

Recommendation

The committee elect a Chair and Deputy Chair

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 26 July 2016
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Olivia Smith (Facilitator)
Subject Rakaia Enhancement Fund - Update and Election of Alternate Representative

10 Rakaia Enhancement Fund – Update and Election of Alternative Representative

Recommendation

The committee:

- **receive a verbal update on the** Rakaia Enhancement Fund Committee.
- **appoint** an alternate Zone Committee representative on the Rakaia Enhancement Fund Committee.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 26 July 2016
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Don Vattala (Senior Planner) and Olivia Smith (Facilitator)
Subject Ashburton River/Hakatere Flow and Allocation Regime

11 Ashburton River/Hakatere Flow and Allocation Regime

Purpose

To provide an overview of flow and allocation regime which applies to the Ashburton River/Hakatere.

Background

In February 2011 the Ashburton Zone committee were tasked with developing some recommendations for a flow and allocation regime for the Ashburton River/Hakatere. A new regime was urgently required because the previous regime (developed in 2004) was deleted from the Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP) during the NRRP hearing.

In 2011 the committee had begun work with the community, including a range of stockholders, to develop recommendations which would effectively get more water back into the Ashburton River/Hakatere. In November 2011, the committee provided their final recommendations to Environment Canterbury to inform the plan drafting process.

Once the plan was drafted, an RMA hearing process was undertaken. As part of this process there were a number of submissions and the hearings panel considered changes to some of the proposed provisions. Despite these changes the overall intent of the committee's recommendations were upheld.

The flow and allocation regime then becomes operative (took full legal effect) in February 2016 and is part of the Land and Water Regional Plan. One of the key features of the regime is that it envisages an increase in the SH1 minimum flow to 6,000 L/s by 2023 and 10,000 L/s by 2033.

At the zone committee meeting an overview of the flow and allocation regime will be provided, followed by a discussion about the actions required to effectively implement the plan.

Recommendation

The committee consider the paper and have a discussion about key steps required to implement the plan.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 26 July 2016
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Chris Keeling (Senior Strategy Advisor)
Subject Biodiversity – Immediate Steps Fund in the future

14 Biodiversity – Immediate Steps Fund in the future

Purpose

To seek feedback from the zone committee on the proposed changes to Immediate Steps.

Background

Immediate Steps has been very successful over the past six years and provides a valuable tool for zone committees / regional committee to drive on-the-ground biodiversity action. A review of Immediate Steps was completed in early 2015. The review was wide-ranging and gathered information from Zone Committees, the Regional Committee, rūnanga representatives, external groups, and Environment Canterbury staff. It made a series of recommendations on how to improve the framework and overall delivery of the programme.

A second phase of work has now been completed, which took the recommendations of the 2015 review and proposes how to operationalise them.

A summary of the proposal is attached - key points outlined below:

- Commitment has been made through the Long Term Plan 2015-25 process to continue Immediate Steps
- Changes are proposed, which largely focus on the operational processes internal to Environment Canterbury, but also include some widening of the project assessment criteria.
- The proposal aims to improve Immediate Steps as a funding tool, making it more flexible and streamlined:
 - a. A more strategic approach through the ongoing development of five year outcomes and associated zone/regional work programmes
 - b. A revised project assessment criteria, which aims to make project selection science-informed rather than science-led
 - c. A streamlined administrative approach is developed to enable projects to get underway quicker
 - d. A risk-based approach is taken to financial management to get funding out to applicants quicker and easier.
 - e. Integration with other work programmes, where opportunities arise, e.g. infrastructure, land use and water quality, etc.
 - f. Monitoring, measuring and reporting of outcomes is consistently incorporated in project implementation

What does this mean for Zone Committees / Regional Committee?

- Immediate Steps funding continues at current levels
- Project assessment criteria expanded (beyond ecological value) to include community engagement, cost effectiveness and alignment with zone/regional five year outcomes – enables a committee discussion around wider project benefit rather than focussing on the operational detail
- More strategic use of funds:
 - projects will be more targeted, in line with zone/regional five year outcomes and work programmes, but committees still retain flexibility to fund impromptu projects
 - limits on carrying over uncommitted funding (funding not attached to a project or proposed project) from year to year set at 25% of your annual budget
 - ongoing requirement for 1/3 funding contribution by applicant, but the committee have discretion to fund 100% of project if this is a barrier to a valuable project going ahead
 - a bigger drive to think about longer term projects and commitment of future years' funds
 - using Immediate Steps funds to leverage other funds (e.g. industry, central government, etc.) for bigger projects
- Project applicants can get on with their project quicker – a more streamlined administrative approach means better throughput of projects and a better experience for applicants
- Better monitoring and reporting against project outcomes
- Development and consideration of new regional flagship projects to give focus to CWMS targets that need more action
- Improved communications and media presence for biodiversity at zone and regional level.

Recommendation

The committee consider and respond to the following questions:

- 1. Do you support the proposed approach?**
- 2. Will it raise any challenges for you as a Zone Committee?**
- 3. Does it address everything you wanted it to?**
4. We propose a delegation for Zone Managers to approve projects up to \$5,000 without bringing these to Zone Committees for a decision. This is so applicants for smaller projects have a sense of certainty of funding and can get underway quickly without having to wait for a zone committee decision. **Do you support this concept?**

Overview of Proposed Immediate Steps Framework

Core components of the framework	Rationale and Comments
<p>1. Funding</p> <p>Long-term funding commitment through the LTP 2015-25 until 2025.</p>	<p>Ongoing commitment to funding required. Any changes to funding levels to be addressed through LTP process.</p>
<p>2. Intent</p> <p>The primary purpose of the programme is to protect and restore freshwater biodiversity and water-use affected terrestrial biodiversity (including dryland) through community engagement and funding support. Biodiversity includes habitats and ecosystem health.</p>	<p>Clarified intent. Importance of community engagement made explicit. Biodiversity primary purpose. Other benefits allowed for in decision making. New emphasis on protection, not just restoration.</p>
<p>3. A strategic approach: Five year outcomes setting the direction for on-the-ground priorities</p> <p>Enables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive approach seeking projects in priority areas. Planning and delivery over 5 years to maximise biodiversity benefits (enables eco-sourcing for example). Ability to carry-over committed funds and commit to spending from future budgets for projects for up to 5 years. Some limits of extent of committing future funds – see paper for details. 	<p>New to Immediate Steps. Currently being developed by Regional and Zone Committees. Provides potential for step change in focus and delivery. Clarifies overall direction but retains some short-term flexibility.</p>
<p>4. Project Decision Making and Assessment Criteria</p> <p>Regional and zone committees are primary decision makers for projects.</p> <p>Revised assessment criteria standardised across all zones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prerequisite criteria Direct biodiversity (ecological) benefits and cost effectiveness Wider community outcomes such as: community engagement, Ngāi Tahu significance, alignment to ZC targets, other benefits not captured above. 	<p>Significant changes to assessment framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-requisite criteria, checked by staff. Biodiversity benefits and cost effectiveness based on direct ecological benefits. Wider community outcomes explicitly include community engagement and other matters. These are unclear in the existing assessment and decision making framework. Criteria to be standardised across all zones.
<p>5. New regional flagships</p> <p>New or revised regional flagships aimed at <u>protection of high value sites</u> to be developed. Possible examples are around braided river margins and parts of the high country where there has been significant land use change over recent years.</p>	<p>New to Immediate Steps. Next steps are technical analysis and stakeholder engagement to develop programmes over the next 12 months for consideration. Aim to provide focus on CWMS targets that need additional action.</p>
<p>6. Communications revamp: focus on behaviour change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-branding, as part of wider biodiversity programme. Emphasis on methods and messages to deliver on the ground action, overcoming existing attitudes, perceptions and behaviours. Kotahitanga (togetherness, collective action) 	<p>New to Immediate Steps. Underlying message is that biodiversity is an organisational and community priority. Focus is on finding better ways to engage in the face of poor understanding and attitudes towards “biodiversity” and existing normative behaviours.</p>
<p>7. Changes to operational processes</p> <p>Streamlined processes using risk based approach including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone Committees delegating approval to staff for smaller and low-risk projects Simplified process for small applications Simplified processes for applicants with good track record Administrative improvements such as consolidated invoices Working more closely with partners to get momentum in priority areas Zone Committees take greater role in leadership and advocacy, and less in operational detail. <p>Monitoring programmes to align to regional and zone outcomes and milestones.</p>	<p>Revised Immediate Steps.process. Aim to make process easier for customers and staff. Less administration and more certainty, enabling more to be done.</p> <p>Examples provided for discussion. Further details being worked through for discussion and decision by Zone Committees and management.</p> <p>Enhanced monitoring and reporting recommended covering both delivery of programme and outcomes achieved.</p>
<p>8. Financial Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements for 1/3 funding from other sources and equal allocation between Zones retained. Flexibility built into this, if required. Further analysis required to quantify any increased funding demand due to new regional initiatives and communication revamp. Operational changes recommended such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carryovers permitted for committed funds Delegations (as outlined above) Limits proposed for extent of committing future funds to retain some flexibility Limits proposed for carry-over of uncommitted funds and redistribution of surplus (max \$25K per annum). Better financial tracking and reporting tools needed to support process improvements. 	<p>Revised Immediate Steps.process.</p> <p>Aligns to process improvements and five year targets.</p> <p>Analysis of future funding demand to be addressed as part of development of any new regional initiatives and communications revamp.</p>

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 26 July 2016
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Donna Lill (Zone Team Manager) and Olivia Smith (Facilitator)
Subject Implementation of Hinds Drains Working Party (HDWP) Recommendations

15 Implementation of Hinds Drains Working Party (HDWP) Recommendations

Purpose

To discuss the role of Hinds Drains Working Party members in the implementation of priority HDWP actions.

Background

When the HDWP working party presented their recommendations to the zone committee they identified priority actions for implementation. These include:

- **Boundary Drain Trial-** *implementing this trial requires consent to enable water users to implement a variable flow regime. In addition, the trial requires ongoing monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the regime.*
- **Mahinga Kai Projects-** *this includes the establishment, maintenance and signage for mahinga kai sites.*
- **Community Monitoring Regime-** *This involves the continuation of some community monitoring, supported by Dairy NZ and Fish and Game, which was undertaken during the development of the HDWP.*

To date, several HDWP members have taken on a community leadership role, working with the community and zone team members, to get the above actions underway. Notably, Craig Fleming (Boundary Drain Trial), Phil Everest (Mahinga Kai Projects) and Peter Lowe (Community Monitoring regime).

Recommendation

For the committee to support HDWP members to continue working with the community and zone team members to provide leadership and support in the implementation of recommendations.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 26 July 2016
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Donna Lill (Zone Team Manager) and Olivia Smith (Facilitator)
Subject Zone Delivery Update

16 Zone Delivery Update

Purpose

To update the committee on the *5 year implementation outcomes and milestones*.

Background

Milestones

At a previous zone committee meeting the committee approved the *five year implementation outcomes and milestones* on the basis that additional milestones were included on:

- Stormwater Management
- Carters Creek
- Drinking Water

Zone Committee Representatives

The Ashburton zone team is committed to working with the community, ADC, industry groups and other stakeholders, to implement the 5 year outcomes. To assist with this, it is proposed that zone committee members could act as 'representatives' for each outcome.

This could involve committee members:

- liaising with Donna Lill (Zone manager) and her staff on strategic issues relevant to implementing the outcome.
- engaging with media regarding actions underway to implement the outcome.
- 'championing' the outcome and related actions in community forums.

Recommendation

For the committee to:

- support the inclusion of the additional milestones.
- discuss and confirm representatives for each outcome.
- receive the verbal update on zone delivery.

Ashburton Zone Committee - Five Year Outcomes 2016

5 Year Outcome	Milestones
<p>All farmers are operating at Good Management Practice (GMP) or better</p> <p>(Contributes to ZIP recommendation 3.2.7, 3.2.8, 4.2.1-4.3.3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry supported extension programme is developed to communicate and promote industry agreed GMP practices – August 2016. • Prioritise FEP support for higher N leaching farming activities. • Prioritise FEP support for Arable properties, particularly those outside of irrigation schemes. • All irrigated properties have an FEP- March 2018 • All irrigated properties to undertake an assessment of the efficiency of their irrigation system with action taken to implement any improvements identified – March 2018. • Identify opportunities for water user groups.
<p>Landowners, rūnanga, stakeholders, local authorities and others are working together to protect and enhance biodiversity throughout the zone.</p> <p>(Contributes to ZIP recommendation 2.2.1, 2.2.10, 2.2.22, 2.2.29,2.2.30, 2.2.32,2.2.35, 2.2.36, 3.2.3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashburton District Council Biodiversity Working Group continues to provide a forum for coordination of biodiversity work programmes across the zone– Annually to 2021. • Priority weed and pest control for braided river bird habitat in the Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers is implemented with support from Regional Immediate Steps funding – Annually to 2021. • Develop a programme to support the management of biodiversity values in two priority areas, including the foothills. Support on the ground changes via Immediate Steps funding – July 2017. • 2 sites are primarily managed for mahinga kai, including one outside of Hinds catchment.– July 2017 • Increase community awareness of the nature and value of biodiversity. • TrustPower funding is unlocked for Rakaia enhancement projects - 2016.
<p>Improve the ecosystem health of the Hakatere/ Ashburton River.</p> <p>(Contributes to ZIP recommendation 1.2.1- 1.2.6, 1.2.8, 2.2.29-2.2.31, 3.2.1, 4.2.8-4.2.10, 4.2.14)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategy to ensure that the flow regime for the Ashburton River is achieved. • ADC develop and implement a strategy to reduce stock-water take to 2,900L/s by no later than 2023- date tbc. • Identify source of spikes in E-coli at SH1 and determine if an action plan is required - May 2017. • Priority weed control work for braided river bird nesting habitat is completed with support from Zone Immediate Steps Programme – annually to 2021 • Develop a streamlined pathway to enable swaps from surface water/ hydrologically connected groundwater permits to deep groundwater or scheme water – Feb 2017.
<p>Hinds River and Drains are managed in a way that provides for multiple needs/interests.</p> <p>(Contributes to ZIP recommendation 2.2.3, 2.2.17,3.2.3, 4.2.3, 4.2.14, 4.2.9, 4.2.10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed aquifer recharge and targeted stream augmentation trials have been completed- 2021 • Next steps following the MAR and TSA trial are identified including funding mechanisms and the development of an ongoing programme- 2021 • Programme to identify and remove, where appropriate, fish barriers – annually to 2021. • Develop a programme to increase community awareness of the importance of well head protection- July 2019 • Habitat extent of known mudfish populations is quantified. In addition, surveys are conducted to identify new habitats and populations and assessments are subsequently made to determine if remediation/enhancement of sites is appropriate – July 2018. • Develop a streamlined pathway to enable swaps from surface water/ hydrologically connected groundwater permits to deep groundwater or scheme water – June 2017.
<p>The urban and rural community understand the environmental, economic and social trends occurring in the zone and there is widespread ownership of catchment health.</p> <p>(Contributes to ZIP recommendation 2.2.6, 2.2.11, 2.2.24, 2.2.34, 3.2.2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive an annual update on the economic and social trends occurring in Ashburton Zone • Receive quarterly reporting on water quality and quantity monitoring results. • Create opportunities to involve schools in waterway and wetland enhancement and/or monitoring projects. • Regular media articles from ZC to profile zone implementation work. • Landowners in north Ashburton area understand the catchment health in their area and know what actions can be taken to make improvements – July 2019. • <i>Understand the health of Carters Creek and identify opportunities to improve ecosystem health.</i> • <i>ADC develop an integrated stormwater management plan.</i> • <i>Improve community understanding of drinking water supplies, including actions to minimise risk.</i>

17 Reports for Committee Information

17.1 Canterbury Regional Water Use for the 2014/2015 Water Year

- Using water efficiently is a key target within Canterbury Water Management Strategy. This is important to support the availability of water to support wide range of other uses such as ecosystem services, recreational and economic use.
- In addition to the national requirements for measuring water on larger takes, Canterbury has been progressively rolling out a programme working with landholders to improve water efficiency. A key part of this is installing water measuring devices so landholder can monitor and manage their water use and also to provide information to the Council to support water allocation decision-making.
- The below information summarises the actual water use for Canterbury for the 2014/2015 irrigation season against consents or allocated¹ use (including use from a range of activities but excluding hydropower generation).
- Importantly this information shows actual water use across the region and within specific zones being significantly less than allocated use (Around 58%).
- Good progress has been made with consent holders across the region now measuring water use with 4900 out of 5400 water takes measured representing around 95% of allocated use.
- There are marked differences in actual water use across each of the ten water management zones of the CWMS and differences in the number of consents per zone. These are matters that sub-regional planning processes are addressing working with Zone Committees.
- The highest number of consents and allocated use occurs in the Ashburton and Selwyn-Waihora Zones (Table 1).
- Although the allocated use figures represent the consented allocation, **this does not** imply that all of this water is available for use at all times. For example, when the flow in rivers and stream fall below certain values, then specific surface water and groundwater consents become restricted and water is not able to be taken during these time.
- Typically the irrigation season starts in September and ends in April or early May. For this reason, it is essential to assess water use data in relation to rainfall, daily soil water balance, and groundwater level trends over that same period. Every water year will be different because it is dependent on these variables.

¹ The estimate of total allocation is based on the consented daily volume multiplied by 212 days for irrigation consents and 365 days for all other consent use types unless an annual consented allocation is listed specifically in the consent. The daily volume is estimated by the consented max volume per period (e.g. several days), but if a max volume is not in the consent then the max rate is used and multiplied through to estimate the daily volume. The 'Allocation source' and 'Allocation use type' plots in Figure 1 use all consents not including hydroelectric power consents, while the 'Allocated water usage' uses the metered consents for the total allocation.

- The rate of application on farm also varies greatly throughout the season depending on soil type, plant type (physiological characteristics), evapotranspiration rate (ET)², and the capability of the irrigation system that is used³. If an irrigator has an understanding of these variables, he/she can apply the right amount of water to ensure that crop/pasture is not stressed, particularly during critical stages of growth.

Zone:	Consents:
Ashburton	1321
Banks Peninsula	18
Christchurch - West Melton	416
Hurunui - Waiau	358
Kaikoura	60
Lower Waitaki - South Coastal Canterbury	267
Orari-Opihi-Pareora	656
Selwyn - Waihora	1474
Upper Waitaki	103
Waimakariri	486

- **Table 1. The number of consented water takes for each zone ≥ 5 l/s.**

² Evapotranspiration (ET) describes the loss of water to the atmosphere from soil and vegetation. It is, in effect, the actual water lost from the soil each day.

³ The amount of water that can be applied and return period varies depending on the type of irrigation system (border dyke, centre pivot, lateral move, rotary boom etc.) that is used and its ability to keep up with ET rates.

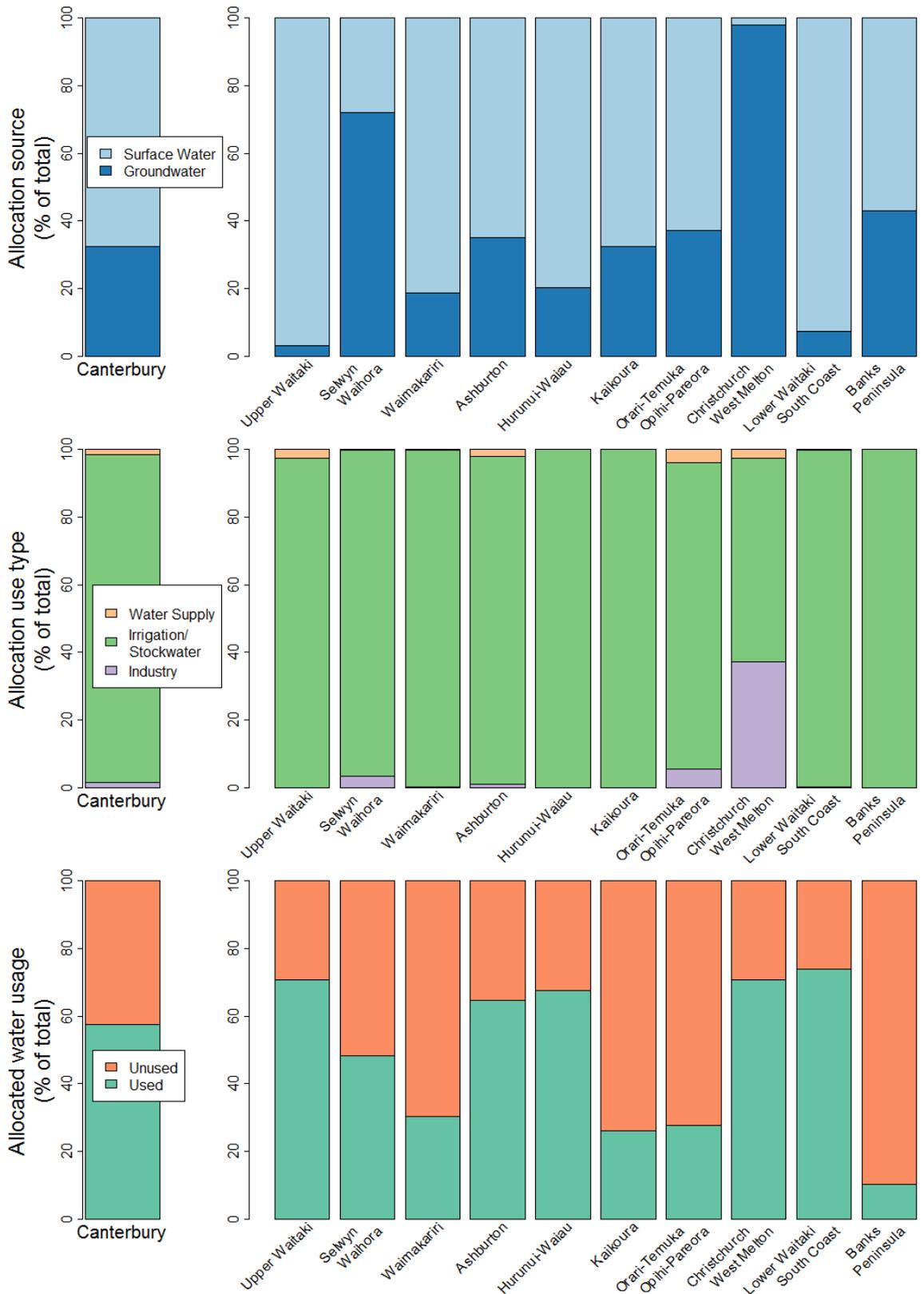


Figure 1. Water allocation and usage in Canterbury and across the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) zones⁴.

⁴ All plots are a percent of total allocation to the region or to the individual CWMS zones. The “Allocation source” includes the source waters that are used for water extraction: Surface water and groundwater. The “Allocation use type” includes the three

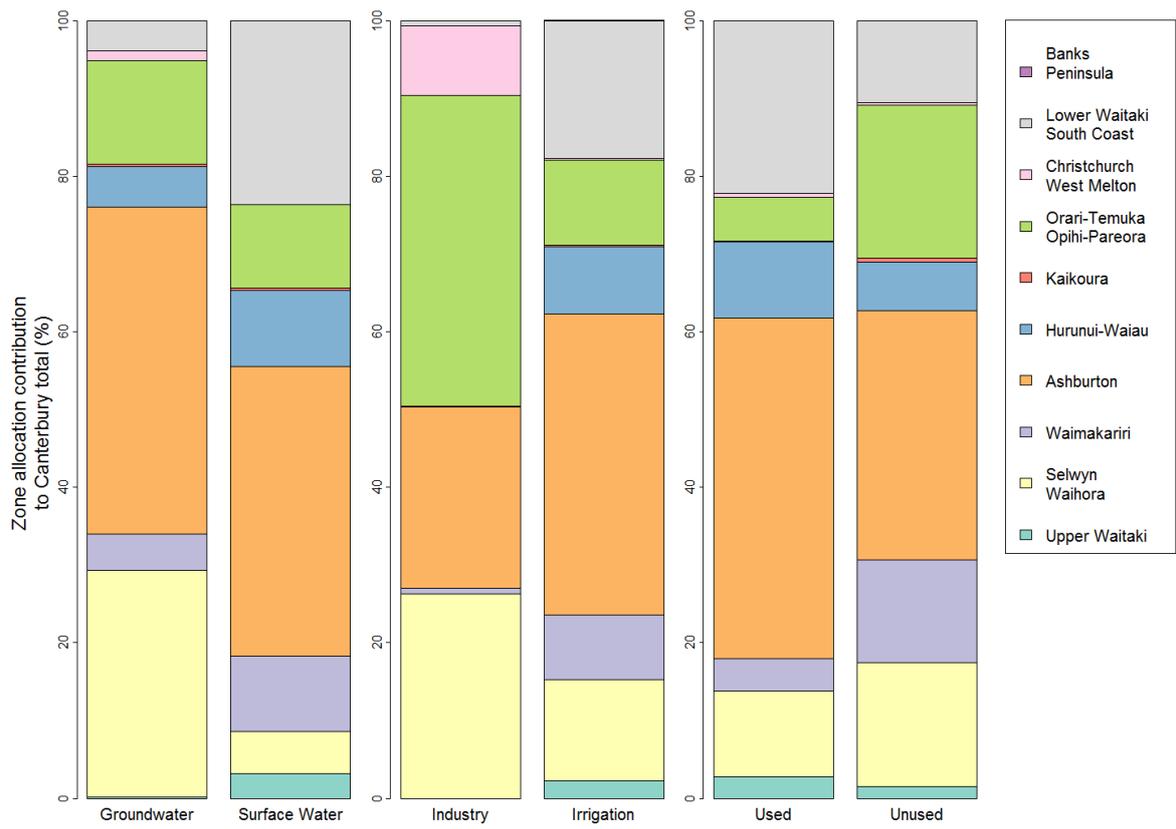


Figure 2. The contribution of the individual CWMS zones to the total allocation in Canterbury. Each of the three sets of plots are associated with the categories in figure 1.

Major water use types: Water Supply, Irrigation/Stockwater, and Industry. The “Allocated water usage” includes the metered water usage by the total associated consented allocation.

17.2 Consents Update

CONSENTS UPDATE – July 2016 – ASHBURTON ZONE	
CRC#/Applicant/Description	Status
CRC165228 , CRC165316-23 – Ashburton District Council – Transfer use of 347 L/s from stockwater to irrigation purposes. Consent granted subject to surrender of 347 L/s from Ashburton River and irrigation takes being subject to 2023 minimum flows.	Granted 01 July
CRC166783 – Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Limited – increase storage capacity and dam footprint of existing dam in scheme.	Granted 07 July
CRC169182 , CRC169214 – AG & LM Smith – consent to use land for a farming activity in an Orange Nutrient Zone.	Granted 29 June
Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited – applications received for Klondyke storage proposal (consent numbers TBC).	In Process
CRC170019 – Ashburton District Council – Dromore Community Supply – application to increase rates and volumes to align with existing use. Proposes to address cumulative effects of increase by surrendering Winchmore Scheme consent (now closed).	In Process
Applications for farming activities in Orange Nutrient Zones: New Applications: CRC170110 , CRC170126 – Greentree Farms Limited ; Draft Conditions: CRC168207 , CRC168217 – Daniel Symons ; CRC168103 – CH & JM Whitehead ; CRC168944 – LA & SP Glass .	In Process
CRC169440 – Castleridge Station Limited – Sensitive Lake Nutrient Allocation zone (Lake Heron) – applicant considering conditions.	In Process
CRC167422-4 – Align Hinterlands Ltd – Wetland Development near Mt Somers. Land drainage using surface/ sub-surface drains and wetland to treat drainage water prior to discharge into Hakatere / Ashburton River. Applicant considering draft conditions.	In Process
Valetta Groundwater Allocation Zone applications to swap surface water or hydraulically connected groundwater to deep groundwater: CRC151154 , CRC151179 – LW & DI Molloy ; CRC151176 – Yollom Farm Limited ; CRC154901 – Longbeach Estate Ltd & Raynham Dairies Ltd ; CRC154902 , CRC154906 – KB & RA Townshend ; CRC154904 – Bellwin Farms Limited . Two consent hearings in the process of being scheduled at the request of the applicant – likely to be late August. CRC160364 , CRC160365 – GR & RC Wilson ; CRC156997 – LD & JL Moore . Currently waiting for LWRP PC2 becoming operative.	In Process
CRC164787 – T R Scott Limited – for new water in Mayfield Hinds Groundwater Allocation Zone. Was publicly notified as was initially over the allocation limit, key remaining issue is well interference on neighbouring bores. Hearing scheduled for 25 July 2016.	In Process
CRC163693 – E G Perkins Limited – Surface water take replacement on Dobsons Drain – minimum flow proposed that is equivalent to that recommended in Hinds Drain Working Party recommendations for Boundary Drain. Still waiting for discussion on minimum flow.	In Process

CRC165909 – Mr Gingerbread Limited – Use land for farming (as a farming enterprise) PC2– a small part of the property is in an Orange Nutrient Zone with the bulk of the property in a Red Zone. Discussing GMP with applicant (unchanged from previous update).	In Process
CRC167500 – P B J Investments Limited – Undertake earthwork activities within a contaminated site (East St and Princes St) – discussing technical recommendation to remove soil from site to prevent contamination risk – currently with decision maker.	In Process
CRC167731-2 – Erralyn Farm Limited – Renew consent for flood protection works and to divert water within Rakaia River bed – meeting with CRC technical staff, consents and consultants scheduled for 25 July to discuss key issues.	In Process
Greenstreet Irrigation Limited – Scoping farming landuse/discharge consent - Nutrient Management Rules (no update from previous).	Pre-application
Mayfield Hinds Irrigation Limited – Proposal to augment Harris Drain with water taken from MHIS and take water out downstream – draft copy of application received and comment provided on this – expecting to receive application shortly.	Pre-application
P G Brown – preapplication enquiry for river protection works on Rakaia River	Pre-application
Several preapplication requests to discuss applications for farming activities in Orange Nutrient Allocation Zones – meetings arranged.	Pre-application
Boundary Drain Trial – preapplication advice on feasibility of operating a consent for the Boundary Drain flow trial proposed by Hinds Drain Working Party – discussions with consultant preparing application.	Pre-application
CRC167500 – P B J Investments Limited – Undertake earthwork activities within a contaminated site (East St and Princes St) – discussing technical recommendation to remove soil from site to prevent contamination risk.	In Process
CRC167731-2 – Erralyn Farm Limited – Renew consent for flood protection works and to divert water within Rakaia River bed – further information requested from applicant regarding extent of works and ecological values in the River	In Process
Greenstreet Irrigation Limited – Scoping options for farming landuse/discharge consent under Nutrient Management Rules (no update from previous).	Pre-application
Mayfield Hinds Irrigation Limited – Proposal to augment Harris Drain with water taken from MHIS and take water out downstream – advised that application likely to be made late June.	Pre-application
Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited – Pre application discussions regarding Klondyke storage proposal	Pre-application
Several pre application requests to discuss applications for farming activities in Orange Nutrient Allocation Zones – meetings arranged with farmers.	Pre-application
Boundary Drain Trial – pre application advice on feasibility of operating a consent for the Boundary Drain flow trial proposed by Hinds Drain Working Party.	Pre-application

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 28 June 2016

Timetable

Time	Item
1:00 pm	Meeting Commences
2:30 pm	Afternoon Tea

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- 3 Apologies
- 4 Extraordinary Business
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