

**ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

on

Monday 5 September 2016

1pm

**Council Chamber
Timaru District Council
Timaru**

ORARI-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that an Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Management Committee workshop will be held on Monday 5 September 2016 at 1pm, followed by a meeting at 3pm, in the Council Chamber, Timaru District Council, 2 King George Place, Timaru.

Committee Members:

John Talbot (Chairman), David Caygill, Kylee Galbraith, John Henry, Mandy Home, Ivon Hurst, Richard Lyon, Hamish McFarlane, James Pearse, Ad Sintenie, Mark Webb and Evan Williams

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

5 SEPTEMBER 2016

Page

1pm **Workshop – Catchment Group representatives will be present**
Current state PART B: Outcome Assessment

Discussion on role of Zone Committee at public meetings

2.30pm **Afternoon Tea**

FORMAL MEETING

1	3pm		Apologies
2			Register of Interest
3		1	Confirmation of Minutes
4			Facilitator Update
5	3.15pm		Community Forum
6	3.25pm	6	Catchment Group Update
7	3.40pm		Washdyke Taskforce Update
8	3.45pm		Groundwater ecosystems: What's living in our groundwater?
9	4.30pm	8	Immediate Steps Biodiversity Projects
10	4.45pm	18	Immediate Steps Biodiversity Fund Review
11	4.55pm		Level of Protection/Security of Water Supplies in OTOP Zone – TDC Water Services Operations Engineer
12	5.05pm		Regional Committee Update
13	5.10pm approx		Close

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE MEETING OF 5 SEPTEMBER 2016

Report for Agenda Item No 3

Prepared by Joanne Brownie
Secretary

Confirmation of Minutes – Committee Meeting 1 August 2016

Minutes of the August Committee meeting.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 1 August 2016, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN MEETING ROOM 1, TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL, 2 KING GEORGE PLACE, TIMARU ON MONDAY 1 AUGUST 2016 AT 3PM

PRESENT John Talbot (Chairperson), David Caygill, Kylee Galbraith, John Henry, Mandy Home, Ivon Hurst, Richard Lyon, Hamish McFarlane, James Pearse, Mark Webb and Evan Williams

IN ATTENDANCE Olivia Smith (OTOP facilitator), Dan Clark (Senior Hydrology Scientist and Technical Lead), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator), Lyn Carmichael (ECan Planner Community Lead), Katherine Trought (ECan Director Communications), Tania Butterfield (ECan communications), Raymond Ford (Principal Planner)(until 4.15pm), Michael Hide (Zone Implementation Team Manager), Peter Ramsden (Tangata Whenua facilitator)(until 4.15pm), Janet Gregory and Chanelle O'Sullivan (NZ Landcare Trust), Keitha Laming and Jeremy Boys (Opuha Water Ltd), Tom Henderson (Federated Farmers), John Benn (Dept of Conservation), Grant Hall (Timaru District Council Drainage and Water Manager)(for items 8-9), Peter Scott (CWMS Regional Committee member)(from 3.55pm)

1 REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were no additional interests advised.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed Richard Lyon
Seconded Hamish McFarlane

"That the minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Management Committee meeting held on 4 July 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record."

MOTION CARRIED

3 FACILITATOR'S UPDATE

Groundwater Ecosystems

Further to the issue raised at the last meeting in the community forum, regarding understanding the groundwater stygofauna, Dr Fenwick has been approached to speak to the September OTOP Committee meeting, subject to the committee's agreement. Dr Fenwick's presentation will build the committee's understanding and knowledge of this subject, which in turn may assist the committee in any decision making that might affect those ecosystems. The Committee agreed that Dr Fenwick be invited to address the next meeting.

Silver Fern Farms Field Trip

Silver Fern Farms at Pareora has invited the committee for a site visit to inform the committee on SFF's water requirements and discharge from its plant. The

committee agreed that this would be a good opportunity to increase the committee's understanding of SFF's operation. It was suggested that a background summary be provided to the committee beforehand, on the implementation of the Pareora River Plan and its effect on SFF.

Media Article

A one page media article has been prepared to go in the local papers, profiling the recent project in the Orari Gorge and encouraging attendance at the next community meetings. Adverts for the public meeting will promote the community outcomes.

Waimate District Council Membership on OTOP

Waimate District Council has indicated it would like to have representation on the OTOP Committee. Once formal paperwork has been completed and approval has been gained from the various Councils, a representative from that part of the zone will join the committee.

4 COMMUNITY FORUM

Tom Henderson talked about the relatively dry conditions and less snow than forecast having an effect on the level of Lake Opuha and the management of those levels. He noted every year has been different since the lake's creation. He said OFRAG has been very helpful as an advisory group in managing and maximising the use of Lake Opuha. There is a good relationship with Council, Fish and Game and other parties all working together for the best result, and it is important to continue this for the future.

5 REGIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

There has been no formal Regional Committee meeting since the last OTOP meeting, however the subcommittees' work is ongoing and this can be reported on after the Regional Committee meets next week.

6 SWIMMING VALUES IN CANTERBURY AND RECREATION AND AMENITY FLAGSHIPS

The Committee considered a report by ECan's Senior Strategy Advisor outlining work underway to address recreation and amenity information gaps. The Recreation and Amenity working group has been reconvened to achieve the Recreation and Amenity targets in the CWMS, with target dates of 2015, 2020 and 2040 for various objectives. The group has identified real information gaps in this area and will be taking steps to remedy this, by identifying flagship projects, gathering further information, seeking feedback from the zone committees and scoping and developing a work programme.

It was noted that the scope of the swimming research does not include swimming sites that were once good but have since been lost. This is important information that should be collected as part of the research. A request was made for more detail on how the information is being gathered. The Committee suggested involving the catchment groups at the feedback stage.

7 TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR HEALTHY CATCHMENTS PROJECT

The Committee considered a report by Dan Clark, Technical Lead, suggesting the establishment of a technical advisory group for the Healthy Catchments Project. Five or six people with some technical expertise and local knowledge are needed to look at the technical models (this is separate to the external peer reviews). It is hoped to have the group underway before the next OTOP meeting.

The Committee discussed whether the advisory group should be appointed by the OTOP Committee or it be left to Dan Clark and his team to select the group members. It was agreed that Dan will email the names and backgrounds of the proposed group members to the committee, any feedback can be relayed through the chairperson and when finalised, the group be a matter of public record.

Proposed Mark Webb
Seconded Evan Williams

“That the Committee supports the establishment of a technical advisory group for the Healthy Catchments Project.”

MOTION CARRIED

8 STORMWATER

Timaru District Council’s Drainage and Water Manager, Grant Hall, gave a presentation on urban stormwater in the District. The presentation noted the regional plans that relate to stormwater and the relevant policies in the Land and Water Regional Plan. Mr Hall explained the requirement to prepare stormwater management plans for each catchment and the issues the plan has to identify including cultural impact assessment, ecological studies, community survey, hydraulic modelling, industrial sites, contaminant load modelling, and groundwater takes risk assessment.

Mr Hall showed examples of stormwater treatments, explained the mitigation measures possible and outlined the next steps – including the TDC ECan Stormwater Management Protocol, Timaru District Plan review, TDC Stormwater Management Strategy, community consultation, monitoring, stormwater discharge consents and Long Term Plan funding.

The Committee asked about the correlation of the stormwater work and the work being done by the technical team as part of the OTOP Healthy Catchments Project. Dan Clark advised that the stormwater work is on a more localised scale but can be treated as point source inputs into the Healthy Catchments Project. It was noted there are water quality standards in the Land and Water Regional Plan that Timaru District Council has to meet by 2025. As part of the project, OTOP will learn what these standards mean and if they are sufficient to meet the outcomes OTOP wants to achieve.

9 WASHDYKE TASKFORCE

The Chairperson advised that the Washdyke Taskforce is underway. OTOP has already done some work in Washdyke and the taskforce will extend that work. Timaru District Council has been at the forefront of establishing the taskforce, driven by stormwater concerns. It is a complex area and the taskforce brings relevant parties together to develop outcomes for the lagoon and agreed actions to achieve the outcomes. The outcomes and proposed actions will be brought to OTOP to recommend to the Council and to ECan.

10 CATCHMENT GROUPS UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the implementation of the work programme for catchment groups including progress to date, draft action plans for catchment groups and pathways to carry out these actions. Short term tasks (approx. 3 months) will be undertaken first, followed by medium term tasks

(6-9 months). Increased action by Landcare is helping the catchment groups' work and speeding up progress.

Role of Catchment Groups in the Healthy Catchments Project

It was suggested that two representatives from each catchment group be invited to join the zone committee in the workshops when discussing the current state. This would be a good opportunity for the catchment group members to further understand the work of the zone committee and it was suggested that the representatives would need to be the same two each time, as there is a lot of information to absorb. The representatives can then report back to their respective catchment groups and promote discussion. More time may be required at the workshops if there are additional attendees and it would be helpful to align the timing of the workshops to feed back into the catchment group meetings.

11 ZONE DELIVERY UPDATE

The Zone Implementation Team Manager gave a brief zone delivery update:

- The Ohapi Project is just beginning – using the Ohapi Creek catchment to demonstrate Good Management Practice, looking at information already gathered on the catchment, understanding where ECan has provided assistance given to farmers to date and the beneficial effects evident so far.
- The Washdyke Task Force is underway – the work includes looking at pollution prevention with industries, to improve water quality and assist with TDC's stormwater quality issue.
- Change management – compliance and promotion of good management practice - water metering project is ongoing and progress is being made.
- Catchment Groups work is continuing (reported on earlier in the meeting).
- GIS analysis of risk factors in priority areas in terms of good management practice – Kakahu, Te Moana, lowland coastal areas – identifying where the farms are that need the most help to ensure they are meeting GMP and have Farm Environment Plans in place.
- GIS work looking at sensitive sites.
- Fact sheet being produced soon around land and water requirements to make it easy to understand.
- Biodiversity portal – to help people understand the biodiversity values present in their area.
- Supporting inanga habitat in the Washdyke lagoon and review of all the Immediate Steps projects.
- Global Fish Barrier consent for across the region – to save applying for a consent for each site ie removing regulatory barriers.

12 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Peter Scott gave a brief update on the regional infrastructure work. The Subcommittee is identifying what is required on the south side of the Rangitata and where any new water might come from. The cost is not being taken into account at this stage, just the availability of water. The Healthy Catchments Project will drive the requirement for water to possibly augment the irrigation takes that are in place now in lowland streams on the south side of the Rangitata. A presentation of the OTOP Zone Water Resource Modelling project will be made in Geraldine on 2 August.

The meeting concluded at 4.55pm with a karakia from John Henry.

_____ Chairperson

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE MEETING OF 1 SEPTEMBER 2016

Report for Agenda Item No 6

Prepared by **Olivia Smith (Zone Facilitator)**

Catchment Group Update

Purpose

Update the committee on recent and upcoming catchment group activities in the zone.

Attachment

Upcoming events in OTOP Zone- August/September

Date	Activity	Who's helping
11 Aug, 4pm	Rangitata/Orari Catchment Group meeting. In Geraldine	Rhys, Janet
17 Aug, 7pm	Opuha Catchment meeting, Fire Station.	Julia
22 Aug	Briefing update for Catchment Group reps	Dan Clarke, Lyn Carmichael
5 September	OTOP Zone Committee Meeting Workshop for ZC & Catchment Gp reps	
6 Sept, 9.30am	Facilitator Meeting at ECan	Janet, Chanelle, facilitators
14 Sept, 7pm	HCP public meeting Geraldine	
21 Sept, 7pm	HCP public meeting, Timaru	
22 Sept, 7pm	HCP public meeting, Fairlie	
22 Sept	Wainono-Waihao Forks Irrigation workshop	Emily Anderson
29 Sept, 7pm	Pareora Catchment Group meeting Water Quality	Shirley Hayward
3 October	OTOP Zone Committee Meeting	
	Runanga field trip on sites of interest	
10 Oct	Irrigation workshop, Pareora	Janet Gregory
11 Oct	Lower Opihi Catchment Group meeting	Nicki Pridham, Janet
14 October TBC	SMART irrigation workshop. Run by Irrigation NZ at Pleasant Point.	INZ, ECan, Janet
2-4 November	NZ Grasslands conference, Timaru	
7 November	OTOP Zone Committee Meeting	
Nov TBC	Combined Upper Orari/Opuha field day	
5 December	OTOP Zone Committee Meeting	

12 Aug – 29 Sept, Angela Darke away in South America

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE MEETING OF 5 SEPTEMBER 2016

Report for Agenda Item No 9

Prepared by Robert Carson-Iles (Biodiversity Officer, Environment Canterbury)

Immediate Steps Biodiversity Projects

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda paper is to propose three new Immediate Steps (IMS) project for zone committee decision.

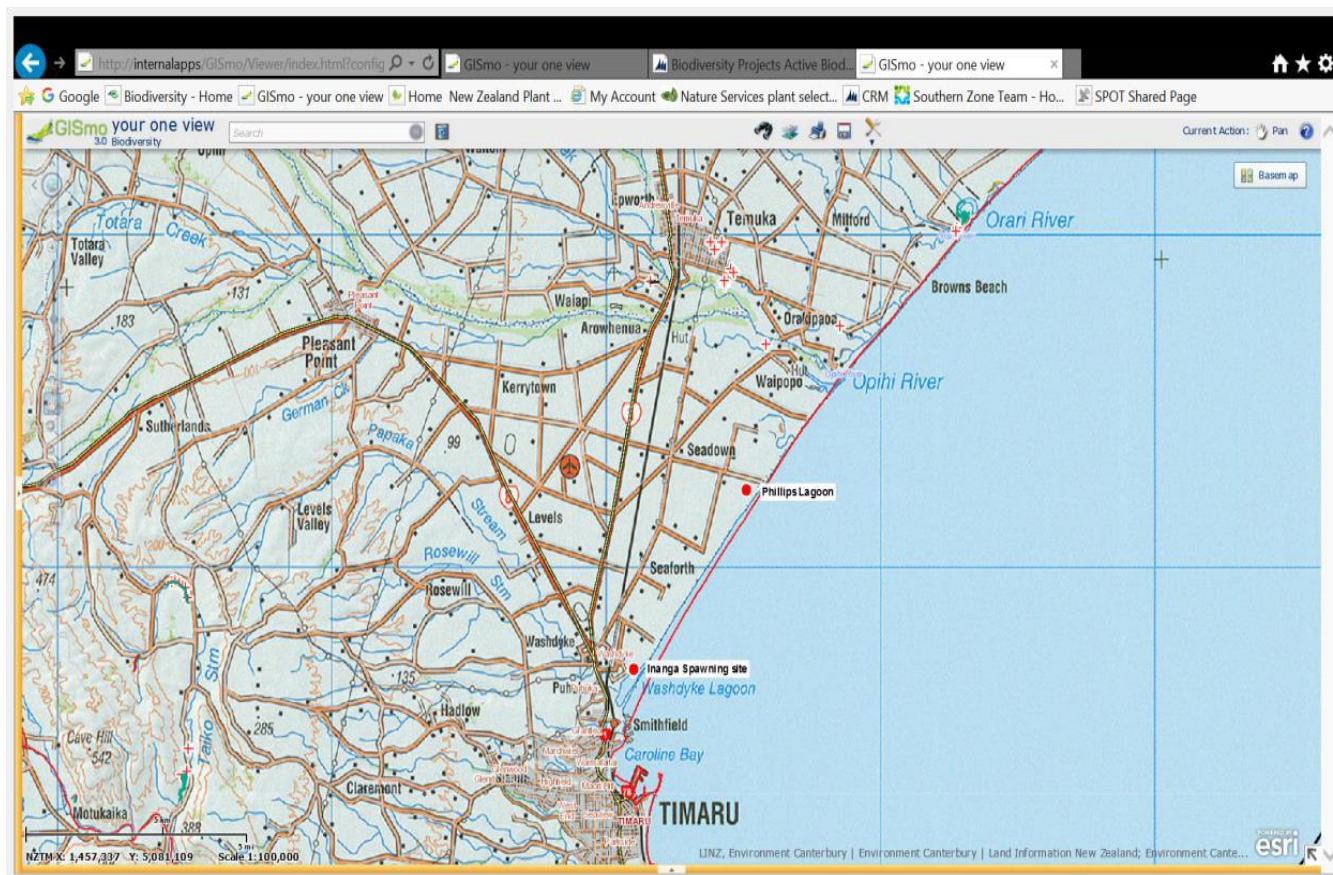
Attached

Background project information for zone committee decisions and recommendations for funding

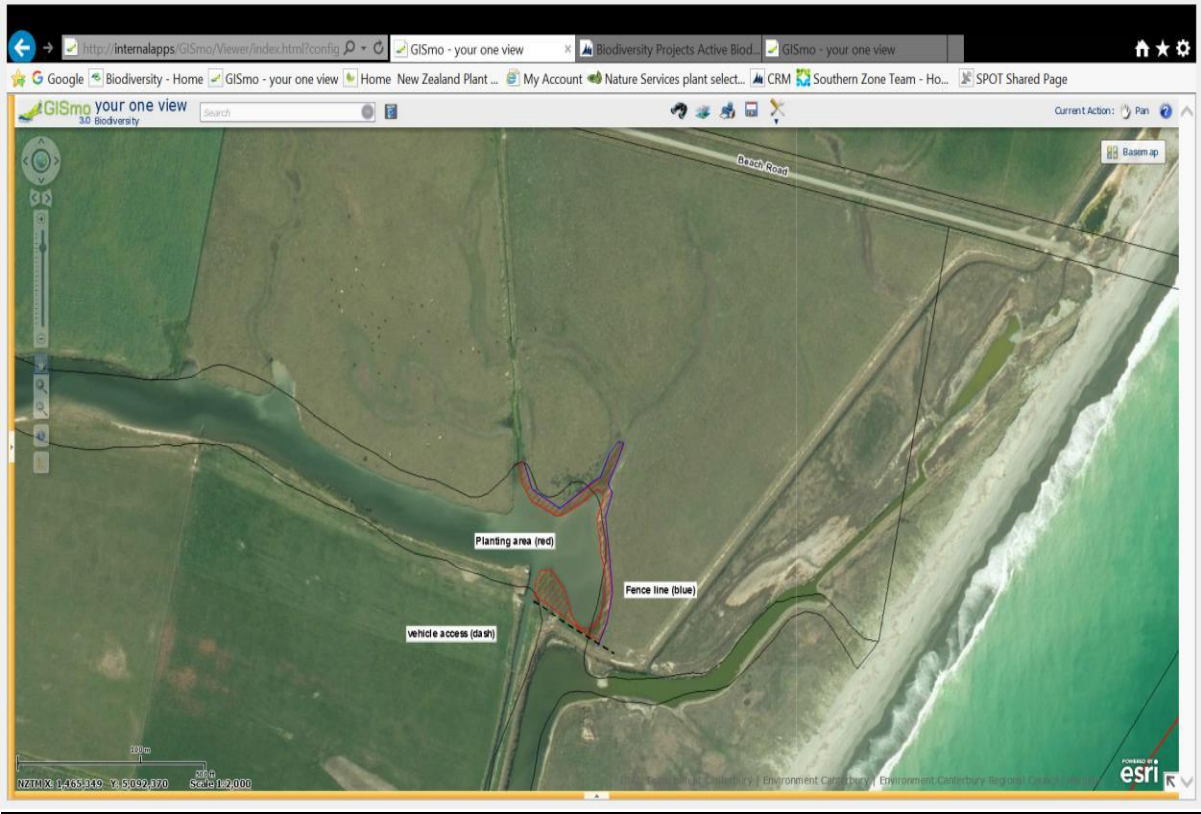
Project information for funding decision

Seadown Mataitai Project

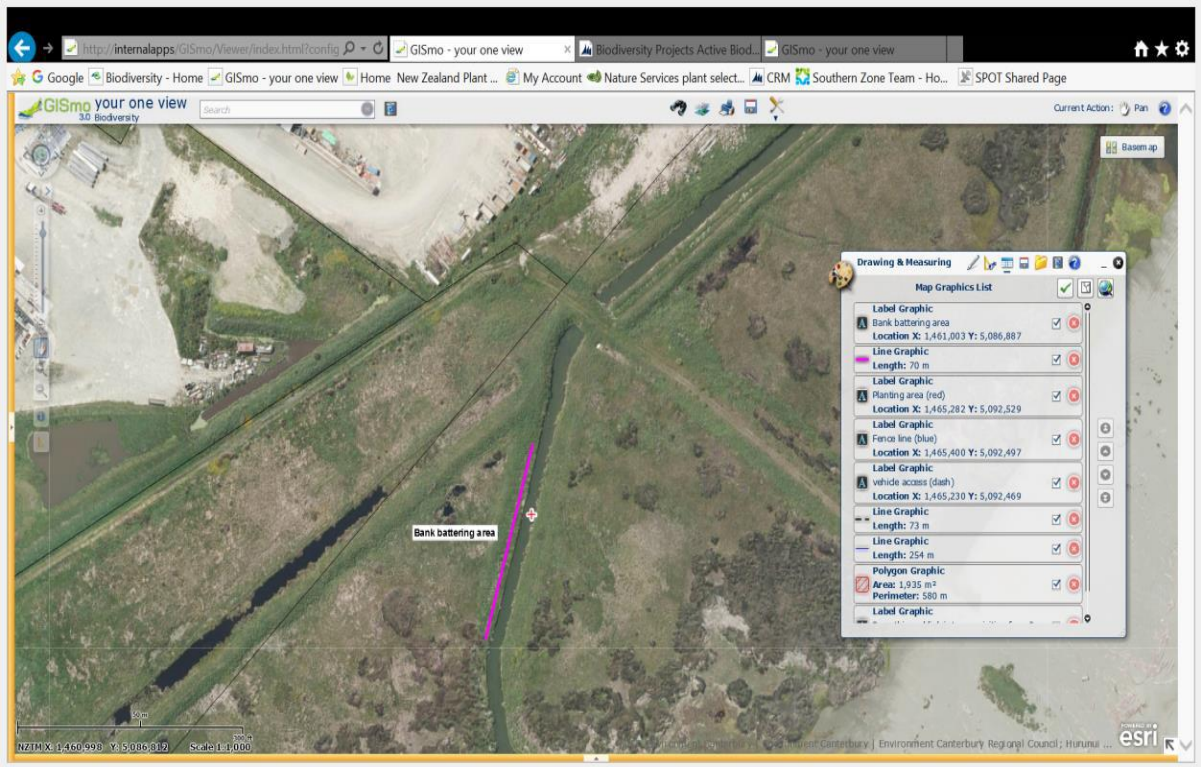
Project site



Planting area at Phillips Lagoon



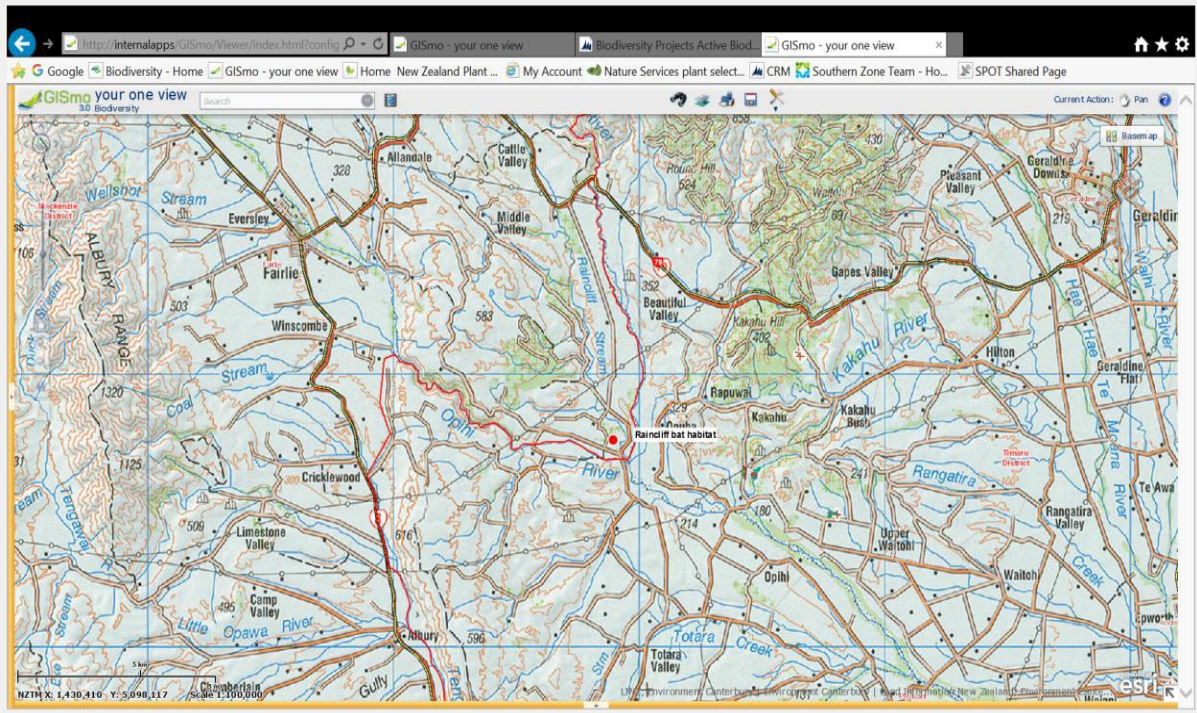
Spawning area improvement



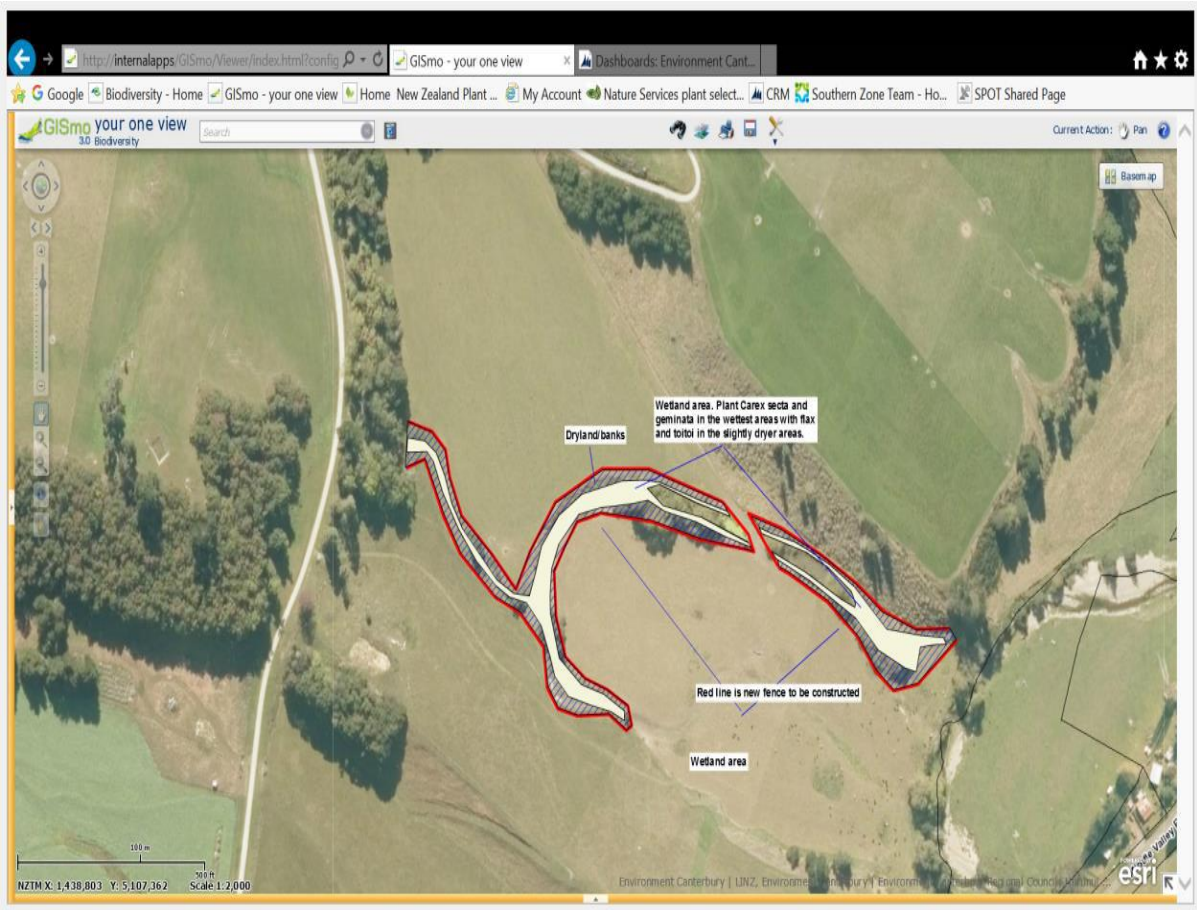
Raincliff Bat Habitat project

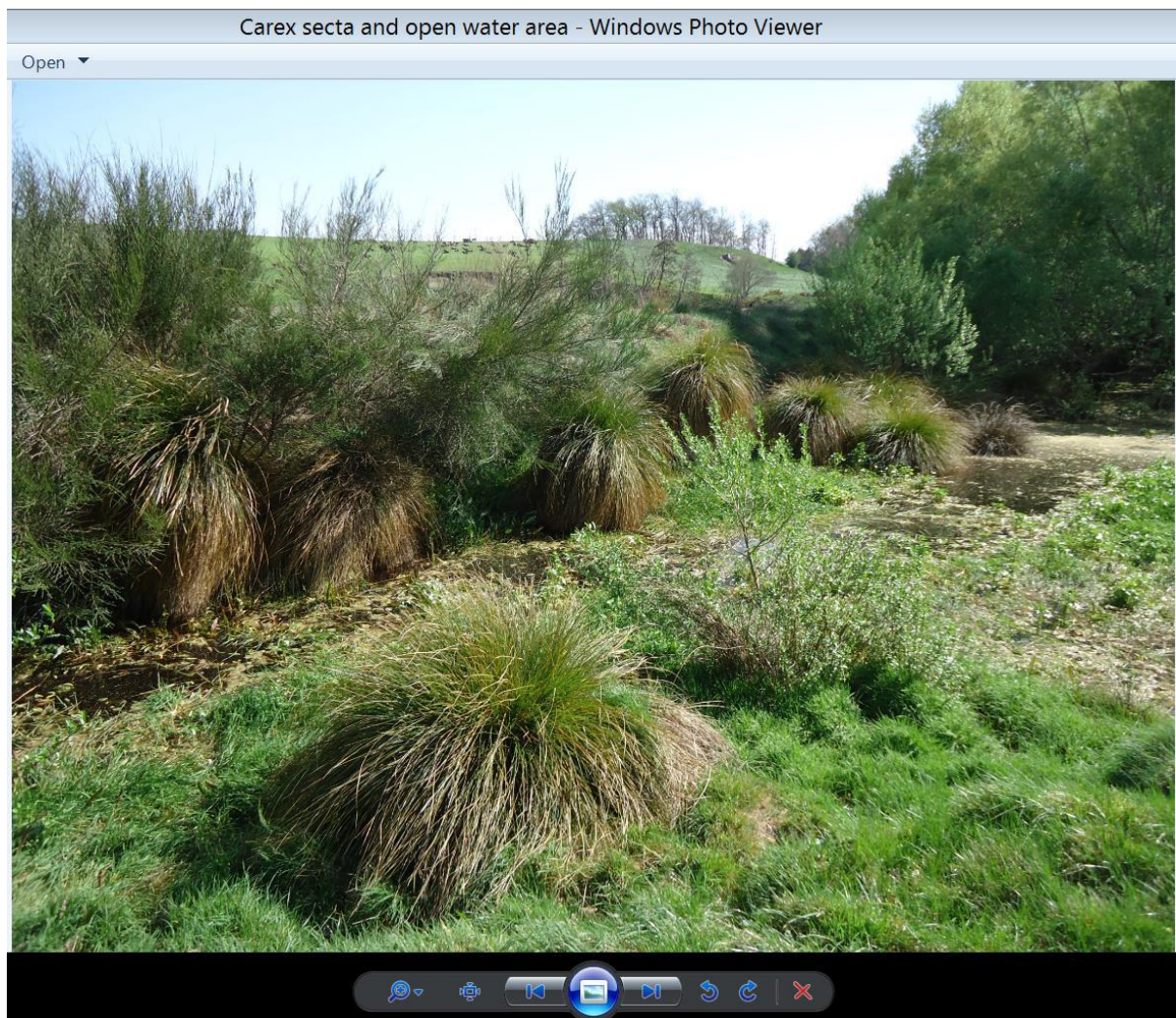
Proposed project	Project details in brief	Land tenure	Cultural Value	Ecological score	Funding requested (Total cost in brackets)
Seadown Mataitai Project	<p>The Seadown drain flows from a lagoon on Phillips farm south to Washdyke lagoon and is covered by a Mataitai. This project has two aspects. The first aspect involves fencing of a portion of the Phillips Lagoon and carry out planting to increase habitat for fish species, increase shading of the water and reduce sediment inputs the lagoon. A walking path may also be incorporated into the project.</p> <p>The second aspect of the project is improving the spawning habitat for inanga at a known spawning location just above where the seadown drain flows into the Washdyke Lagoon. The true right bank here is vertical and offers no suitable vegetation or spawning areas. It is proposed to batter back 70 metres of the bank and reseed with grasses. To offer temporary spawning habitat while the grasses are growing straw bales will be used.</p>	Private – Phillips Lagoon and Public – Washdyke Lagoon	High significance, Included in the Opihi Waitarakao Mataitai.	27/39	\$7,400 (\$12,600)
<p>Recommendations: The recommendation is to support this project. This project is aimed at improving the values of this fresh water fishery and the biodiversity of a coastal lagoon. The project is aligned with the Zone Implementation Plan (see below)</p> <p>2.2.1 protect and enhance coastal lagoons</p> <p>2.3.1 Immediate steps funding - priorities are Lowland Streams and Lagoons where initiatives contribute to water quality.</p>					

Project area



Project Site





Bat feeding habitat

Proposed project	Project details in brief	Land tenure	Cultural** Value	Ecological score	Funding requested (Total cost in brackets)
Raincliff bat habitat project	This project seeks to improve feeding and roosting habitat for longtailed bats (endangered - nationally critical) as there is a population found at Raincliff. The bats are threatened by habitat loss and predation and this project aims to help address the former. 630 metres of waterway and swale will be fenced off and planted with suitable species. A small amount of weed control will also be carried out.	Private	-	24/39	\$29,722 (\$52,991)

Recommendations: The recommendation is to support this project.

This project is aimed at providing better feeding habitat and eventually roosting habitat for the longtailed bats. The area around Geraldine, Kakahu, Raincliff and Pleasant Point is the only area on the east coast of the south island which still shelters a population of longtailed bats. The proposed planting is quite heavy on Kānuka and Cabbage trees. Both of these species can start to provide roosting habitat in the relatively short term. Once these plants have become established the idea is to under plant with species like Totara and Matai which will provide long term roosting habitat.

The project is aligned with the Zone Implementation Plan (see below)

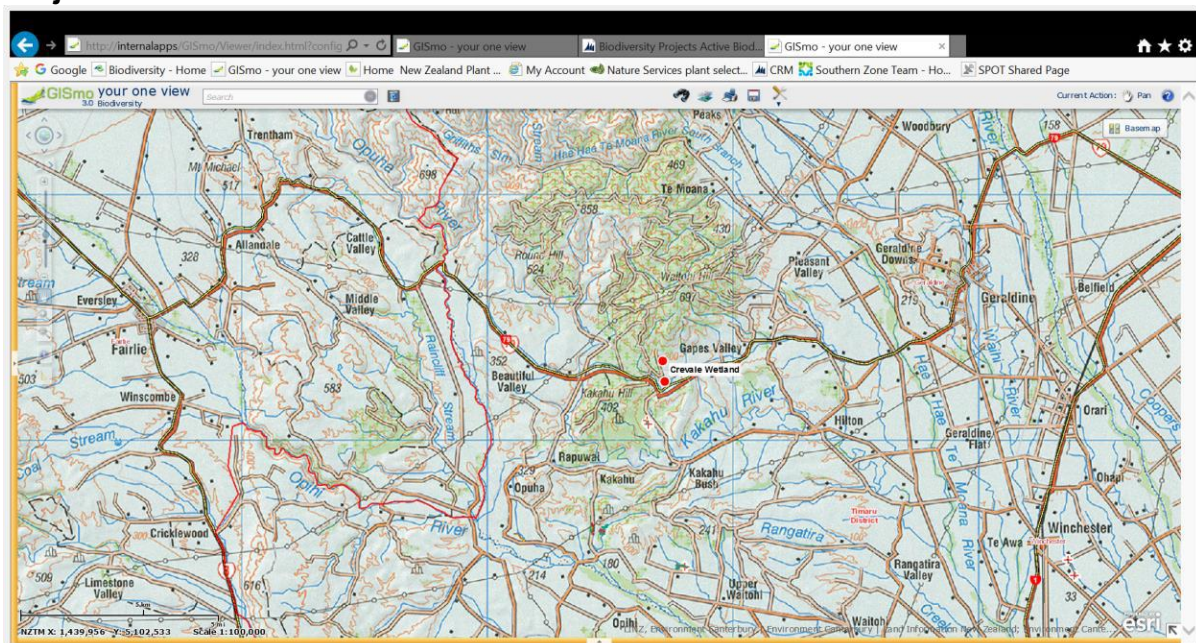
2.3.1 Priorities are remnant habitats and their unique flora and fauna

2.3.8 support initiatives to protect and manage remnant habitats ...and fauna specific to this zone

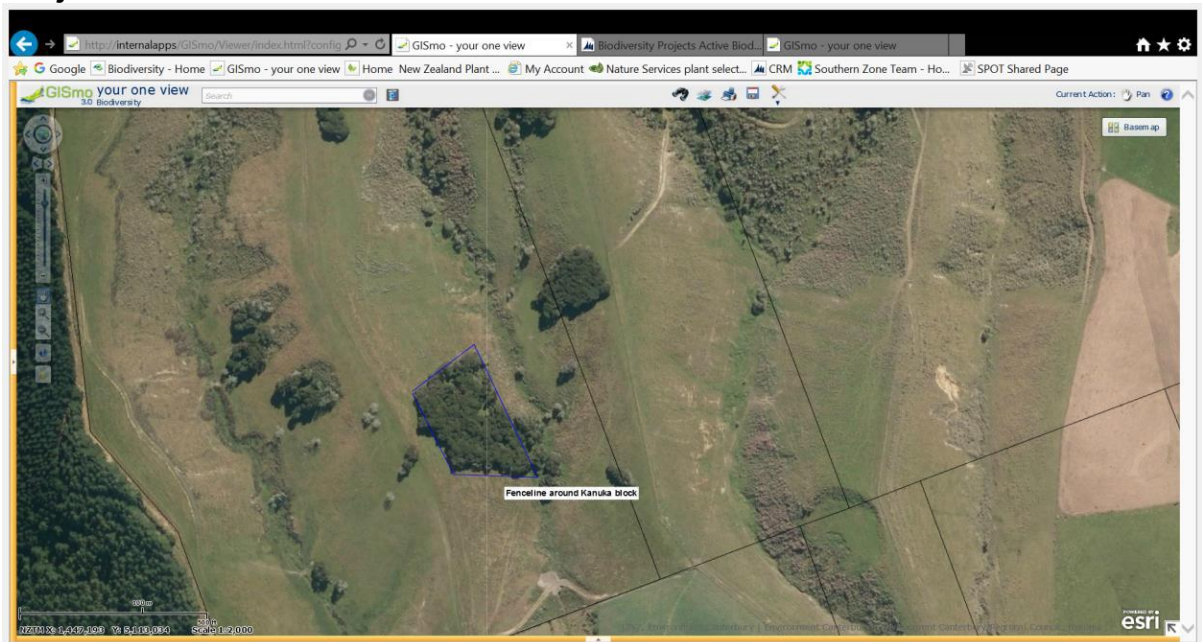
** Cultural assessment of the project is not completed prior to presentation to the zone committee – any comments from the cultural rep are appreciated during the meeting.

Crevale Wetland

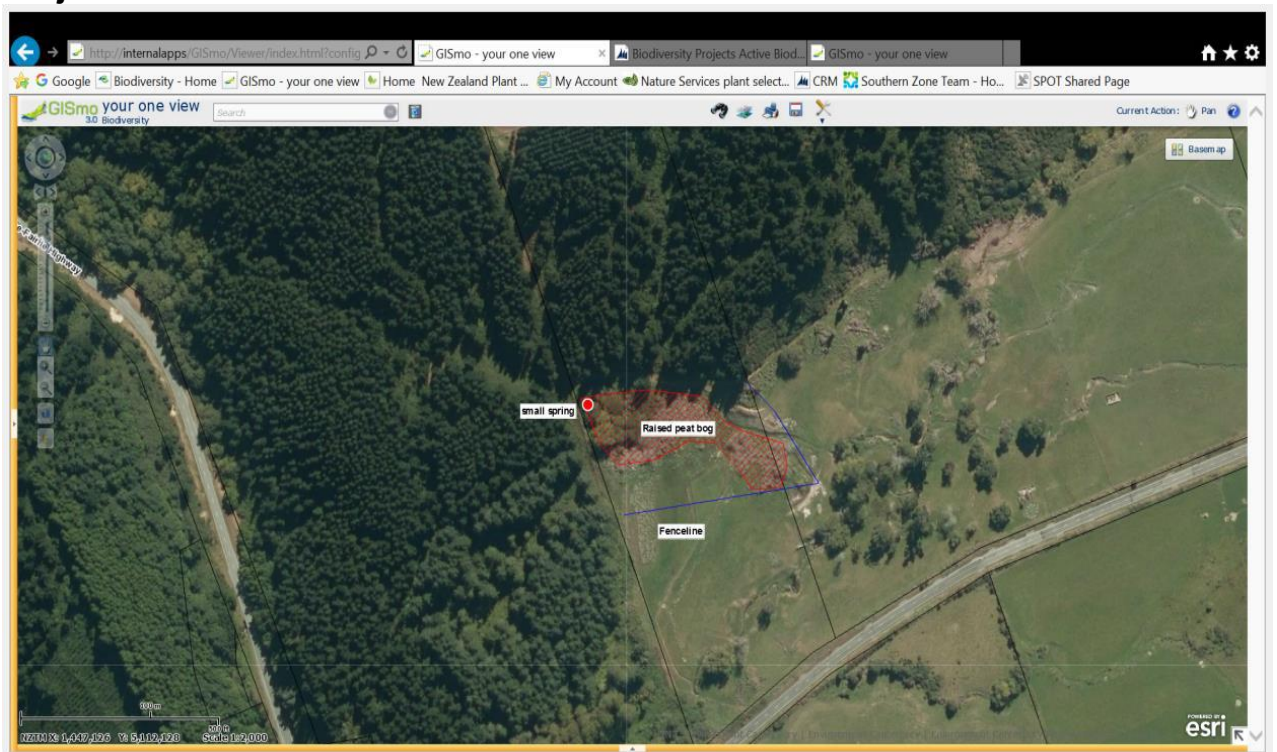
Project location

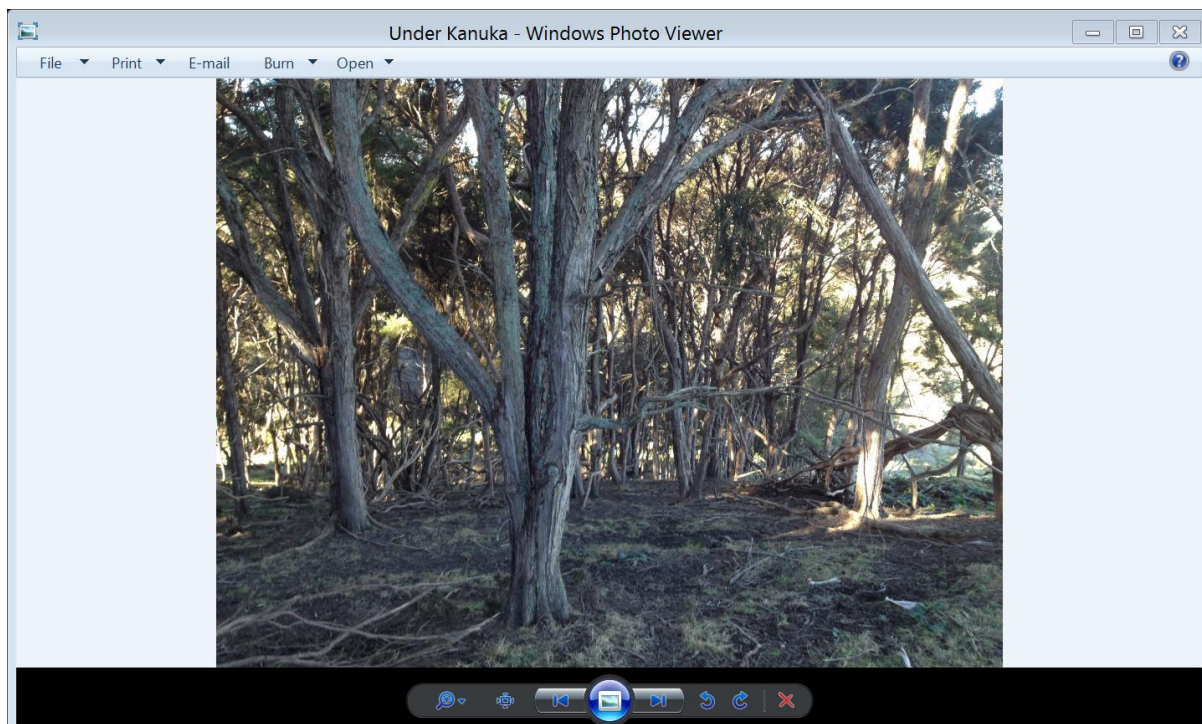


Project Site – Kānuka Remnant



Project site – wetland





Proposed project	Project details in brief	Land tenure	Cultural** Value	Ecological score	Funding requested (Total cost in brackets)
Crevale wetland	This project is located on a deer farm on the Geraldine-Fairlie Highway. The project involves fencing off a 1.6ha wetland and carrying out weed control and plantings. There is also a separate 0.6ha block of mature kanuka which will be fenced off to exclude the deer and to allow natural forest succession to take place.	Private	-	26/39	\$16,850 (\$25,276)
Recommendations: The recommendation is to support this project. One of the good features of this site is the close proximity to other native vegetation remnants. Birds will effectively disperse seed and natural regeneration should occur with only a minimal need for intervention once stock have been excluded and key weed species controlled. The project is aligned with the Zone Implementation Plan (see below) 2.3.1 Priorities are: Wetlands					

** Cultural assessment of the project is not completed prior to presentation to the zone committee – any comments from the cultural rep are appreciated during the meeting.

OOP Immediate Steps Update

Table 2: Immediate Steps Project Summary

Application Year	Applicant	ECan Funding	External Funding	Status
2011/2012	Old Orari Lagoon	12,472	10,012	Completed.
2011/2012	Otipua Dune Restoration - Stage 1	8,645	23,808	Completed.
2011/2012	Deep Stream Year 1	20,000	10,000	Completed.
2011/2012	Henriksen's Bush	11,000	5,500	Completed.
2011/2012	Horseshoe Lagoon - Willow Control	5,607	3,293	Completed.
2011/2012	Peel Forest Wetland Yr 1	20,000	10,000	Completed.
2011/2012	Pit Road Lizard Sanctuary - Stage 1	20,360	12,694	Completed.
2012/2013	Deep Stream Year 2	20,000	15,000	Completed.
2012/2013	Opihi Catchment Environmental Protection Group	1,560	1,060	Completed.
2012/2013	Horseshoe Lagoon Fencing & Planting	10,000	5,000	In progress.
2012/2013	Otipua Dune Restoration - Stage 2	5,450	9,500	Completed.
2012/2013	Pareora Scenic Reserve Fencing Yr 2	20,000	21,000	Completed.

2012/2013	Peel Forest Wetland Year 2	19,500	10,000	Completed.
2012/2013	Albury Springs Enhancement	5,706	5,706	Completed.
2012/2013	Pit Road Lizard Sanctuary - Stage 2	10,000	5,070	In progress.
2012/2013	Pit Road Reserve Pine Tree Removal	10,000	4,500	Completed.
2012/2013	Rangitata Stone Row Relocation	2,131	2,400	Completed.
2012/2013	Upper Old Orari Lagoon	6,150	6,780	In progress.
2013/2014	Upper Old Orari Lagoon 2014 Planting	4,400	2,200	In progress.
2013/2014	Old Orari Lagoon 2014 Planting	1,335	1,675	In progress.
2013/2014	Opihi Catchment Environmental Protection Group 2013 Planting	3,863	2000	Completed.
2013/2014	Orakipaoa Tributary Plantings	2,500	4000	In progress.
2013/2014	Awarua Wetland Restoration	14,000	7,100	Completed.
2013/2014	Coopers Creek Willow Control	5,500	3,740	In progress.
2013/2014	Craigmore Covenant Fencing	22,266	11,134	In progress.
2013/2014	Hanging Rock Wetland Restoration	17,704	14,610	In progress.
2014/2015	Pit Road Lizard Sanctuary - Rabbit proof fencing	10,140	12,060	In progress.
2014/2015	White Rock Tributary Fencing	10,800	5,400	Completed.
2015/2016	Awarua Wetland Restoration Year 2	14,500	8,840	In progress
2015/2016	Connells Wetland enhancement	16,500	16,500	In progress
2015/2016	Upper Rangitata Predator control Project	20,000	176,091	In progress
2015/2016	Chamberlain wetlands restoration	13,445	6,723	In progress
2015/2016	Stanton Wetland	1,910	3,330	In progress
2015/2016	Springfield Wetland	26,310	22,771	In progress
2015/2016	Awarua Wetland Restoration Year 3	4,402	4,725	In progress.
2015/2016	Ohapi Springs	9,000	21,150	In progress.
2015/2016	Clarke Flat sycamore control (stage 1)	50,000	25,000	In progress.
2015/2016	Orari Gorge Weed Control	36,500	98,000	Not yet started
	TOTAL ALLOCATION	493,656	608,372	

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE MEETING OF 5 SEPTEMBER 2016

Report for Agenda Item No 10

Prepared by **Chris Keeling**
 Senior Strategy Advisor

Changes to Immediate Steps

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 are 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

That the committee considers and responds 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?**

Attachments

Overview of proposed Immediate Steps framework

Overview of Proposed Immediate Steps Framework

Core components of the framework	Rationale and Comments
1. <u>Funding</u> Long-term funding commitment through the LTP 2015-25 until 2025.	Ongoing commitment to funding required. Any changes to funding levels to be addressed through LTP process.
2. <u>Intent</u> <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.</p> <p>Importance of community engagement made explicit.</p> <p>Biodiversity primary purpose. Other benefits allowed for in decision making.</p> <p>New emphasis on protection, not just restoration.</p>
3. <u>A strategic approach: Five year outcomes setting the direction for on-the-ground priorities</u> Enables: <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.</p> <p>Currently being developed by Regional and Zone Committees.</p> <p>Provides potential for step change in focus and delivery.</p> <p>Clarifies overall direction but retains some short-term flexibility.</p>
4. <u>Project Decision Making and Assessment Criteria</u> <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.
5. <u>New regional flagships</u> <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.</p> <p>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>
6. <u>Communications revamp: focus on behaviour change</u> <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.</p> <p>Underlying message is that biodiversity is an organisational and community priority.</p> <p>Focus is on finding better ways to engage in the face of poor understanding and attitudes towards “biodiversity” and existing normative behaviours.</p>
7. <u>Changes to operational processes</u> <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.</p> <p>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>
8. <u>Financial Management</u> <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>