

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

on

Monday 3 October 2016

1.30pm

**Trinity Church Hill
Cnr Wilmshurst Street and Hally Terrace
Temuka**

ORARI-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that an Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone meeting will be held at 1:30pm, in the Trinity Church Hall, corner Wilmshurst Road and Hally Terrace, Temuka.

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

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1	1.30pm	Apologies
2		Register of Interest
3	1	Confirmation of Minutes
4		Correspondence
5		Community Forum
6		Public Workshop Roundup
7		Discussion on Next Steps with Current State Issues
8	6	Waitarakao Washdyke Taskforce Report
9	11	IMS Biodiversity Fund: Confirm delegation for small projects
10	3pm	BREAK
11		Zone Delivery Team: Verbal Update
12	12	Catchment Group Update
13	13	Eel Quota Decision
14		Regional Committee Verbal Update
15	3.45pm	Close

**ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE MEETING OF 3 OCTOBER 2016**

Report for Agenda Item No 3

**Prepared by Joanne Brownie
Secretary**

Confirmation of Minutes – Committee Meeting 5 September 2016

Minutes of the September Committee meeting.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 5 September 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 THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL, 2 KING GEORGE PLACE, TIMARU ON MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 3PM

PRESENT John Talbot (Chairperson), Kylee Galbraith, John Henry, Ivon Hurst, Richard Lyon, Hamish McFarlane, James Pearse, Ad Sintenie, Mark Webb and Evan Williams

APOLOGIES David Caygill and Mandy Home

IN ATTENDANCE Barbara Nicholas (Facilitator), Dan Clark (Senior Hydrology Scientist and Technical Lead), Tom Lambie (ECan Commissioner), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator), Lyn Carmichael (ECan Planner Community Lead), Raymond Ford (Principal Planner), Michael Hide (Zone Implementation Team Manager), Peter Ramsden (Tangata Whenua facilitator), Shirley Hayward (Senior Water Quality Scientist), Jenna Scott (ECan Tangata Whenua Coordinator), Janet Gregory (NZ Landcare Trust), Keitha Laming and Jeremy Boys (Opuha Water Ltd), John Benn (Dept of Conservation), Graham Fenwick (NIWA)(for item 6), Ashley Harper (Timaru District Council Group Manager District Services), Judy Blakemore (Timaru District Council Water Services Operations Engineer (for item 9), Geoff Horler (Mackenzie District Council Utilities Manager), Jason Grant (Opuha Catchment), Jim Jolly (Orari Catchment Group), Hilary Iles (Orari River Protection Group), Phil Driver (Pareora Catchment Group), Helen Tatham (Timaru Herald)

1 REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were no additional interests advised.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed Ivon Hurst

Seconded Mark Webb

“That the minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Management Committee meeting held on 1 August 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record.”

MOTION CARRIED

Clause 10 – Role of Catchment Groups in the Healthy Catchments Project

The Chairman advised that instead of aligning the OTOP workshops with catchment group meetings, it is suggested that catchment group meetings be aligned with the OTOP meeting timetable.

3 FACILITATOR UPDATE

The Facilitator provided a brief update –

- The survey on swimming sites in the zone now includes questions around sites that have been lost. There will be a discussion on the survey with the committee before the end of the year.
- An OTOP zone committee media feature went out mid-August and another is ready to go. This includes an update on the Healthy Catchments project.
- The October Committee meeting will be preceded by a field trip to a Maori rock art site
- Silver Fern Farms has invited the Committee on a field trip on 17 October, followed by a discussion with SFF representatives.

4 CATCHMENT GROUP UPDATE

The Committee noted the schedule of recent and planned catchment group activities events in the zone, with the addition of –

- Tengawai Group meets on Wednesday 7 September at 7pm
 - Orari Group meets on Thursday 22 September at 4pm
 - Waihi Group meets on Monday 10 October at 7pm.
- Draft action plans are being prepared by all groups assisted by Janet Gregory of Landcare Trust.
 - A social media workshop has been held.
 - An interview for Latitude magazine has been held to further promote awareness of the work of the catchment groups and to encourage greater involvement.
 - The focus in the next two months is to promote via the media the Good Management Practices that farmers are undertaking, especially around irrigation and protecting the biodiversity in the zone.
 - The full report on the current state of the catchments is expected to be available in 2 weeks with a short summary being made available prior to the catchment group meetings.

5 WASHDYKE TASKFORCE UPDATE

The Chairman updated the committee on progress made by the Washdyke Taskforce. The taskforce has met for the last 3 months to work towards achieving better outcomes for the lagoon. The group expects to present to the October OTOP meeting on the outcomes and actions for the lagoon, with a view to the committee making formal recommendations to councils.

6 GROUNDWATER PRESENTATION

Dr Graham Fenwick, NIWA's Regional Manager, gave a presentation on managing Canterbury's groundwater for our future, outlining the vital resource that groundwater presents for domestic, farming, industry, mahinga kai, recharging of rivers and spiritual and cultural values.

He explained the role that stygofauna plays in the natural filtering system for groundwater - consuming harmful microbes, removing organic carbon, reducing aquifer clogging, maintaining aquifer flow and water quality, and enhancing surface water quality.

He outlined the key elements of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan that relate to how Canterbury's groundwater is managed. He believes that the

outcome for groundwater in the LWRP (ie maximising abstraction) is woefully short. However it was pointed out that groundwater may be addressed in the subregional plans via managed aquifer recharge.

Dr Fenwick listed the key issues for managing ecological values in groundwater ecosystems and stressed the need to look after these ecosystems as they carry out vital functions for water quality and aquifer yield. He advised that there are still large information gaps around groundwater ecosystems, including the effects of insecticides on groundwater.

7 IMMEDIATE STEPS BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS

The Committee considered a report by the Biodiversity Officer presenting three Immediate Steps projects - Seadown Mataitai, Raincliff Bat Habitat, and Crevale Wetlands.

Seadown Mataitai

Proposed Mark Webb
Seconded Kylee Galbraith

“That \$7,400 be approved for the fencing of a portion of the Phillips Lagoon and plantings, and to improve the spawning habitat for inanga.”

MOTION CARRIED

Raincliff Bat Habitat

Some concern was expressed that the fence for which the money is being sought, may already be in place. As funding for retrospective work is not permissible under the Immediate Steps scheme, this aspect of the project will be checked.

Proposed Clr Lyon
Seconded Hamish McFarlane

“That funding be approved for plantings at the Raincliff bat habitat project, and funding also be approved for fencing at the site subject to the fencing not having already, or having only recently, been erected.”

MOTION CARRIED

Crevale Wetland

Proposed Mark Webb
Seconded John Henry

“That \$16,850 be approved for fencing, planting and weed control at the Crevale wetland.”

MOTION CARRIED

8 CHANGES TO THE IMMEDIATE STEPS PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report by the Senior Strategy Advisor on the proposed changes to the Immediate Steps programme. The facilitator confirmed

that the long term plan is to continue with the Immediate Steps programme but there are changes to the decision making process, the project assessment criteria have been expanded and projects are to be encouraged that have long term strategic input into what OTO is wanting to achieve.

In regard to the proposal to delegate approval to Zone Managers for projects up to \$5,000, the Committee requested a report on how many \$5,000 projects may be put forward and what projects could be aligned with OTO's identified 5 year outcomes.

9 LEVEL OF PROTECTION/SECURITY OF WATER SUPPLIES IN OTO ZONE

Timaru District Council Group Manager District Services Ashley Harper and Water Services Operations Engineer Judy Blakemore, with Mackenzie District Council Utilities Manager Geoff Horler spoke to the Committee on the level of protection for water supplies in the zone, particularly in light of the recent water contamination issues in Havelock North.

The legislative environment is complicated. There is collective responsibility between the district councils and the regional council. While there are risks, Timaru and Mackenzie District Councils are working on minimising these and are of the view that there are better protection levels in the zone than in Havelock North. The position is closely monitored at all times. Timaru District Council is involved in 6 catchment groups, where there are water sources.

A 3 pronged approach has been taken in the Land and Water Regional Plan –

- to manage source water
- to ensure there is a treatment system
- to ensure there is a secure supply.

ECan has established Community Water Supply Protection Zones in the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, which impose limitations on activities that can be carried out in those areas, in order to protect the water supply.

10 REGIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Chairman tabled his regional committee update which was noted.

The meeting closed at 5.20pm with a karakia from John Henry.

Chairperson

**ORARI- TEMUKA- OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE MEETING OF 3 OCTOBER 2016**

Report for Agenda Item No 8

Prepared by Nic Newman (Facilitator)

Waitarakao Washdyke Taskforce Report

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update the Zone Committee on the actions of a Waitarakao Washdyke Taskforce and to present an action plan for endorsement and integration into the OTOP Healthy Catchments project (HCP).

Recommendations

1. That the report be received and noted
2. That the action plan be endorsed
3. That consideration be given to integrating the actions into the Zone Committee solution package and the committee engage the public through the Healthy Catchments Project

A. Background

Waitarakao Washdyke lagoon has a long history of cultural significance to local rūnanga as an important site for traditional food gathering. Today a Maitaitai reserve covers the area of the greater lagoon and restricts commercial fishing. Areas of particular importance, include not only the lagoon itself, but the coastal area opposite the lagoon outlet. The greater catchment of the lagoon is a key industrial zone and home to regionally significant industry and infrastructure. The lagoon and catchment is also home to a variety of wading birds and waterfowl and is an important link in the network of coastal wetlands in Canterbury. The two main freshwater inputs to the lagoon are the Seadown Drain and Washdyke Creek. Water quality is influenced by the management of contaminants in the catchment and the management of the drainage infrastructure. Ongoing coastal processes and hydrology changes in the catchment will put increasing pressure on the function of the lagoon over time.

A joint agency taskforce group was established in June 2016 to identify priority actions to achieve improved outcomes for Waitarakao and to oversee and co-ordinate joint agency actions. It involves membership from Timaru District Council, Environment Canterbury, Te Rūnanga O Arowhenua, Department of Conservation, and the Zone Committee. The group considered ***the need for immediate actions and the need to look at long-term planning*** to take into account the effects of coastal processes and other changes in the catchment.

B. Interface with the Healthy Catchments Project (HCP)

The priority actions identified in the action plan help support the delivery of the CWMS in the OTOP Zone. There is no need to wait until the OTOP recommendations in September 2017, to begin work on the actions.

The development of future management options for the lagoon would dovetail into the solution development phase of zone committee work. The analysis that the taskforce is undertaking could inform potential solutions in the catchment, for the committee to engage the public on and for the committee to recommend to councils.

The HCP will need to consider in the catchment:

- the impact of land-use in the wider catchment on water quality,
- the current Land and Water Regional Plan provisions and their suitability,
- the gap of information on the relationship between water quality and bioaccumulation (re: food gathering),
- the actions of the taskforce and future management options for the lagoon and how they could form part of a solution package.

C. Identified Actions

To provide improved **recreational access** to the lagoon, Timaru District Council have secured access via the new bridge adjacent to the Smithfield plant. This project has approved funding and currently works are underway to improve safety and access for pedestrians.

To inform good decision making and to provide a feedback loop for the effectiveness of actions in the catchment, good water quality data is needed. Environment Canterbury and Timaru District Council are working together to establish a **water quality sampling programme**. This will include automatic sampling of stormwater contaminants at two key sites, sampling of the lagoon water quality, and water sampling of the Seadown Drain and Washdyke Creek. The programme is currently being established and will be ongoing to provide a reliable record of water quality data. This will complement work being done by Timaru District in conjunction with the University of Canterbury to look at background contaminant levels in the surrounding catchment.

To **reduce contaminants entering the lagoon** a pollution prevention education campaign is proposed. This would be based on a model used in Christchurch with industry and involve: education on the value of the lagoon, promotion of good management practices for managing industrial land, and checking that resource consents are complied with. This would be led by Environment Canterbury and would complement work of the District Council trade waste officers. The campaign is currently being scoped, with resourcing secured. The education campaign would be informed by the water quality sampling programme which will provide information to inform 'hot-spots' and also inform the effectiveness of the campaign.

To enhance the **biodiversity and habitat** at the lagoon, two initial projects are planned. The first is to enhance inanga spawning habitat in the reach where the Seadown Drain enters the lagoon. This would involve bank re-battering and the use of straw bales. This project has already been submitted to the Zone Committee and approved for funding. The second is a private project to create a wildlife refuge on

industrial land to the north of the lagoon. The project is currently in the consenting phase.

The group also considered the need for longer-term thinking and planning. The lagoon hydraulics are changing due to coastal processes such as erosion, sea-level rise, and headland effect, and due to changes in the catchment such as surface water inflows and irrigation changes on the Levels Plain. **Future Management of the lagoon** needs to take into account these impending changes and the outcomes sought for the lagoon. Innovative solutions such as the use of filtering wetlands, and potential re-routing of watercourses need to be informed by good information about future changes. Therefore, a set of investigations have begun to inform future conversations and decision making. These investigations include: cross section surveys of the lagoon, analysis of LiDAR data, beach profiles, the future of the coastal stopbank, sea level change analysis, and a lagoon water balance. This work will be carried out over the next 3-5 months by Environment Canterbury with assistance from Timaru District Council.

Once it is complete then future management options could be explored. These future options could be brought to the Zone Committee to integrate into (timing permitting) the solutions development and community engagement on solutions phase of the Zone Committee work.

D. Identification of relevant legislation, Council policy and plans

The priority actions identified by the Taskforce group are not of a statutory nature. However the District Plan, Regional Coastal Plan, and Regional Land and Water Plan could help enable some future actions at the lagoon and regulation could support the achievement of outcomes. It is suggested that planning staff working with the Zone Committee help identify opportunities for the relevant plans to enable future actions.

E. Funding Implications

Current actions identified are covered through existing council budgets. The development and implementation of future options for management of the lagoon would need to be delivered through the various councils' long term funding processes (Long Term Plan).

F. Next steps

Actions that have been identified have been scoped and funded. The Taskforce will meet periodically to oversee these actions and then to receive and discuss the investigation work that will inform development of future options.

The taskforce could report back to the Zone Committee in Quarter 1 2017 with:

- An update on progress implementing the actions,
- Results of the various investigations and discussion of next steps to explore future management options,

and then again once future options have been developed, to ensure that this work is integrated into the committee solution phase and is part of public engagement.

Priority Action	Outcome sought	Lead	Support	Status/Comment	Delivery Timing
Delivery of a Pollution Prevention Education Campaign in the catchment	Reduction in pollutants entering the lagoon	ECan	TDC	Resourcing for this work is secure and campaign design is underway. Campaign to begin in the next few months.	Q4 2016
Secure public access over the bridge at Smithfield	Improved public access to the lagoon	TDC	DOC	Staff recommendation has been adopted by council. Works to modify the bridge are underway.	Q4 2016
Initiate a water quality monitoring program for the lagoon	Improved understanding of current water quality and input sources to the lagoon	ECan	TDC	Monitoring sites have been identified and the program is being established.	Ongoing
Development of a Wildlife Refuge	Improved biodiversity and habitat	Private	TDC	The consenting requirements are currently being worked through. The project will happen over a number of years.	2016 - 2020
Enhancement of inanga spawning habitat at a site in the Seadown drain cut	Improved biodiversity and habitat	ECan	Private	A project plan has been prepared and funding approved. Work to be completed in the spring.	Q4 2016
Development of future management options for the lagoon	Improved management of flooding, water quality, habitat, and contaminants	ECan	TDC	The first step is to fill in missing knowledge gaps about lagoon hydraulics. Work has begun in a number of workstreams to inform future discussions of management options. Investigations are aimed to be completed in early 2017.	Q1 2017



**ORARI- TEMUKA- OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE MEETING OF 3 OCTOBER 2016**

Report for Agenda Item No 9

Prepared by Michael Hide (Zone Delivery Manager)

IMS Biodiversity Fund Review: Delegating Approval of Small Projects to Zone Manager

Background

A review of the existing IMS Fund was recently undertaken to identify opportunities to improve the framework and the delivery of the work programme. The outcome of the review was a proposal which included changes to the IMS fund processes and criteria.

This proposal was provided to the zone committee for feedback in September. The committee provided a range of useful feedback, particularly on a delegation to zone manager to approve projects under \$5000. The intent of this delegation was to enable small projects to be processed more efficiently.

Of particular concern to some committee members was the risk that a large portion of the IMS fund could potentially be spent on numerous small projects. To address these concerns, it is suggested that the committee consider the following:

- Recommending an annual cap on the portion of the IMS fund that is allocated to small projects.
- Confirm how zone committees are updated on approved projects- frequency and reporting style.

Recommendation

The committee provide feedback on the above considerations.

**ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE-
FOR THE MEETING OF 3 OCTOBER 2016**

Report for Agenda Item No 12

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

Catchment Group Update

Purpose

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

Update

A verbal update on *recent* catchment group activities will be provided at committee meeting.

Below is a summary of *upcoming* activities in the zone.

Date	Activity	Who's helping
10 Oct	Irrigation workshop, Pareora	Janet Gregory
10 Oct, 7pm	Waihi Catchment Group Meeting, SeniorCare room in Geraldine	Rhys
11 Oct	Lower Opihi Catchment Group meeting	Nicki Pridham, Janet
12 Oct	Upper Opihi Catchment Meeting TBC	Caleb
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	
22-23 November	NZLT South Island Team Meeting in Nelson	Janet
Nov TBC	Combined Upper Orari/Opuha field day	
5 December	OTOP Zone Committee Meeting	

Recommendation

The committee receive the update.

ORARI- TEMUKA- OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE MEETING OF 3 OCTOBER 2016

Report for Agenda Item No 13

Prepared by **Barbara Nicholas (Regional Committee Facilitator)**

Decision on Eel Quotas

Purpose

To update the committee on a recent decision on eel quotas by the Minister of Primary Industries which effectively eliminates the commercial catch of longfin eel in Canterbury.

Background

The CWMS regional committee has taken an active interest in the health of eel populations in Canterbury, and submitted to the Ministry of Primary Industries when it consulted on the possible separation of longfin and shortfin stocks in 2015.

A decision was taken to separate the two populations for management purposes, and the Minister has now released his subsequent decisions on sustainability measures and management controls from the beginning of the fishing year in October 2016. (See <http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/review-of-fisheries-sustainability-measures-for-1-october-2016/>)

In effect these decisions will ‘effectively eliminate the targeting of longfin eel’ in Canterbury. The quota for longfin eel are now as follows.

Quota management area	Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	Customary	Recreational	TACC (Total Allowable Commercial Catch)
12 (North Canterbury to Blenheim)	3	1	1	1
13 (Te Waihora)	3	1	1	1
14 (South Canterbury)	3	1	1	1

Recommendation

The committee receive the update

Attachments

- Key sections of the MPI Report “Review of Sustainability Control for 1 October 2016”.

Attachment: Key sections of the MPI Report “Review of Sustainability Control for 1 October 2016”

Note: Quota Management Areas (QMA) 12, 13 and 14 are in Canterbury. There are three other QMAs that cover the remainder of the South Island.

The proposals were informed by a scientific stock assessment for South Island eel stocks completed in 2015. This assessment was based on estimates of the relative abundance of longfin and shortfin eels in the fished areas of each QMA. The assessments produced abundance targets and sustainability limits for those stocks with reliable indices of relative abundance. ... For stocks where there was insufficient catch and effort data to produce reliable trends of relative abundance (SFE [Shortfin eel] and LFE [longfin eel] 11, 12 and 14), MPI has commissioned other research, such as estimating the percentage of habitat fished, to inform its proposals.

...One hundred fifty three submissions were received. Most submissions simply supported a ban on the commercial harvest of longfin eel, but had no view on options for shortfin eel. Submissions that supported commercial harvest favoured the highest level of utilisation for most longfin and shortfin stocks, and considered the proposed options, in combination with separate management, will result in a greater reduction in commercial catch than anticipated. Some submitted that the main processing plant for eels in the South Island may close, and that many fishers will be forced out of the industry. For the largest shortfin stock, SFE 13, a mix of submissions were received from commercial quota holders in support of each option (status quo, or 10% increase).

This is the first time TACs have been set for the new, separated, LFE and SFE stocks. Therefore, the proposed TACs are not directly comparable with the previous, combined eel (ANG) TACs. Instead, MPI has assessed the expected impact of the proposed TACs in relation to recent catch levels.

For most shortfin stocks, MPI's preferred options limit future catch to around current levels. This approach most closely approximates the 'status quo' under the new separated management regime and will maintain stock abundance trends at current trajectories for shortfin stocks where abundance is stable or increasing.

For most longfin stocks the preferred options reduce the catch of longfin eel below recent levels, and therefore promote longfin stock rebuild. For four of the six longfin stocks (LFE 11, 12, 13 and 14) the options proposed will effectively eliminate the targeting of longfin eel (a nominal TAC close to zero). This approach will result in an increase in longfin eel abundance over time⁶¹ and takes into account that longfin eels are more vulnerable to fishing pressure than shortfin eels, and the need to be cautious where information is uncertain and set catch limits that will support an increase in longfin eel abundance.

....The preferred TAC options will reduce the catch of longfin eels by up to 95% (e.g. in four QMAs where a TAC close to zero is proposed). As eel TACs are not fully caught every year (annual catch is variable depending on environmental conditions such as floods and droughts), the proposals may result in a greater reduction in commercial catch than anticipated in some QMAs.

A further stock assessment of South Island eel stocks will occur in 2018-19. MPI will review whether the new catch limits are achieving the Government's objectives for longfin and shortfin eels and, if necessary, recommend further adjustments to the catch limits at that time.

Under all options, MPI proposes to retain the current proportional allowances for commercial, recreational, and customary Māori fishing that were used when the fishery entered the QMS. Recreational allowances will be set at 2% of the TAC (with a minimum of 1 tonne), customary Māori allowances will be set at 20% of the TAC, and the TACC for each stock is proposed to be set at 78% of the TAC. This approach was supported during consultation.

All TACs, TACCs and allowances will be implemented for the 1 October 2016 fishing year, except for SFE and LFE 13 where the next fishing year commences on 1 February 2017.