



LOWER WAITAKI - SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE

**A MEETING of the LOWER WAITAKI - SOUTH COASTAL
CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE will be held as follows:**

Date: Wednesday 21 June 2017
Time: 1.00pm
Venue: Waimate Event Centre, Paul Street, Waimate

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Kate White (Chair)	Suzanne Eddington
Andrew Feierabend	Mark Giles (Deputy Chair)
Sandra Hampstead-Tipene	Andrew Hayes
Jeremy Holding	Mark Kingsbury
Miriam Morton	Bruce Murphy
Brent Packman	Elizabeth Rollinson
Ranui Ryan	Peter Scott

**LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY
ZONE COMMITTEE
Waimate Event Centre, Paul Street, Waimate
21 June 2017, 1.00pm**

No Time Page Item

Karakia and Welcome

- | | | | |
|---|--------|----|---|
| | 1.00pm | | Permanent Items |
| | | | Apologies |
| 1 | | 3 | Minutes – 17 May 2017 |
| | | | Matters Arising |
| | | | Declarations of Interest |
| | | 8 | Correspondence |
| | | | • Fish & Game |
| | | | • Environment Canterbury – David Bedford |
| | | | Regional Committee update |
| | | | Facilitator update |
| 2 | 1.20pm | | Zone Delivery |
| | | | Verbal update on progress – Chris Eccleston |
| 3 | 1.30pm | 13 | Zone Consents |
| | | | Update – Zella Smith |
| 4 | 1.45pm | 13 | Lower Waitaki |
| | | | Plan Change 5 Decision Briefing – Craig Davison |
| | 2.30pm | | Afternoon Tea |
| | | | South Coastal Canterbury |
| 5 | 2.45pm | 14 | Black Hole water quality results and actions – |
| | | | Shirley Hayward and Emily Anderson |
| 6 | 3.10pm | 19 | Plan Change 3 Implementation – Keitha Lamming |
| 7 | 3.30pm | | General Business / General Public |

LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF AN LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE WAIMATE EVENT CENTRE, WAIMATE ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2017, AT 1.00PM

PRESENT	Kate White (Chair, Community), Suzanne Eddington (Waihao Runanga), Sandra Hampstead-Tipene (Arowhenua Runanga), Mark Kingsbury (Community), Cr Miriam Morton (Waimate District Council), Bruce Murphy (Community), Brent Packman (Community), and Cr Peter Scott (Environment Canterbury) Andrew Feierabend (Meridian Energy), Liz Rollinson (Community), Cr Jeremy Holding (Waitaki District Council), Mark Giles (Deputy Chair, Community)
APOLOGIES	Andrew Hayes (Community), Ranui Ryan (Moeraki Runanga), Bruce Murphy (Community)
IN ATTENDANCE	Nic Newman (Zone Facilitator – ECan) Karalyn Reid (Committee Secretary, Waimate District Council)

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, and asked Peter Ramsden to open the meeting with a karakia. Cr Peter Scott also offered a karakia.

PERMANENT ITEMS

a) Apologies

Apologies were received from Andrew Hayes, Ranui Ryan and Bruce Murphy.

RESOLVED

LWSC17/10 Moved Cr Miriam Morton
Seconded Suzanne Eddington
“That the apologies are accepted.”
MOTION CARRIED

b) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1 c) Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

LWSC17/11 Moved Brent Packman
Seconded Mark Kingsbury
“That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2017 are adopted as a true and correct record.”
MOTION CARRIED

Matters Arising

- Hakataramea Sustainability Collective: Nic has provided a copy of the ZIP Targets to the Collective. ECan staff have met and have had discussions with the Collective
- Hakataramea Environmental Flow Regime: The Committee discussed removing the words 'consider the implications' of resolution LWSC 17/09 "That the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee supports requesting Environment Canterbury to consider the implications of bringing forward the review of the Hakataramea environmental flow regime earlier than 2023 to scope identified issues." Cr Peter Scott offered to look into the implications of this resolution and report back to the Committee.
- Hunter Downs Water: The Committee will be updated following the meeting on 28 May 2016.

c) Regional Committee Update

- Suzanne Eddington stated the Waihao Marae is communicating with ECan around issues with the mechanical opening of the Wainono box.
- Jeremy stated that areas of the aquatic weed lagarosiphon have been detected on Lake Aviemore which is of concern.

d) Correspondence

- A sympathy letter has been sent to the wife of Wayne Tipa – 28 April 2017

RESOLVED

LWSC17/12

Moved Cr Miriam

Seconded Liz Rollinson

"That the correspondence is approved."

MOTION CARRIED

e) Facilitator Update (Nic Newman)

- An update on water quality at the Black Hole will be presented to the next meeting
- Nic will email the Canterbury Swimming Survey Report when it is available to the Committee for feedback to ensure all the Zone's sites are identified
- The Lower Waitaki Zone Committee Annual Report has been presented to both the Waitaki District Council and Waimate District Council.

ZONE IMPLEMENTATION

2 Zone Team Update (Michael Hide and Chris Eccleston)

Michael Hide and Chris Eccleston provided a verbal update on the current projects underway. The Committee discussed increasing concerns with effluent management with a report will come to the Committee on dairy effluent management.

3 Immediate Steps Fund – Biodiversity Project Funding approval

Kennedy Lange, Biodiversity Officer provided a verbal update on projects as outlined in the agenda. The Committee discussed a need for more biodiversity staff resourcing.

RESOLVED:

LWSC17/13

Moved Suzanne Eddington

Seconded Sandy Hampstead-Tipene

"That the Committee request that Environment Canterbury consider additional biodiversity staff resourcing to deliver on community outcomes in (a) Wainono/South Coastal Canterbury and future work, and (b) Lower Waitaki Biodiversity due to commitments to the Wainono project and wider zone biodiversity values under threat."

MOTION CARRIED

WAITAKI STRATEGIC

Plan Change 5 to the Land & Water Regional Plan (Nic Newman)

- Committee members are invited to attend a briefing on the recommendations of the Hearing Commissioners for PC5 on 15 June 2017 at Environment Canterbury. Kate White, Brent Packman, Cr Miriam Morton, and Cr Jakki Guilford expressed interest in attending. Nic will email the Committee a reminder nearer to the time.
- A full briefing on the Plan Change 5 will be prepared for the June meeting.

Jet Boating on the Waitaki (Jet Boat Association)

John Mead and Graeme Richardt of the Jet Boat Association give a verbal report to the Committee on jet boating the Waitaki River highlighting issues such as the changing water level, accessibility and ramps. The Committee suggested the Jet boat Association talk with Meridian (the Community Fund) and the Lower Waitaki River Management Committee in relation to funding options for improved river access at SH1 site.

REGION-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION

5 Recreation and Amenity Priority Sites

Nic Newman asked the Committee for feedback for priority sites for action for recreation and amenity restoration.

The Committee highlighted:

Sites	Value/Importance	Issues
Black Hole	Swimming	EColi; willow clearance
Hakataramea	Camping/swimming	Freedom camping, access issues
Waihao Box	Swimming/Jet Boating/Rowing/fishing/kayaking	
Waitaki river mouth	Boating, walking, fishing, camping, white-baiting	Access issues
Maraewhenua	Camping, cultural/historical site	Freedom camping, access issues
Otaio Gorge	Camping, swimming	Willow control (upper Gorge)
Hook Beach	Fishing	Freedom campers, access issues

The meeting adjourned at 2.55pm for afternoon tea.
The meeting reconvened at 3.05pm.

SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY

6 How the Bits Fit Together (Nic Newman)

The Committee did a 'fitting together' exercise of around the Wainono Lagoon (pictured below).

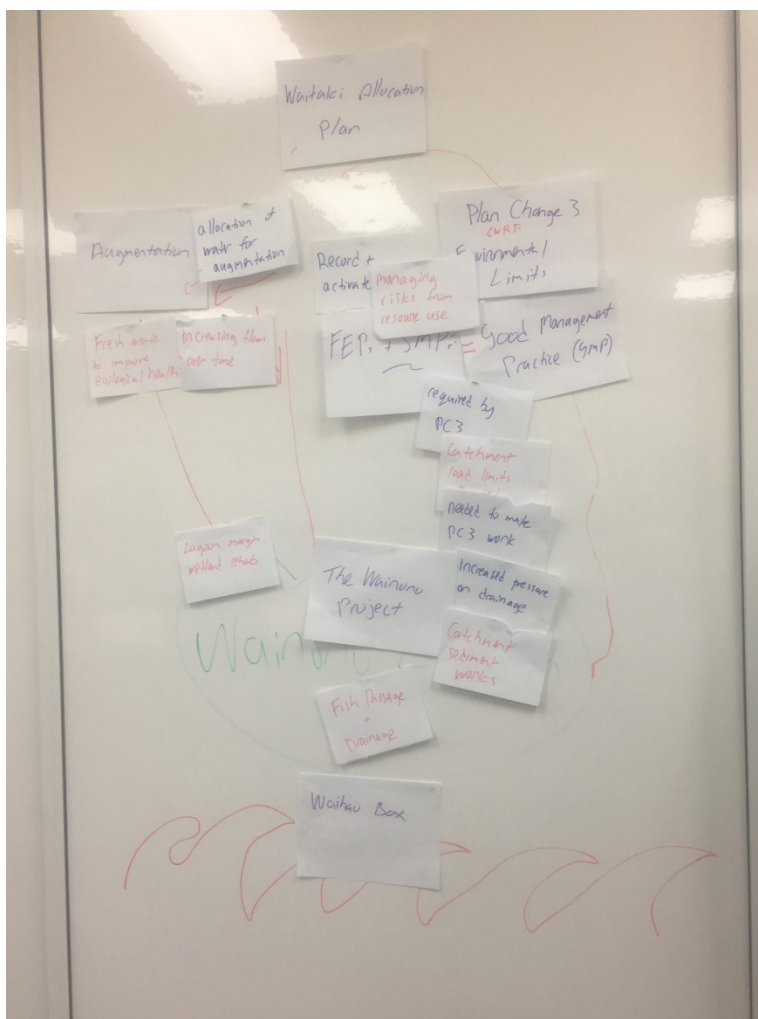


Photo 1: Nic's 'fitting-together' exercise
Supplied by: Jakki Guilford

GENERAL BUSINESS / GENERAL PUBLIC

Mapping – Paper Roads/Access: The Committee discussed the status of paper roads, in particular to river access. Cr Peter Scott reported on the information available on the current GIS mapping and zone maps and mentioned a project to digitize aerial maps. Cr Miriam Morton reported she is investigating the status of paper roads to access the Waitaki River on Waimate District Council aerial maps.

Wainono Water User Group Community Catchment Day: Colin Hurst and Roger Small reported a successful community field-day on sediment loss and soil management on Wigley's Farm. The Steering Group drafted a submission to ECan as part of Annual Plan, and will speak to commissioners next week requesting additional resources. The Chair

thanked Colin and Roger Small for their group's voluntary work advocating ECan's and the Zone Committee's work.

At the invitation of the Chair, Peter Ramsden shared a closing karakia.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.50pm.

K White
Chairperson



12 June 2017

Lower Waitaki Zone Committee
Attention: Kate White, Chair

Dear Kate and Lower Waitaki Zone Committee

Earlier Review of the Environmental Flow Regime for the Hakataramea River

On 19 April, Central South Island Fish and Game (CSI) attended the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee meeting and made a presentation to the Committee outlining our concerns for the Hakataramea River. We discussed the current planning framework and timelines for review of the Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan (WCWARP). We noted that ECan's implementation programme gives a 2023/24 "notification" date for the Waitaki Sub-Regional. Hearings and implementation would add additional years before a change in flows is realised. This puts rules in the Plan directly related to the Hakataramea well over the 10-year review period specified by statute, in fact, closer to 20 years.

We stated at the meeting that we believe that the current flow regime does not meet the objectives and policies set out in the WCWARP and in particular those related to fish passage and habitats including those of invertebrates, birds, and fish. These values are not adequately provided for as set out in Objective 1 and associated Policy 4. Further, the environmental, recreational and amenity values of the river continue to decline. At the meeting CSI sought support from the Zone Committee as follows:

CSI Fish and Game seeks support from the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee for an earlier review of the environmental flow regime for the Hakataramea River.

For information the current flow regime set out in the WCWARP specifies a minimum flow (main highway NIWA recorder) of:

- September to March – 500 l/s
- April to August – 750 l/s.

Expert evidence given at recent hearings states that the Hakataramea flow regime does not adequately provided for the habitat, feeding requirements, and passage of fish, salmonids in particular, and the dependant salmonid recreational fisheries in the Hakataramea and Lower Waitaki River (J Hayes, Cawthron, Infinity EC hearing, 2016).

Further expert evidence notes that native fish communities in the Hakataramea include migratory species, such as long-finned eels and lowland long-jaw galaxias. Both are considered threatened and low-disconnected flows and their associated consequences can have detrimental effects (D Gray, ECan, Infinity EC hearing, 2016).

We note from the Zone Committee minutes that the resolution passed does not directly support an earlier review of the environmental flows but rather asks ECan to "consider the implications

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Central South Island Region

32 Richard Pearse Drive, PO Box 150, Temuka 7948, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 615 8400 Facsimile (03) 615 8401
www.fishandgame.org.nz

of bringing forward the review". CSI believes that this is a significantly weaker resolution and question that it will have a meaningful outcome particularly to the Waitaki/Hakataramea community. To our minds *considering the implications* is simply stating what ECan would do anyway in terms of scheduling and undertaking an earlier review. They could easily say that they have considered the implications as maybe, too hard, or won't change the schedule, and they would have satisfied the resolution of your Committee. We wonder what the community would say if asked, would they like to see the environmental health of the Haka restored. We believe they would and that the Zone Committee should be taking a stronger advocacy position on their behalf. Put another way, does the Zone Committee believe that the community simply wants the implications considered by ECan? Or would they be supportive of an earlier review?

We also believe that the Zone Committee should reconsider the resolution in light of the recent treatment of the Hakataramea. The Hakataramea has suffered significant abuse over the last couple of years. The community was very vocal about this abuse! Do you believe that the community will be happy waiting another 6 to 7 years for a review to be "initiated" let alone completed? And over which time the inadequate minimum flow will continue to degrade the environmental values of the river? And particularly when the "environment" is a First Order Priority under the CWMS (along with only customary use, community supplies and stockwater).

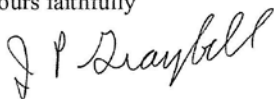
To give a visual impression of the inadequacy of the environmental flow and show the degradation we attach a photo taken 14 December 2015. This is at a site approximately 200 metres below Wrights Crossing at a flow of 640 l/s (NIWA recorder) and therefore "better" than the specified minimum flow of 500 l/s. We would ask "do you believe that this represents a healthy river?" and further what would the community say if asked the same question and to accept this condition for perhaps another 10 years?

CSI respectfully request that the Zone Committee reconsider its resolution of 19 April in light of the inadequacies and shortfalls that "requesting the implications" implies. Factors that we believe necessitate this reconsideration include: the degraded state of the Hakataramea at current minimum flows, review of the environmental flows is well outside the statutory review period, the Haka has suffered significant abuse over the last several years, the community's aspirations under the CWMS targets, and meeting the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014.

A resolution that will better address the shortcomings and better support the aspirations of the community is as follows:

That the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee supports requesting Environment Canterbury to bring forward the review of the Hakataramea River flow regime.

Yours faithfully



J P Graybill
Chief Executive

Cc: David Bedford, ECan Chairman

Date: 14 December 2015

Time: 2.19pm

Site: ~200m below Wrights Crossing

Flow: 640l/s at NIWA site (MHB)

Minimum flow at this time is 500 l/s



16 May 2017

Kate White
Zone Committee Chair
Lower Waitaki South Coastal

By email: k.white@xtra.co.nz

Dear Kate



Customer Services
P. 03 353 9007 or 0800 324 636

PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

P. 03 365 3828
F. 03 365 3194
E. ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz

www.ecan.govt.nz

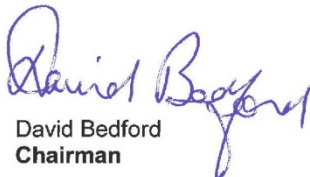
I am sorry that you were unable to attend the Council meeting on 13 April to present the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Zone Committee Annual Report, and appreciate the long distance it would have taken you to travel to attend.

Peter Scott did an admirable job of presenting the report on your behalf and increasing the Council's understanding of your achievements.

I look forward to our continued collaborative work to implement the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Zone Implementation Programme.

Thank you for your leadership of the Zone Committee and please pass on to the committee the Council's appreciation of the work it performs on behalf of the community.

Yours sincerely



David Bedford
Chairman

AGENDA ITEM NO	3	SUBJECT MATTER Update from Consent Planning
REPORT BY Zella Smith, Environment Canterbury		
DATE OF MEETING 21 June 2017		

Purpose of Report

This agenda item is a chance to update the Zone Committee on key projects relating to consent processing.

Consents Overview

Between 01/03/2017 – 31/05/2017 18 new consents and changes to existing consents were processed in the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone.

Of these, there were 9 discharge permits (one of which was for a consent for the use of dust suppressant which covers the entire region), 4 land use consents (two for farming), and 5 water permits.

Key Consent Jobs

- Infinity Investments Water Permit (CRC15577) – Hakataramea River
This application was refused at a hearing on 4 September. The decision was appealed by the applicant and the decision was upheld at the Environment Court. The applicant appealed to the High Court. We are waiting on a date for the High Court hearing, and working on narrowing the points of appeal.
- Hunter Downs
Hunter Downs hold a water permit and nutrient management consent. Pre-application consultation has begun in regard to the augmentation of Wainono Lagoon, and we are aware consents relating to infrastructure may be lodged within the next few months.
- Lower Waitaki Water Permits
We are working with Meridian and WIC on undertaking a review of consents in the Lower Waitaki to bring them in line with Plan Change 3 to the Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan.
- Oceania Dairy Ltd
Have applied for consent CRC175783 to take more water for the factory supply.
- Hakataramea
Have had an approach from the Sustainability Collective in regard to works they wish to clearing a section of gorse and broom at the mouth end of the river on the eastern side to enable access for picnics, swimming. Consent is required and we are organising a site visit.

AGENDA ITEM NO	4	SUBJECT MATTER
		Plan Change 5 Decision Briefing
REPORT BY		
Craig Davison		
DATE OF MEETING		
21 June 2017		

Purpose

To inform the Zone Committee on the Hearing Commissioners Recommendations on Plan Change 5 to the Land and Water Regional Plan (Nutrient Management and Waitaki)

Action Required

The committee will receive a presentation on the recommendations from the Hearing Commissioners on Plan Change 5, which will focus on the changes relevant to the Waitaki. The recommendations on Plan Change 5 are scheduled to be presented to Council on Thursday 15 June. If these recommendations are adopted, they become the council's decision on Plan Change 5. The committee will be updated on this matter at the meeting.

Background to Plan Change 5

Plan Change 5 is a plan change to the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) which amends the region wide section of the LWRP (Part A), and sub region Section 15B (Waitaki).

Part A of PC5 amends the nutrient management provisions by incorporating industry agreed quantifiable Good Management Practices (GMPs); replacing numerical nitrogen loss permitted activity thresholds with narrative ones, and introduces additional provisions relating to Farm Environment Plan (FEP) auditing.

Part B of PC5 applies the same principles as Part A to manage activities within the Waitaki catchment, taking into account the outcomes expressed in the Upper and Lower Waitaki ZIP Addendums.

Timeline

If the recommendations of the Hearing Commissioners are adopted by Council on 15 June, they will be publicly notified on 24 June. From this date, an appeal period of 15 working days is open for any person who made a submission on Plan Change 5 as notified.

These details will be confirmed with the Zone Committee at the Zone Committee meeting.

A copy of the Council agenda, including the recommendations from the Hearing Commissioners on Plan Change 5 can be found through the link below.

<https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/council-and-committee-meetings/?meeting-type=19>

AGENDA ITEM NO	5	SUBJECT MATTER Waihao River – Black Hole <i>E. coli</i> investigation 2016/17 summer
REPORT BY Shirley Hayward, Senior CWMS Surface Water Quality Scientist		
DATE OF MEETING 21 June 2017		

Background

The Waihao River has several popular swimming sites that are monitored by Environment Canterbury for faecal indicator bacteria (*E. coli*) and toxic algae (*Phormidium*) weekly during summer months. Monitoring of *E. coli* at the Black Hole off Mt Harris Rd over the past 18 years has shown variable but generally poor water quality with respect to faecal contamination (Figure 1).

Following the *Microbiological water quality guidelines for marine and freshwater recreational areas* (MfE & MoH, 2003) the Black Hole site has been assigned a Suitability for Recreation Grade (SFRG) of 'Very Poor' for several years. This grade is based on a rolling 5-year *E. coli* concentration dataset and an assessment of on-site risks.

Because of the persistent nature of poor water quality at the Black Hole site, an investigation was initiated to identify any hotspots of faecal contamination and utilise specialist molecular and chemical techniques for identifying the faecal contamination source(s). ESR provides these specialist techniques services, collectively called Faecal Source Tracking¹.

What we did

In the 2016/17 summer an investigation was initiated to:

- Identify contributing upstream reaches or hot spot sources of *E. coli* contamination to the Black Hole. This involved weekly sampling of four additional sites on the Waihao River upstream of Black Hole (Figure 2).
- Faecal source tracking analyses of samples collected from the Black Hole site. Samples were collected weekly at the same time as the *E. coli* sample collection, and sent to ESR for analyses.

What we found

E. coli concentrations at the Black Hole site did not exceed the 550 n/100ml action trigger level in the 2016/17 summer, but did have several elevated results (above 260 n/100ml). With the exception of one occasion, *E. coli* concentrations at the two sites immediately upstream of Black Hole (North and South Branches at Waihao Forks) were lower than at the Black Hole site, and were below the alert trigger level of 260 n/100 ml. This indicates that elevated *E. coli* concentrations at the Black Hole were not driven by excess faecal contamination inputs from the upper tributaries.

However, high levels of faecal contamination did occur on occasions at some upstream sites. The Quambys Rd site had 687 *E. coli*/100ml on the 8 December and Waihaorunga Rd site had 613 *E. coli*/100 ml on 21 February. These incidences of elevated *E. coli* levels did not appear to significantly affect concentrations at downstream sites on the same day, and it's likely that die-off and dilution meant that downstream sites were not affected. There are

¹ <http://www.esr.cri.nz/water-science/our-work/faecal-source-tracking/>

a number of factors that affect the survival and transport of E. coli in waterways, and while these bacteria tend to die off rapidly in rivers, they can be deposited in sediments and transported downstream some time later.

Faecal source tracking analyses are not yet completed. We expect a report on these results in July from ESR.

What it means

While some intermittent and localised faecal contamination occurs in the upper Waihao River, this does not appear to be the main cause of the poor water quality grading for the Black Hole site. It is anticipated that the faecal source tracking information will be able to shed light on whether these localised sources are water fowl (which have been observed at times at the Black Hole), human or grazing livestock.

We are also working with landowners in the immediate vicinity of Black Hole to identify any critical source areas and management options. Further information will be presented at the meeting.

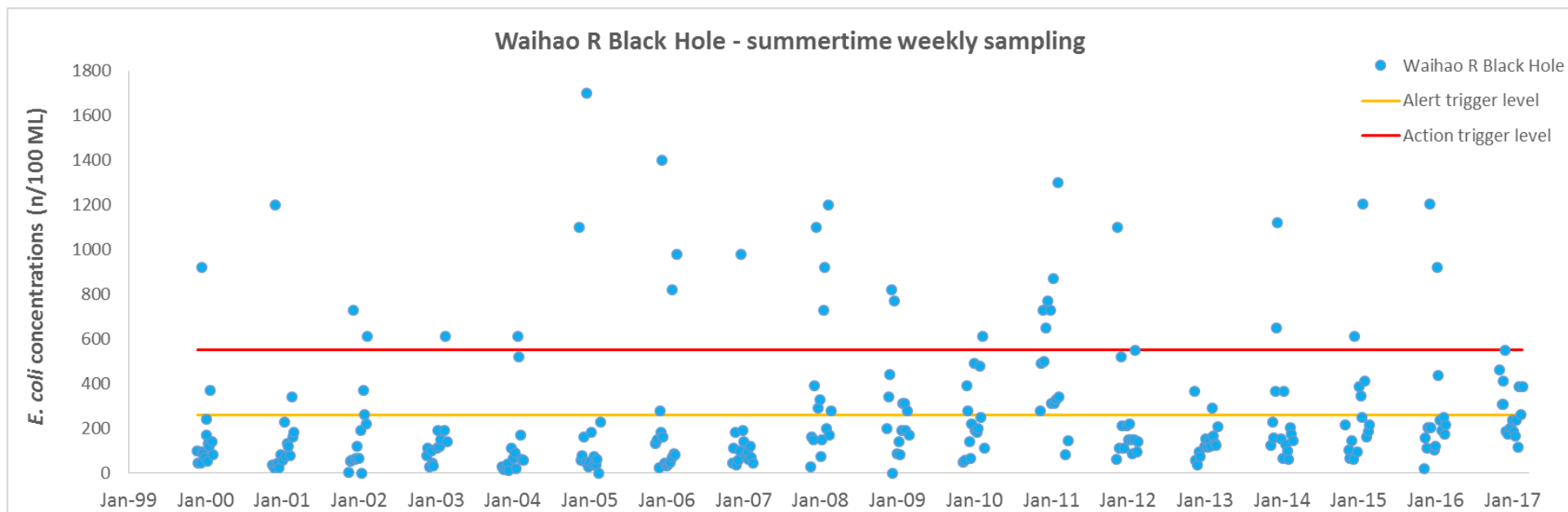


Figure 1 History of summertime *E. coli* concentrations at the Waihao River at Black Hole. Samples are collected weekly from December to early March each summer. The orange horizontal line is the alert trigger level for initiating more frequent sampling. The red horizontal line is the action trigger level for initiating warnings against swimming at that site.

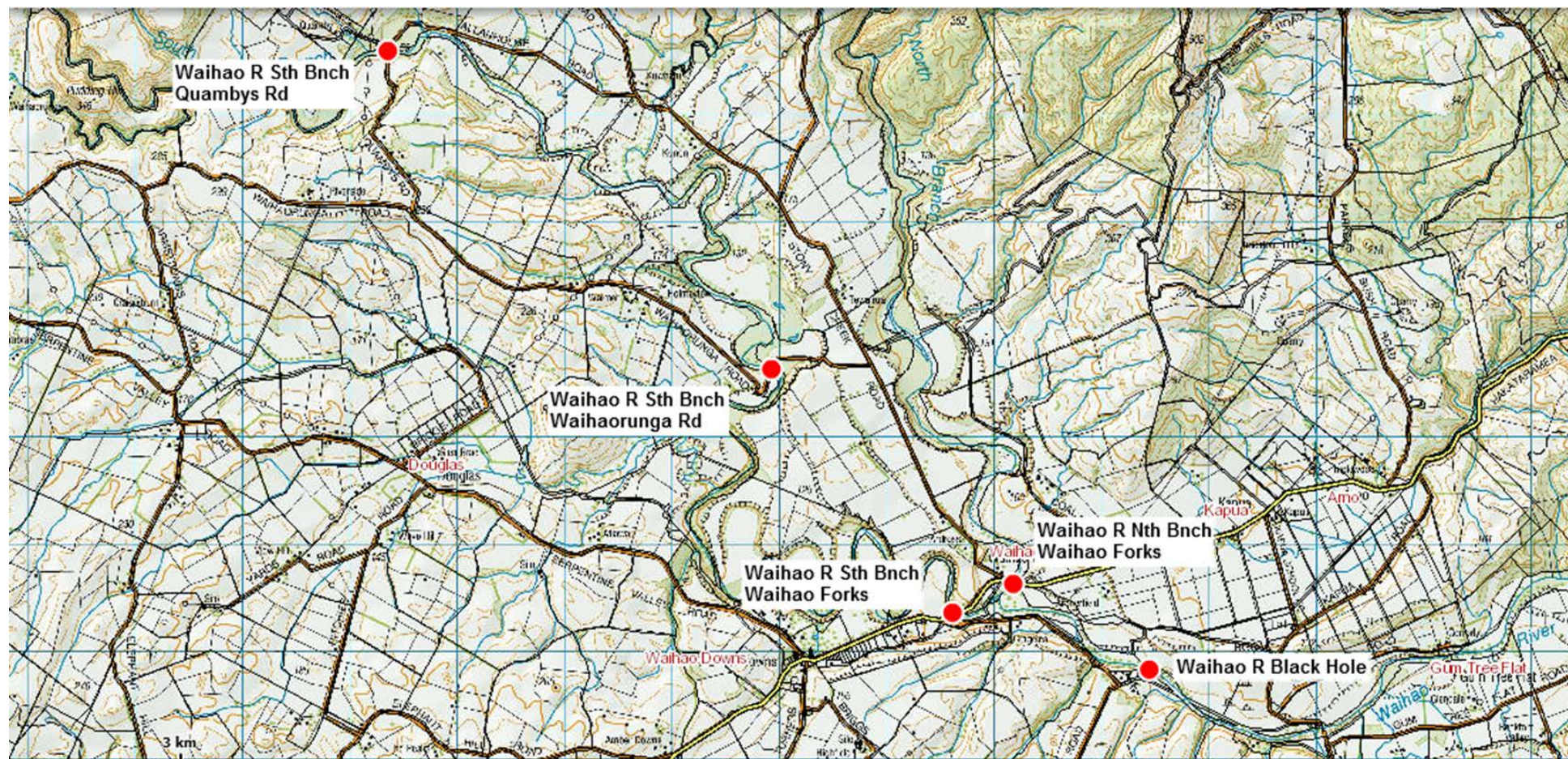


Figure 2 Location of Waihao River additional *E. coli* investigation sampling sites

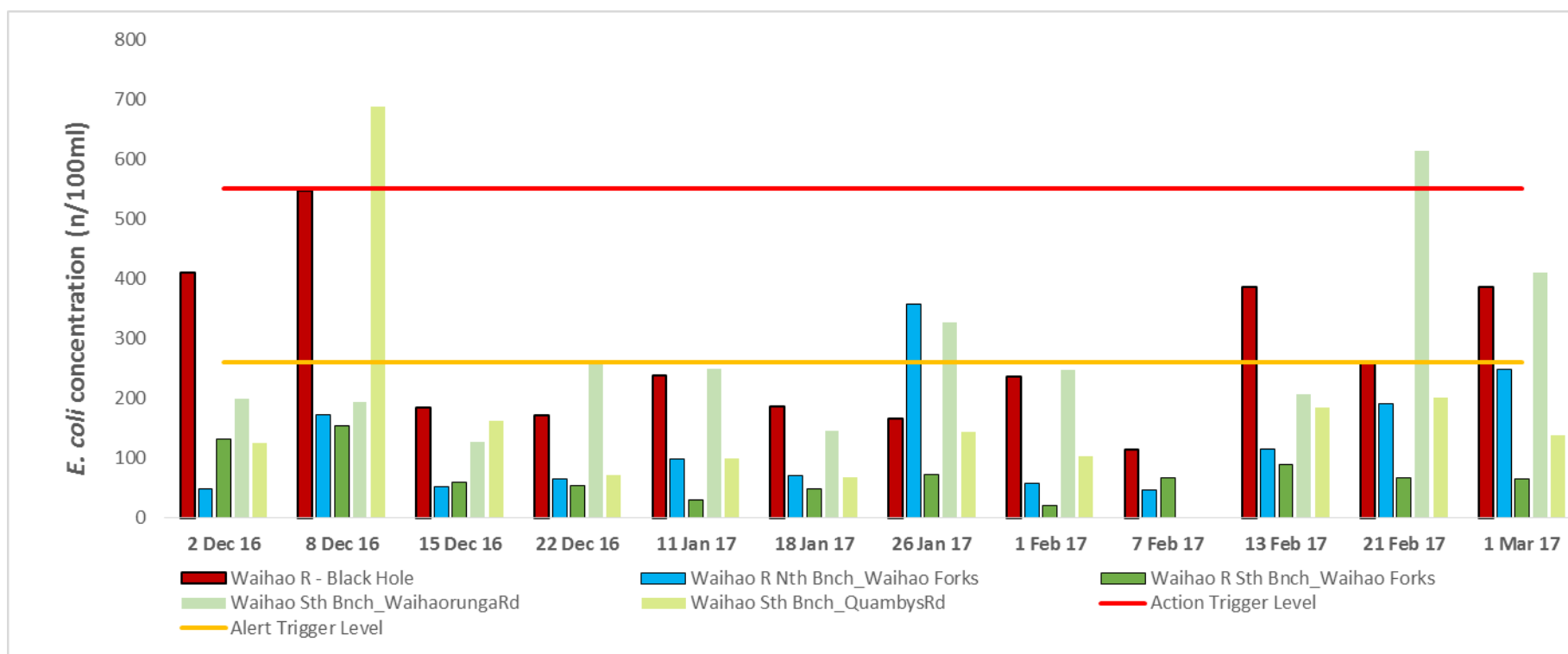


Figure 3 *E. coli* concentrations for 2016/17 summer weekly sampling of Waihao River at and above the Black Hole

AGENDA ITEM NO	6	SUBJECT MATTER
		SCC - PC3 Implementation update
REPORT BY		
Keitha Laming (Zone Implementation)		
DATE OF MEETING		
21 June 2017		

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Zone Committee with an update about activities in South Coastal Canterbury related to Plan Change 3 and wider implementation.

Action Required

To receive the update and provide any feedback on activities.

Updates

PC3 Appeal

The appeal from Federated Farmers South Canterbury was withdrawn on 31 May. This followed some productive discussions with the appellants, and as a result of these discussions, staff have agreed to undertake some further technical and planning work. This includes -

- Further developing some scenarios around how PC3 applies to different farming types, particularly how the updated Flexibility and Maximum Caps apply, and the likely consent requirements
- For each scenario, showing how PC3 will help implement the community outcomes
- Some further testing of OVERSEER files and the updating process.

We will be carrying out this work over the next few weeks, and reporting the results back to the appellants. The work, particularly the farm scenarios, will also be useful in explaining PC3 to the community.

N Check tool for plan implementation

ECan has formally approved N check regionally for use in certain circumstances, in SCC these are:

- To determine whether you need a consent (i.e. above or below a nitrogen loss threshold).
- Therefore, under PC3 this use relates to determining if your N loss calculation (kg N/ha/Yr) is above or below the appropriate PC3 sub catchment flexibility caps.
- If a farmer completes N Check and finds that their N loss is above the flexibility cap then they may be required to gain consent. A full Overseer® nutrient budget will be required for a consent application – there is an exception to this for certain farm types see below;
- N check is approved for use in the consent process for horticulture and arable farmers until 2020. This exception has been granted as Overseer® does not currently model the complexity of these systems accurately, and there isn't an alternative model available.

This option will provide a tool for low intensity farmers to be able to calculate their nitrogen loss figures, and to compare their losses to the flexibility cap, and therefore determine if they require consent. There are some factors to consider when inputting farming systems into N check i.e. how to set up blocks etc. and ECan will be providing some further information to farmers and rural professionals on how to use N check in the Zone.

Waihao Wainono Catchment Group: Soil Management Field day, Hook

Supported by FAR, Te Runanga o Waihao, and Farmlands

This was a well-attended day with about 50 farmers coming along at a busy time of year. The presenters from Plant and Food Research and Agrilink did an excellent job and kept the day focused on practical solutions that farmers can undertake that are backed up by scientific research which mitigate phosphorous and sediment losses to waterways. As part of the communications strategy articles about the field-day were also placed in the Timaru Herald, and Rural Life.

Wintering Campaign

ECan is progressing the collateral to support a wintering campaign in the following months, which we will be working with industry to inform farmers about practises to minimise nutrient and sediment runoff when feeding of crops this winter. This is also supported by a ECan “strategic winter grazing” editorial piece that will be running in the local papers this month.

Strategic Communications Plan

ECan has completed the farmer social research this month, and is working through the report findings and recommendations to incorporate these into our approach to communications and implementing PC3 in the Zone. While the larger communications project is prepared this month, we will continue to keep a timely and appropriate media presence in the local papers. The next editorial that has been prepared is a profile of the local ECan team to help farmers identify “who” they can contact at ECan to find out further information and advice about on farm issues.