

## ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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

**DATE:** Tuesday 27 June 2017

**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  
Mrs Angela Cushnie  
Mr Gordon Guthrie  
Mr Cargill Henderson  
Mr Bill Thomas  
Mr John Waugh  
Mr Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)  
Mr Karl Russell (Te Runanga o Arowhenua)  
Cr Stuart Wilson (Ashburton District Council)  
Councillor David Caygill (Environment Canterbury)

**Zone Facilitator**

Olivia Smith

Tel: 027 886 3949

[olivia.smith@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:olivia.smith@ecan.govt.nz)

**Environment Canterbury**

**Committee Advisor**

Louise Glennon

Tel: 307 9637

[louise.glennon@adc.govt.nz](mailto:louise.glennon@adc.govt.nz)

**Ashburton District Council**

**Tangata Whenua Facilitator**

Peter Te Rangihiroa Ramsden

Tel: 027 553 3140

[peter.ramsden@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:peter.ramsden@ecan.govt.nz)

**Environment Canterbury**



## 4 Register of Interests

Representative's Name and Interest	
Chris Allen	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 with responsibility for RMA, water and biodiversity Member of Ashburton River Liaison Group
David Caygill	Environment Canterbury Councillor Chair - Business NZ's Energy Council Chair – Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Water & Nutrient Allocation
Ben Curry	Chief Executive Officer – Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited Chair of Recreation and Amenities Working Group Committee
Gordon Guthrie	CEO Electricity Ashburton Limited (t/a EA Networks) Director – Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation (incl. Water Utilities Limited) Farming partnership – Winchmore (Ashburton North branch)
Karl Russell	Arowhenua Marae Trustee
Arapata Reuben	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	Farm owner of Longbeach Estate Ltd (sheep, beef, lambs, arable, dairy) Member of Eiffelton Irrigation Scheme
Stuart Wilson	Ashburton District Councillor and Chair of Service Delivery Committee A son who is a Director of Mayfield Hinds Irrigation Co and RDR
John Waugh	Member of the Ashburton Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society



**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 30 May 2017, commencing at 11.35pm in the Council Chamber, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

### **Present**

Councillor David Caygill, Cr Stuart Wilson, Bill Thomas (Chair) Ben Curry, Angela Cushnie, Gordon Guthrie, Cargill Henderson, Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga) (11.41am) Karl Russell (Arowhenua Runanga) (11.37am) and John Waugh

### **In attendance**

Environment Canterbury: Olivia Smith (Facilitator), Ashburton District Council: Mayor Donna Favel, Crs Bell, Brown (11.41am), Lovett, Price and Rawlinson, Louise Glennon (Business Support Officer – minutes) Four members of the public attended the meeting.

#### **1 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2 Apologies**

Chris Allen

#### **3 Extraordinary Business**

Janine Holland introduced herself to the Committee as the new Zone Manager for Ashburton, covering Donna Lill's maternity leave.

#### **4 Register of Interests**

None

#### **5 Confirmation of Minutes**

**That** the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 18 April 2017, be taken as read and confirmed.

Thomas/Caygill

Carried

#### **5.1 Matters Arising**

8 Ben confirmed that he was happy to continue as the Regional Committee Representative. In addition, he has agreed to continue to be the alternate for John Waugh on the Rakaia Enhancement Fund.

14.1 The date for the hearing on the RDR consent has been adjourned until late October/early November.

#### **6 Correspondence**

Letter received from Grant Davey regarding the Golders report written for the MAR Governance Group. The Director of Science and colleagues at ECan met with Grant last week to discuss his concerns. Grant and the science staff discussed some differing views on how some data can be used in the modelling and the methodology used to obtain data. It was explained that the geostatistical modelling was a new tool however it was agreed that it's only useful if it is used appropriately. To ensure it is communicated appropriately, ECan will add a note to the report on the website and will have a discussion with Golders. It was noted that to date, the geostatistical modelling and associated report has not been used by the Zone Committee to make any decisions. Minutes from the meeting will be circulated to group for information.

Letter received from Alistair Morrison regarding the perceived over allocation of deep well aquifers through allowing the transfer from shallow stream depleting aquifers. It was explained that the Zone Committee and independent hearing commissioners recommended this swap be enabled. At the time, it was acknowledged that this would place some additional pressure on the deep aquifer however it was considered an equitable solution. The only consent holders that are eligible to swap to deep groundwater are those that are considered hydrologically connected in Plan Change 2, of which there are very few. There will be a review in 5 years' time on how effective it is with a full review in 10 years' time. To date there are only about 5 applications that Patrick is aware of.

A reply will be sent to Alistair with input from Patrick Durney to include clarification on water switch.

A response has now been received from ECan regarding monitoring support for the MAR project. They have confirmed they will continue to provide support for years' 2-5 of the project. No formal confirmation has been received from Ashburton District Council to date, however they have advised that they are happy with the use of up to 125 litres/second of unused consented stockwater from the Rangitata River until 1 June 2018.

**Post meeting note:** *Following the 18 May Council meeting Councillors agreed to reinstate up to 500 litres/second, and this resolution will be put forward for amendment at the next Council meeting on 29 June.*

## **7 Facilitator Update**

Olivia advised that she and Bill attended the ECan council meeting last week to represent the Zone Committee's annual report.

## **8 Immediate Steps Fund New Projects for Consideration**

The committee have funding for \$32,500 for the year, with funding requests for \$40,000.

Ashburton River Lower Trapping Project request is \$7,475 from the \$11,475 overall cost. Funding would be for 1 year and includes costs for buying traps and bait.

Blink Bonnie Restoration Project request is for \$22,520 with the total cost being \$36,990. The owners are contributing \$6,600 and QE2 are contributing nearly \$8,000 for fencing and weed control.

Davies Limestone Creek Stage 1 request is for \$9,980 with a total cost of \$24,995.

It was agreed that the Committee wish to support all three projects, however it was noted that there is a shortfall of \$7,475. On this basis it was agreed to fund all of the projects with the shortfall coming out of the 2017/18 budget and the project work relating to the shortfall will be held over until the new financial year.

**That** the Committee approve all three projects with the shortfall in funding to come from 2017/18 budget and any associated work be held over until the new financial year.

Thomas/Curry

Carried

It was then agreed to defer discussion on the Immediate Steps Fund: Background of Priority Areas item until the next meeting due to time constraints today.

## **9 Draft Report on River and Lake Swimming for the Canterbury Region**

Ben advised the group that he is on the committee for the Recreation and Amenities Working Group. He then spoke to the report prepared by Environment Canterbury staff member, Anita Fulton.

The report attachments have been taken from a draft document and are not finalised. The Committee was then asked to provide feedback on the document to check accuracy of sites and identify any sites missing. It was agreed that Olivia would collate feedback and she would send out an email shortly with the updated document for comment to be provided by end of next week.

## **10 Priority Recreation and Amenity Restoration Sites**

The Regional Committee are after a broad view and Ben suggested people pick their top 5 sites and email through to Olivia. This is to be community view rather than individual and in context with the Water Management Strategy. This is to cover not just swimming but all recreational activities. Details of their chosen sites with a brief explanation of why they are important and any ideas on actions that can be taken to improve and enhance. The list will be reviewed at the next meeting and a decision on the next step will be taken then.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held on Tuesday 27 June 2017.

The meeting concluded at 12.31pm.

Dated this 27 day of June 2017 \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

## 6 Correspondence

### 6.1 Inward Correspondence

#### 6.1.1 Letter from Forest & Bird



Royal Forest and Bird Protection  
Society of New Zealand Inc.

**Ashburton Branch:**  
PO Box 460,  
Ashburton 7740

2 June 2017

**To:** Ashburton Water Zone Committee members  
Councillors, Ashburton District Council

**Cc:** Jen Miller, Forest & Bird Canterbury & West Coast manager  
Councillors, Environment Canterbury

Dear Zone Committee members & Councillors

#### 1. Obligation to raise minimum flow of the Ashburton River

Forest & Bird is extremely concerned about flows in the Ashburton River. We would like to ask the Ashburton District Council to confirm what progress has been made towards meeting its obligation to raise the minimum flow of the Ashburton River to 6 cumecs at SH1 by 2023.

#### 2. Reduction in stockwater take

There has been considerable discussion about the closure of some sections of the stockwater race system and we know some consents for stockwater have already been surrendered. The reduction of the stockwater take in the Ashburton catchment to no more than 2.9 cumecs by 1 July 2023 (Policy 13.4.1 in the Land and Water Regional Plan) provides an opportunity for ADC to meet its obligations and increase the minimum flow of the Ashburton River by releasing water no longer needed for stockwater.

We also note that the LWRP, policy 13.4.6, says that the water resulting from any surrendered surface water and stream depleting groundwater takes in the Ashburton River/Hakatere catchment will not be reallocated and will be left in the river, until such time as the catchment is no longer over allocated.

The natural flow of the Ashburton River is estimated to be about 30 cumecs and so the target of a minimum flow of 6 cumecs by 2023, and the delayed target of 10 cumecs by 2033, is not a particularly ambitious goal which does not even get close to restoring the natural flow of the river.



The Ashburton River is a nationally significant braided river and we would like to remind Council and the Zone Committee of its obligations to the Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy (Goal 1 of which is to protect and maintain the health of all significant habitats and ecosystems), and its commitments to biodiversity under the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.

### 3. Water for Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)

We are concerned that there has been a request for water for further Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) trials before the current trial has been completed and without a comprehensive plan.

The current MAR trial was established to run for 5 years and the results should be properly analysed before further trials begin. Extending the MAR trials should only be done after analysis has been made and should go through the proper consents process with the opportunity for public input.

We are aware the present MAR trial uses unused stockwater water from the Rangitata River delivered by the Valetta Irrigation Scheme.

### 4. Conclusion

Forest & Bird would like to see the Zone Committee and the Ashburton District Council meet its obligation to raise the minimum flow of the Ashburton River to 6 cumecs by 2023 and 10 cumecs by 2033 by using unused stock water.

Further, we would expect that no further water be granted to extend the MAR trial until the current trial is finished and results properly analysed.

A report on progress towards meeting the minimum flow targets would be useful.

Yours faithfully

Mary Ralston

For the committee, Ashburton branch of Forest & Bird

# Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 27 June 2017  
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee  
From Patrick Durney  
Subject Hakatere/Ashburton River Flow Regime: Technical Modelling

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## 9 Hakatere/Ashburton River Flow Regime: Technical Modelling

### Purpose

To update the Ashburton Zone Committee on technical modelling to assess the effectiveness of the Hakatere/Ashburton River flow regime.

### Background

In 2012, the Ashburton Zone Committee developed recommendations for a flow regime for the Ashburton River (refer to ZIP Recommendation 1.2.8)

These recommendations informed the development of a plan change to the Land and Water Regional Plan. Independent hearing commissioners considered the proposed flow regime and issued a decision. The decision included a minimum flow of 6 cumecs in 2023 and 10 cumes in 2030.

Improving the ecosystem health of the Ashburton river is a priority for the Ashburton Zone committee. A key lever for improving river health, is river flows. The river is of great significance to the community and various parties have expressed concern as to whether the outcomes for the river will be achieved.

In late 2016, the zone committee met for a workshop to discuss the flow regime for the Ashburton River. This discussion including an overview of the flow regime, numbers/expiry of surface water and connected groundwater consents, and a brief discussion on possible tools/actions.

### Recap on Key Messages from Workshop

#### 1. Current consents have differing minimum flows conditions

There are 52 surface water (SW) consents and 96 groundwater (GW) consents that are hydraulically connected to the Ashburton river. All SW consents include a minimum flow (many have a min flow of about 3 cumecs), whilst only 6 of the hydraulically connected GW consents have minimum flows.

#### 2. Consents expire at various dates

Majority of the SW consents expire post 2023 while majority of the GW consents expire post 2033. When a consent expires, the consent holder will apply to renew their consent and the new minimum flows will apply. Until this time, consent holders will continue to take in accordance with their current minimum flow.

Further technical work is required to fully understand the extent of these changes on user reliability and river flows.

#### 3. Need to evaluate the effectiveness of the flow regime and how it can be implemented.

A relatively simplistic model was used to inform the development of the flow regime. To undertake a robust assessment of the effectiveness of the flow regime, an up-to-date integrated catchment scale model is required.

### **Proposal for Technical Modelling**

Technical work to inform the limit setting process for the Ashburton- Rakaia has begun. A key part of this work is assessing how effective the current rules are at delivering community outcomes.

As part of this technical work, staff propose to update the Ashburton River component of the integrated catchment scale model developed for Hinds Catchment in Plan Change 2. The update of this model will include:

- research undertaken by Canterbury University on gains and losses on the South Branch of the Ashburton River
- radon work undertaken by GNS
- concurrent gauging undertaken by Ecan hydrology staff.

Updating this model will enable a robust assessment of the existing flow regime. The model will be used to:

- quantify the level of stream depletion from potentially hydraulically connected wells
- assess available supply vs demand from surface water takes under the new flow regime
- assess the potential gains in river flow from deepening shallow hydraulically connected wells

It is intended that technical staff will undertake this work over the next calendar.

### **Recommendation**

The committee note the technical work underway to better understand the effectiveness of the Ashburton River Flow regime.

### **Attachment**

ZIP recommendation 1.2.8 Hakatere/Ashburton River

	Aspect	Recommendation	Responsibility	Timetable	CWMS Target
1.2.8	Ensuring the Hakatere/Ashburton sub-regional chapter (of the Land and Water Regional Plan) provides for important values	<p><b>The Hakatere/Ashburton River sub-regional chapter must include flow and allocation regimes for the Hakatere/Ashburton River that provide for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River mouth to open particularly in key months of Sept- Nov and Jan-March/April.</li> <li>• Protection of North Branch flows particularly, September/October through to mid-December, and seek to sustain flows in autumn when possible.</li> <li>• Improved and protected in-stream habitat for indigenous fish, plants and vertebrates and improved and protected habitat for nesting, feeding and roosting braided river birds.</li> <li>• Restoration of the flow to 6 cumecs at SH1 as soon as possible.</li> <li>• No new consents for takes from surface water or connected ground water in the Ashburton river until the minimum flow regime is restored to 10 cumecs at SH 17.</li> <li>• Allow transfer of existing surface takes to deep groundwater or other supply. Flows retired from the river must be managed against the minimum flow.</li> <li>• Maintenance and/or increased reliability of water to current abstractors.</li> <li>• A portion of efficiency gains (from storage or changes in use) to be returned to the river by agreement with water user groups and/or controls on transfer and trading.</li> <li>• Improvements in water quality between SH1 and the river mouth to a standard that would enable contact recreation and ensure that fish are edible.</li> <li>• Integration of catchment nutrient load limits into the management of the river.</li> <li>• No significant threats to water quality &amp; quantity, wetlands, aquatic life and native vegetation from any intensification/modification of land use in the upper catchment or intermontane basin.</li> <li>• Spring-fed streams to provide high quality water to the Ashburton river.</li> </ul>	Environment Canterbury, Ashburton District Council	Flow Regime prepared by July 2012	This action will contribute to all CWMS targets

# Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 27 June 2017  
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee  
From  
Subject Recreation and Amenity Projects

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## 10 Recreation and Amenity Projects

### Purpose

To propose a way for the committee to connect with the community to identify and implement projects to enhance recreation and amenity values in the Ashburton zone.

### Background

Recreation and amenity is one of the ten targets in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. Over the past few years, this target hasn't received the same amount of attention as some of the other targets.

The Ashburton Zone Committee have several recommendations in their Zone Implementation plan (ZIP) about creating/ protecting/enhancing recreation and amenity values in the zone (e.g 1.2.4, 2.2.11, 2.2.15, 2.2.38, and 2.2.40)

The regional committee is encouraging zone committees to consider priority recreation and amenity sites in each zone which could benefit from some action. In May, the regional committee requested that the zone committee provide them with a list of priority recreation and amenity sites in their zone.

At the Ashburton zone committee meeting on the 30th May, the committee agreed to provide some ideas on recreation and amenity sites to the facilitator via email (refer to attached summary). These ideas have been provided to the regional committee with a note explaining that they are simply some initial ideas and that the committee may undertake further work to engage the wider community in identifying and implementing projects.

The facilitator has also asked members of the Ashburton zone team to consider sites they think could benefit from action (refer to attached summary).

### Proposal

Several committee members have expressed a desire to involve the wider community in the process. In response to this, it is proposed that the zone committee host a half day workshop with the community (i.e interested community groups, agencies and other stakeholders) to:

- seek further input on ideas of projects/actions
- agree on priority projects (that would be worthwhile to implement or further scope)
- develop next steps

### Recommendation

The committee support the proposal.

### Attachment

1. Summary of zone committee ideas
2. Summary of Zone Team ideas

## Summary of Zone Committee Ideas

- **Important to engage Whanau and the wider community** in discussions to identify priority sites and to brainstorm/ implement actions. These are important values and appropriate time/ emphasis needs to be given to this activity.
- **Wakanui Beach Site** - Great potential and ADC already spending time and money there, plus easy access for public and already known, could provide toilet facilities.
- Work in with ADC to create a **picnic area at the Rakaia Gorge (top bridge SH72)**. Top bridge SH72 has a lot of traffic and good location layby for drivers. Work on picnic area, walkway down to river, planting around access way to river.
- **Mt Hutt Bike Park** - A community collective has purchased the land and has the scope for development and other activities long term. At the moment recreational benefits are for locals and tourists at the base of Mt Hutt. I think it would be well worth getting in contact with the group and seeing what can be done to help and further develop
- **Hakatere Mouth** – Would benefit from a focus on the area around carpark/river mouth. This is an area which has a cycleway ending, so if it's more appealing, we'll get more people on bikes heading that way to have a look. It would be nice if the ride had a nice place to stop at the end. Simply tidying up rubbish, old tires etc. would be a great start, then maybe upgrading paths, railings etc? Some of this area is hard to access, but this could be improved perhaps. Also recent new article, saying the public carpark is closed due to erosion- is there an opportunity here?
- **Ashburton River at SH1** - left bank upstream and downstream of bridge, right bank downstream of bridge – this area is used by a lot of people, and has already had some great work done to put in recreational facilities (walkways, MTB tracks). Given the work already in place, it'd be nice to see it brought up to an even nicer standard. There would be room for planting, weed control, assistance to groups already working in this area to improve trails/trail quality.
- Maybe develop (somewhere in our river areas) an **easily assessable four wheel driving area** to encourage them away from more vulnerable sites.
- **High country lakes – communities/camping areas**. Maybe human waste discharge issues – especially at peak holiday times
- **Lake Hood** – multiple activities close to town.
- **River mouth communities**

## Summary of Zone Team Ideas

- The **swimming hole at Staveley**, may require maintenance and maybe some signage for people to use in summer.
- Springs on the **north branch Ashburton River**, some on ECAN land. May be timely now Thompsons Track is such a busy road with no rest areas. Possibly create board walks around the springs and a bit of interpretation.
- Putting in a **swimming hole above the bridges on Ashburton river**. Could make this part of gull project. Staff were planning to do this when we create island.
- **Rakaia Gorge**: New landowners (Ben Todhunter and Donna Field) are undertaking a conservation and recreational development there. It would be good to have ZC involvement.
- Find some other **springs on Ashburton River** and develop.

- The **Mt Hutt Bike park**. There is a QEII covenant, Pudding Hill Stream opportunity for adjacent recreational activity.
- The water race intake and excellent swimming hole at **Pudding Hill Stream**.
- **Limestone Quarry at Inverary**. Contains rare plants, fossils and great history. Could be tied in with a geological experience, coal mines, silica sand mine and limestone walk.
- **Lake Hood**
- Bike and walking tracks on both sides of the **river zone heading east from Ashburton**.
- **Ashburton Lakes area**, Clearwater and Heron.

## Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 27 June 2017  
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee  
From Janine Holland (Zone Manager)  
Subject 'Farming at Good Management Practice' Campaign Update

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### 11 'Farming at Good Management Practice' Campaign Update

#### Purpose

To update the committee on the regional 'Farming at Good Management Practice' campaign

#### Background

In May, Environment Canterbury launched a regional 'Farming at Good Management Practice' campaign. Stage 1 of this campaign involved sending Direct Mail Packs to landowners in the Ashburton Zone with more than >50ha of irrigation (see below table and attachments).

	Ashburton -Rakaia	Hinds
Arable	77	79
Hort	5	-
B&L	48	53
Dairy	54	54
Pork	5	-
Other	10	6
Total	199	192

The mail packs contain information about land use consent requirements, including farm environment plans, nutrient budgets, and how to access help. The following drop in sessions were held in the Ashburton zone to support landowners with this information:

- **22 May to 9 June** – Environment Canterbury Depot, 10am - 4pm weekdays
- **25 May** – Eiffelton Hall, 10am - 1pm
- **29 May** – Pendarves Hall, 10am - 1pm
- **30 May** – Hinds Community Centre, 10am - 1pm
- **1 June** – Chertsey Hall, 10am - 1pm

Stage 1 of the campaign is now complete. At the zone committee meeting the Zone Manager, Janine Holland, will update the committee on drop in session attendance and the number of land use consents that have been submitted. Janine will also explain what's involved in stage 2 of the campaign.



**Recommendation**

The committee

- receive the verbal update.
- Provide feedback on how to increase the success of the campaign.

**Attachments:**

- Mail pack sent to landowners in the Hinds catchment.
- Mail pack sent to landowners in Ashburton Zone (outside of Hinds Catchment)

**Ready to get your land use consent to farm? Nice one!**  
We'll help you get started, so you can get sorted this year.

## Dear Landowner

Are you aware of the new requirements under the Land and Water Regional Plan to control the effects of farming on water quality? Farmers now have a responsibility to farm within water quality limits, which is all about improving results in your local area.

Your farm may be one of many which now require a land use consent to farm. If it is, we can help you get underway.

## Why are consents now required?

Farming to Good Management Practice is now part of good business. More than 3000 Canterbury farmers have already completed Farm Environment Plans, ensuring a strong, resilient, profitable business while doing the right thing by the environment.

The agricultural industry is a key part of the Ashburton Zone, and it is important to our thriving community. However, our water resources are showing signs of stress. Nitrate concentrations in shallow groundwater and lowland and coastal streams are increasing, while water availability is decreasing.

Your community, led by your local Zone Committee, has created a vision for addressing these issues, while also sustaining a healthy economy and community. Collectively, we can achieve better environmental outcomes in Ashburton.

## Do you need a land use consent to farm?

In your area, consent is required if your current nitrogen losses are greater than 15 kilograms per hectare per year. A new website, [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm), has been developed to help farmers understand what farming to limits means for you. If you don't already know your nitrogen loss, use the link to NCheck, which will help you to do a quick calculation to determine if you are likely to need a land use consent or not. Simply identify your farm and NCheck will walk you through the process.

## What do you need to do?

What you do matters. If you haven't already, it's time to make a start, as from later this year our compliance visits will focus on farming consents as a priority.

However, there is plenty of help available, and we will stay in contact with you to provide all the assistance you need along the way. Overleaf we have outlined the key steps you need to take, and the support available from across the farming sector – the people you can call to help you take your next step.

Thanks for taking the time to get this done. It will mean a lot for our local lakes and rivers, and will ensure you get the most out of your land from generation to generation.

Yours sincerely



**Donna Lill**  
Zone Manager  
0800 324 636

Ready to apply?

# The five steps to getting the thumbs up.

## Determine whether you need a land use consent to farm

To determine your nitrogen losses, use OVERSEER®, or the NCheck tool at [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm).

## Prepare your nitrogen baseline

All farms requiring a land use consent to farm need to prepare a nitrogen baseline. If you need consent, contact your nutrient advisor for help, as you'll need to provide your baseline as part of your Farm Environment Plan (FEP). We know there may be a delay for these to be completed, so let us know when you are on the waitlist to get yours done.

## Create your Farm Environment Plan

All farmers requiring a consent to farm will need to prepare a FEP.

Approved templates and industry help available at [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm).

## Apply for your land use consent to farm

Ready to apply for a resource consent? We offer a free one hour pre-application consultation to help you prepare. See [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm) for information.

## Implement Good Management Practices on your farm

Your Primary Industry Sector has a set of agreed GMPs that can be used to improve water quality. Take a look at [www.canterburywater.farm/gmp](http://www.canterburywater.farm/gmp) for help relating to your own industry.

All of the relevant forms, and links for help, can be found at [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm), a website designed to help you.





# ***Need a hand? No worries!***

## **Help is at hand**

We know the land use consent to farm is a new requirement for farmers, so we're here to help. You can find the information you need by checking out our website or giving us a call.

**[www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm)**  
**0800 324 636**

## **Industry Support**

Your industry body offers plenty of support and advice for preparing your Farm Environment Plan, calculating your nitrogen losses, and meeting Good Management Practice.

A variety of independent consultants also offer additional advice and support.

Contact details can be found at  
**[www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm)**

## **Pre-application meeting**

Get prepared before lodging your consent, in a free one-hour pre-application meeting with an Environment Canterbury consent planner.

## **Drop-in Sessions**

Environment Canterbury regularly hosts drop-in sessions to provide advice and support as you work towards gaining your land use consent to farm.

Dates and locations can be found on the events page at **[www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm)**.

## **Local drop in sessions:**

- 22 May to 9 June** – Environment Canterbury, 4 McNally Street, Ashburton, 10am - 4pm weekdays
- 25 May** – Eiffelton Hall, 10am - 1pm
- 29 May** – Pendarves Hall, 10am - 1pm
- 30 May** – Hinds Community Centre, 10am - 1pm
- 1 June** – Chertsey Hall, 10am - 1pm

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For information specific to your farm, visit:

**[www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm)**

# Got a question?

We may have it covered here. If not, check out [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm) or give us a call.

## Why have I been contacted?

Properties that irrigate over 50 hectares of land, or those that have the ability to irrigate over 50 hectares, are more likely to require consent.

The onus is on you as the property owner to determine whether consent is needed.

## When is my consent application due?

There are different requirements depending on your location; however, all land use consents need to be completed this year. Determine the requirements for your farm at [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm).

## What is a FEP and how does it help me?

Creating your Farm Environment Plan (FEP) will help you recognise on-farm environmental risks and set out a programme to manage those risks. Your FEP is unique to your property and will reflect the local climate and soils, the type of farming operation, and your goals and aspirations as the land user.

Your FEP will record your progress towards Good Management Practice, and demonstrate you're doing the right thing environmentally. You will need your FEP when you apply for your land use consent. An independent certified auditor will then audit the implementation of your FEP once your consent is in place.

## Why do I need a nitrogen baseline?

A FEP ensures you are implementing Good Management Practices on your farm, while a nitrogen baseline ensures you are farming to your nitrogen limits. Your nitrogen baseline accounts for your previous nitrogen losses. Think of the limit as a measure of your environmental footprint which your business can operate within. The nitrogen budgets and the FEP will help you identify areas where improvement can be made and therefore provide valuable business planning tools.

## Will Environment Canterbury be undertaking enforcement action?

This letter is a formal request for you to work out whether you need a land use consent to farm.

If you do need consent, you must apply as soon as possible. Enforcement action will be taken if consent is required and not sought.

## I don't know what my nitrogen losses are?

If you don't know your nitrogen losses, use OVERSEER<sup>®</sup> or the NCheck tool at [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm), and determine whether you need a land use consent to farm.

## What if I am waiting to get my nitrogen baseline completed?

We acknowledge that there is a delay getting baselines completed. If this is the case please call **0800 324 636** to let us know that you're on the waitlist and the likely date it will be completed.

## How much will my consent application cost?

Most applications start at \$1725 including GST. An increase in costs may occur if the application is complex or bundled with another application.

## Will I need to employ a consultant?

This is your choice. Many farmers are able to write their own FEP, possibly with industry body assistance, while your nitrogen baseline will need to be done by a nutrient management advisor. The consent application has been developed to make it as simple as possible to complete yourself.

## What is Environment Canterbury doing about farms that do not irrigate or that are under 50 hectares?

Farmers in this group also need to confirm whether a land use consent to farm is required. Our focus will turn to these properties next.

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For information specific to your farm, visit:

[www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm)  
**0800 324 636**

**Ready to get your land use consent to farm? Nice one!**  
We'll help you get started, so you can get sorted this year.

## Dear Landowner

Are you aware of the new requirements under the Land and Water Regional Plan to control the effects of farming on water quality? Farmers now have a responsibility to farm within water quality limits, which is all about improving results in your local area.

Your farm may be one of many which now require a land use consent to farm. If it is, we can help you get underway.

## Why are consents now required?

Farming to Good Management Practice is now part of good business. More than 3000 Canterbury farmers have already completed Farm Environment Plans, ensuring a strong, resilient, profitable business while doing the right thing by the environment.

The agricultural industry is a key part of the Ashburton Zone, and it is important to our thriving community. However, our water resources are showing signs of stress. Nitrate concentrations in shallow groundwater and lowland and coastal streams are increasing, while water availability is decreasing.

Your community, led by your local Zone Committee, has created a vision for addressing these issues, while also sustaining a healthy economy and community. Collectively, we can achieve better environmental outcomes in Ashburton.

## Do you need a land use consent to farm?

In your area, consent is required if your current nitrogen losses are greater than 20 kilograms per hectare per year. A new website, [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm), has been developed to help farmers understand what farming to limits means for you. If you don't already know your nitrogen loss, use the link to NCheck, which will help you to do a quick calculation to determine if you are likely to need a land use consent or not. Simply identify your farm and NCheck will walk you through the process.

## What do you need to do?

What you do matters. If you haven't already, it's time to make a start, as from later this year our compliance visits will focus on farming consents as a priority.

However, there is plenty of help available, and we will stay in contact with you to provide all the assistance you need along the way. Overleaf we have outlined the key steps you need to take, and the support available from across the farming sector – the people you can call to help you take your next step.

Thanks for taking the time to get this done. It will mean a lot for our local lakes and rivers, and will ensure you get the most out of your land from generation to generation.

Yours sincerely



**Donna Lill**  
Zone Manager  
0800 324 636



Ready to apply?

# The five steps to getting the thumbs up.

## Determine whether you need a land use consent to farm

To determine your nitrogen losses, use OVERSEER®, or the NCheck tool at [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm).

## Prepare your nitrogen baseline

All farms requiring a land use consent to farm need to prepare a nitrogen baseline. If you need consent, contact your nutrient advisor for help, as you'll need to provide your baseline as part of your Farm Environment Plan (FEP). We know there may be a delay for these to be completed, so let us know when you are on the waitlist to get yours done.

## Create your Farm Environment Plan

All farmers requiring a consent to farm will need to prepare a FEP.

Approved templates and industry help available at [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm).

## Apply for your land use consent to farm

Ready to apply for a resource consent? We offer a free one hour pre-application consultation to help you prepare. See [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm) for information.

## Implement Good Management Practices on your farm

Your Primary Industry Sector has a set of agreed GMPs that can be used to improve water quality. Take a look at [www.canterburywater.farm/gmp](http://www.canterburywater.farm/gmp) for help relating to your own industry.

All of the relevant forms, and links for help, can be found at [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm), a website designed to help you.





# ***Need a hand? No worries!***

## **Help is at hand**

We know the land use consent to farm is a new requirement for farmers, so we're here to help. You can find the information you need by checking out our website or giving us a call.

**[www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm)**  
**0800 324 636**

## **Industry Support**

Your industry body offers plenty of support and advice for preparing your Farm Environment Plan, calculating your nitrogen losses, and meeting Good Management Practice.

A variety of independent consultants also offer additional advice and support.

Contact details can be found at  
**[www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm)**

## **Pre-application meeting**

Get prepared before lodging your consent, in a free one-hour pre-application meeting with an Environment Canterbury consent planner.

## **Drop-in Sessions**

Environment Canterbury regularly hosts drop-in sessions to provide advice and support as you work towards gaining your land use consent to farm.

Dates and locations can be found on the events page at **[www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm)**.

## **Local drop in sessions:**

- 22 May to 9 June** – Environment Canterbury, 4 McNally Street, Ashburton, 10am - 4pm weekdays
- 25 May** – Eiffelton Hall, 10am - 1pm
- 29 May** – Pendarves Hall, 10am - 1pm
- 30 May** – Hinds Community Centre, 10am - 1pm
- 1 June** – Chertsey Hall, 10am - 1pm

For information specific to your farm, visit:

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Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting



# Got a question?

We may have it covered here. If not, check out [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm) or give us a call.

## Why have I been contacted?

Properties that irrigate over 50 hectares of land, or those that have the ability to irrigate over 50 hectares, are more likely to require consent.

The onus is on you as the property owner to determine whether consent is needed.

## When is my consent application due?

There are different requirements depending on your location; however, all land use consents need to be completed this year. Determine the requirements for your farm at [www.canterburywater.farm](http://www.canterburywater.farm).

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Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

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Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 27 June 2017

Timetable		
Time	Item	
1:30 pm	Meeting Commences	
2:15 pm	Afternoon Tea	

Order of Business

1	Welcome, Karakia and Introductions	
2	Apologies – Bill Thomas	
3	Extraordinary Business	
4	Register of Interests.....	1
5	Confirmation of Minutes .....	3
6	Correspondence	
	6.1 Inward Correspondence .....	6
7	Public Contributions	
8	Facilitator's Update	
9	Hakatere/Ashburton River Flow Regime: Technical Modelling.....	8
10	Recreation and Amenity Projects .....	11
11	‘Farming at Good Management Practice’ Campaign Update.....	14
12	Updates	
	12.1 Regional Committee	
	12.2 Rakaia Enhancement Fund	