



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 13 December 2017

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Makikihi Country Hotel, Makikihi

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 Zone Committee Meeting
Wednesday 13 December 2017, 1.00pm
Makikihi Country Hotel
AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item	Topic	Presenter	Page
Karakia and welcome				
1.00pm	1	Standing Items: Apologies, Declarations of Interest, Confirmation of Minutes, Matters Arising, Correspondence, Regional Committee update, Facilitator update		
1.10pm	2	Grey Scrub Project	Kennedy Lange	6
1.25pm	3	Integrated Land use consent Pilot Project		7
1.35pm	4	Braided Riverbed Management- Project to better define braided riverbeds	Verbal by Andrew Parrish, ECan	
1.55pm	5	Signage at Project Sites	Paper	8
2.00pm	6	Verbal Update on Zone Communications	Verbal	
2.05pm	7	Draft Annual Report	Paper	11
2.15pm	8	Zone Team Update	Paper	13
2.30pm		General Business/General Public		
		Close & Afternoon Tea		

LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF A LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE WAIMATE EVENT CENTRE, WAIMATE ON WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2017, AT 1.00PM

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

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and Peter Ramsden opened the meeting with a Karakia.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Andrew Feierabend (Meridian Energy), Ranui Ryan (Moeraki Runanga), Jeremy Holding (Waitaki District Council) and Andrew Hayes (Community)

RESOLVED

LWSC17/22 Moved Bruce Murphy
Seconded Mark Kingsbury
"That the apologies are accepted."
MOTION CARRIED

Declaration of Interests

There were no additional interests registered.

Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

LWSC17/23 Moved Sandy Hampstead-Tipene
Seconded Suzanne Eddington
"That the minutes of the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee meeting held on 20 September 2017 are adopted as a true and correct record, with the below amendment."
MOTION CARRIED

Amendment: Hunter Downs: Department of Conservation, not Conversation.

Regional Committee Update

There was no Regional Committee update.

Facilitator Update by Acting Facilitator Olivia Smith

- The joint Upper and Lower Waitaki Zone Committee Communications Workshop was planned for tomorrow (Thursday) at Omarama.
- The Iwi Management Plan report has been delayed
- Update on South Bank of Waitaki – Mining Right. Work is being done on this with outcome expected in near future.
- CDHB currently promoting the testing of private drinking water supplies. Cr Peter Scott outlined that groundwater is susceptible to E. coli and Nitrates, and people that are on shallow groundwater takes are encouraged to test their drinking water at least twice a year. Most susceptible are pregnant women and infants.
- The Committee indicated they were keen for a field trip to view the Lower Waitaki Island Project.

Correspondence

Inwards – letter received from Environment Canterbury “Hunter Downs Memorandum re Wainono Monitoring” dated 29 September 2017.

RESOLVED

LWSC17/24 Moved Mark Kingsbury
 Seconded Cr Miriam Morton
 “That the correspondence is received.”
 MOTION CARRIED

Plan Change 3 Update

Councillor Peter Skelton updated the Zone Committee on the extensive background of PC3 and the establishment of the Waitaki Catchment Allocation Plan, and also updated the Zone Committee on progress with PC5 appeal process.

Cr Peter Scott thanked both Councillor Peter Skelton and also Chair Kate White for their hard work over many years. There was a suggestion that the ‘Water Allocation Plan story’ be captured by Kate White.

Lower Waitaki Zone Committee Immediate Steps Fund – Biodiversity Project Funding Approval

Kennedy Lange, Biodiversity Officer gave a verbal presentation on Immediate Steps Funding project, which will contribute to meeting the required outcomes for the CWMS for the Lower Waitaki Zone. Of the current Immediate Steps budget for Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone, \$432,621 remains to be allocated.

RESOLVED

LWSC17/25 Moved Suzanne Eddington
 Seconded Liz Rollinson
 “That the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee approve
 funding for attached Immediate Steps Project”
 MOTION CARRIED

Good Management Practices for Setback Strips on Cropping Farms

Colin Hurst (a cropping farmer on the project team) and Abie Horrocks (Environmental Research Manager at FAR) presented an overview of the project to establish good management practices for setback strips on cropping farms.

A project group involving members of the Foundation Arable Research (FAR), farmers and Agri-magic have worked together to develop a project proposal to compare the effectiveness of a range of setback widths, species and cultivation practices.

FAR have recently applied to the Sustainable Farming Fund for funding for the proposed project. The result of the application is not yet known.

It was suggested the project group put a submission in on ECan's Long Term Plan and that a press release be written outlining the Zone Committee's endorsement.

RESOLVED

LWSC17/26

Moved Mark Giles

Seconded Cr Miriam Morton

"That the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee strongly endorses the project 'Good Management Practices for Setback Strips on Cropping Farms'."

MOTION CARRIED

Water Quality 101 – What's it all about? and Swimming Grades for 2017/18 and Waihao River Faecal Source Tracking Results

Shirley Hayward spoke to a power-point presentation on Water Quality, Swimming grades for 2017/18 season and the Faecal Source Tracking (FST) results for the Waihao Black Hole site.

Zone Delivery

Zone Manager, Chris Eccleston provided an update (as attached).

2017 Annual Report – Key Achievements

The Lower Waitaki Zone Committee considered the content for the 2017 Annual Report, as presented in the agenda. The annual report, which highlights the key achievements in the zone, forms the basis for the Chair reporting to Waitaki and Waimate District Councillors and to Environment Canterbury Councillors. The Committee's Annual Report for 2017 will be signed off at the first meeting in 2018.

General Business/General Public

The Committee were given an update on Braided River Island River Restoration Project by DoC.

Peter Ramsden closed the meeting with a Karakia at 3.45pm.

K White
Chairperson

AGENDA ITEM NO: 2	SUBJECT MATTER: Grey scrub project
REPORT BY: Kennedy Lange	DATE OF MEETING: 13 December 2017

Purpose

To seek feedback from the committee on a proposed grey scrub project for 2018.

Report

The Waitaki Valley contains some of the best remaining examples of the Canterbury grey scrub vegetation. Grey scrub is important habitat for threatened native species including lizards and the NZ falcon.

Grey scrub is becoming increasingly under threat as land use intensification means that more areas of scrub are cleared every year to make way for pasture development. When stock have access to these fragile ecosystems young seedlings are grazed and the vegetation gradually disappears. As gaps between areas of scrub become greater, fewer species can move between sites and populations will diminish.

The Lower Waitaki Water Management Committee have previously identified grey scrub as an important habitat for protection. In response to this, the zone team propose that a collaborative grey scrub project be undertaken in 2018 as a key biodiversity project in the zone.

The project outcomes could include:

1. Raising awareness about grey scrub and its importance.
2. Encouraging landowners to act to protect grey scrub on hill country. This includes providing advice and tools to landowners to enable them to best protect scrub on their property.

Kennedy Lange will discuss the proposed project at the zone committee meeting and seek feedback from committee members on the project.

Action

The committee provide feedback on the proposed project and consider how they could be involved in the project.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 3	SUBJECT MATTER: Integrated Land Use Consent Pilot Project
REPORT BY: Kennedy Lange	DATE OF MEETING: 13 December 2017

Purpose

To inform the committee of a project that Lower Waitaki Zone Team are piloting with consents staff to help deliver the community outcomes in the zone.

Report

There are an increasing number of land use consent applications been submitted to Environment Canterbury. When a consent application is submitted, a consent planner processes the application as per the RMA process and timeframe.

When processing the consent, the planner has scope to consider specific aspects of the activity and the effect of the activity on the environment. The planner will often use databases to determine what values are present on the property. For example, they may use GIS layers to determine the location of wetlands, S map to determine soil types present, and the freshwater fish database to determine what species may be present. This data is helpful but when combined with local knowledge (such as that held by local biodiversity officers and land management advisors) can provide more detailed and accurate information to inform the consent process.

Seeking additional expert advice from local staff could help ensure that consents are granted with conditions that more accurately reflect the information and context. This would enable consent decisions that are better aligned with the outcomes and priorities of the zone committee. It also provides an opportunity for land management advisors and biodiversity officers to have conversations with landowners about non-statutory actions they could do on farm to help deliver the CWMS.

The Lower Waitaki Zone Team are motivated to try this approach as a pilot project. This means that Land Management and Biodiversity staff will be more involved in more conversations with consent applicants. The Zone team will update the committee on how the pilot project progresses.

Action

Receive the report.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5	SUBJECT MATTER: Project Signage
REPORT BY: Olivia Smith (Zone Facilitator) and Kate Doran (Communications)	DATE OF MEETING: 13 December 2017

Purpose

To seek ideas from the zone committee on projects in the zone that could benefit from signage.

Report

Over the last few years the zone committee have previously had discussions about potentially have signage at some project sites in the zone. The topic was raised again at the recent fieldtrip to the Waitaki River, particularly regarding the opportunities for signage along the Ocean to Alps Bike track.

Having good signage at project sites is an excellent and effective way to:

- Profile the work of the zone committees, landowners, community groups and agencies.
- Increase awareness and education about important environmental values
- Helps tell a story to urban/rural communities about actions that motivated landowners are doing.
- Potentially motivates individuals to consider opportunities on their own land
- Attract support of agencies, local business and community members.

The Environment Canterbury communications team is increasingly interested in producing signage and have developed some useful templates for signs. Ideally, signage should be placed in an area with public access and foot traffic, permission from the landowner and remain relevant for a reasonable amount of time before needing to be replaced.

Action

The committee suggest some priority project sites they think would benefit from signage.

Attachments

- Willowburn Stream Rehabilitation Sign
- Ashburton Kowhai Recreation Area Sign




Kowhai Recreation Area

The Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee has a long-term vision of creating a native biodiversity corridor alongside the Ashburton/ Hakatere River from the mountains to the sea 'Ki Uta Ki Tai'.

This community project was led by the committee for future generations to enjoy.
Thank you to all of the local companies who supported it.



Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

A STREAM UNDER RESTORATION

Willow Burn Stream



Improving water quality

The Willow Burn stream is being restored to improve its water quality and protect the habitat of the plants and animals that live here. Water monitoring shows that parts of the stream have high phosphate and nitrate levels, as well as sediment and E coli. This can be caused by livestock accessing the stream and its banks.

This project is high priority for the community-led Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee, local rūnanga and farmers, as there are important wetland areas in both the upper and lower parts of the stream. Restoring Willow Burn is part of the committee's Ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea) approach.

About Willow Burn

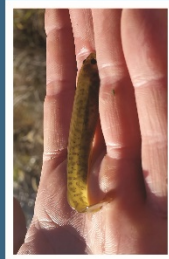
Willow Burn is a spring-fed waterway that stretches over 60 kilometres through many farming properties, as well as Department of Conservation reserve. It takes water from Serpentine Stream, Six Mile Creek, Wairepo Stream and other tributaries. Willow Burn eventually flows into the Ahuriri River, which in turn flows into Lake Benmore.

Water from Willow Burn has been used as household water, power generation, stock drinking water and irrigation over the past 150 years and has long been valuable to the local rūnanga.

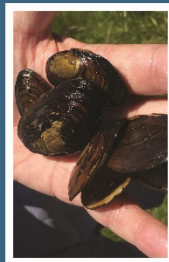
The Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is a community led committee supported by Environment Canterbury, Mackenzie District Council and Waitaki District Council.

Who lives here?

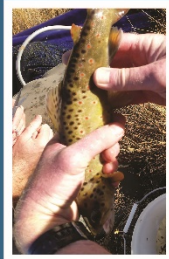
Native fish, such as galaxiids, as well as trout and bully. Crayfish, damselfly, limpet molluscs and freshwater mussels can also be found. Harder to spot, but still calling Willow Burn home - are the flatworms, leeches, round snails and other small invertebrates.



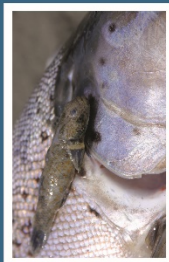
Native Galaxiid



Freshwater Mussels



Trout



Bully from Trout stomach, DOC

What's happening?

The Zone Committee has allocated funding to help fence a large part of the stream to exclude stock, plant natives along the banks and restore its wetlands. Problem willow trees are also being removed. Local farmers are contributing to the cost and improving their on-farm practices to reduce nutrient run-off and leaching.

For more information visit:
[ecan.govt.nz/myzone](https://www.govt.nz/myzone)
[fb.com/canterburywater](https://www.facebook.com/canterburywater)



AGENDA ITEM NO: 7	SUBJECT MATTER: Draft Annual Report
REPORT BY: Olivia Smith (Zone facilitator)	DATE OF MEETING: 13 December 2017

Purpose

To seek input from the committee for the zone committee draft annual report.

Report

At the October meeting, zone committee members shared ideas about stories for the annual report. A copy of the stories will be tabled at the meeting.

In addition to the stories, the annual report will also include a table which highlights actions that have been undertaken (between 2011- current) to deliver each of the 10 CWMS targets. It would be useful if committee members could specifically review the below table and identify any actions that are missing.

CWMS target	Actions
Ecosystem health and biodiversity	<p>Our major restoration project is Wainono Lagoon. This project encompasses multiple scales: on-farm works, in-catchment works, and lagoon riparian works.</p> <p>We have provided more than X of funding towards individual projects to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>We have made recommendation for higher flows in smaller rivers and better habitat over time using alternative sources of water to replace abstraction.</p> <p>A project with MGI shareholders is underway to survey farms and work with landowners to develop practical and customised approaches to improving their management of water.</p>
Natural character of braided rivers	<p>A research project on the Waitaki River is looking at how to improve habitat for endangered nesting birds. This project will improve habitat in the Waitaki, and develop transferable techniques for other braided rivers. The project is proving successful, with 7 islands created and birds nesting on many.</p>
Kaitiakitanga	<p>Our committee process has enabled the expression of Kaitiakitanga through mana whenua's role in decision making and it has enabled a broader understanding of customary values associated with water.</p> <p>Our recommendations for the Waitaki Plan Change (Plan Change 3) provide for an allocation of water specifically for the purposes of mahinga kai enhancement.</p>
Drinking water	<p>We have set catchment load limits for nitrates for all the catchments in our zone. CDHB are communicating nitrate risk to at risk groups who are potentially exposed to</p>

	drinking water with elevated nitrate concentrations.
Recreational and amenity opportunities	<p>Our recommendations for Plan Change 2 to the Waitaki Allocation Plan and Plan Change 3 to the Land and Water Regional Plan provide a pathway to higher flows in smaller rivers over time using alternative sources of water to replace abstraction.</p> <p>Faecal source tracking is underway at the Black Hole on the Waihao River to try and identify sources of E.coli. It's intended that information will help identify the hotspot and the actions that can be taken to reduce faecal contamination at the swimming site.</p>
Water use efficiency	The zone committee is supporting the irrigation industry and local schemes to increase water use efficiency, as well as local community initiatives. For example, recent surveys with shareholders of Waihao Downs have helped identify actions to improve irrigation efficiency which can be incorporated into Farm Environment Plans.
Irrigated land area	Hunter Downs Irrigation Scheme are in the process of determining if the scheme will go ahead and if so at what scale.
Energy security and efficiency	Our recommendations for changes to the Waitaki Allocation Plan provide more certainty for energy security, while also providing for other values.
Regional and national economies	Our zone will contribute to new growth in regional and national economies through the Hunter Downs and Waihao Downs irrigation schemes.
Environmental limits	<p>We have completed our recommendations for water-quality limits for the South Coastal Canterbury and Waitaki parts of our zone, flow and allocation limits for South Coastal Canterbury, and recommendations for changes to the Waitaki Allocation Plan.</p> <p>The recommendations for South Coastal Canterbury (Plan Change 3) are now operative.</p>

Action

The committee highlight any additional actions that should be included in the above table.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 8	SUBJECT MATTER: Quarterly report on Zone Delivery
REPORT BY: Chris Eccleston, Zone Manager	DATE OF MEETING: 13 December 2017

Purpose

To provide a formal report to Lower Waitaki Zone Committees on progress with Zone Delivery activities, and progress against the ZIP.

Action Required

The committee receives the report, discuss progress, and provide feedback.

Background

The intent of the report is to provide key updates of Zone team delivery over the previous three months, and to also include the direction for the next quarter.

Initiatives	Contributors	Progress update – Zone Committee – Dec 17	Priority Actions for next quarter
Wainono Lagoon: The ecosystem health and mauri of Wainono lagoon and its catchments is improved			
Implementation of Te Mana O Te Wai Project	Te Rūnanga O Waihao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood repair works have been continuing Catch up meeting held with Hunter Downs Irrigation. Awaiting AGM on 14th December for future plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions on the Augmentation of the Wainono lagoon
Leverage existing catchment groups and irrigation schemes in the catchment to drive behaviour change	Catchment Groups Irrigation schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waihao Wainono AGM to be held in December Nutrient Management Field Day on 15th December. Speakers to include Ron Pellow from Lincoln University Dairy Farm, Abi Harrod from Far, and Mainland Groundspreading A current project is underway with Morven Glenavy Irrigation Scheme to undertake detailed farm surveys and incorporate actions into the schemes Farm Environment Plans. Follow up on the audits with the Waihoa Downs catchment has taken place and action plans have been put in place. Action points focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical Source Areas Fencing of swales Management of wet areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working with catchment groups
Ensuring actions align with and support the planning framework	Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A “soft launch” via letters was undertaken in September Communications placed in local media and through LARGE sign next to SH1. Industry and consultants meeting undertaken Two successful drop in days were held in Makikihi and Waimate, supported by Regional implementation, Consents and Zone Delivery (Land Management) In excess of 30 people attended the two days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone Manager exploring options to provide further support for 1 to 1 meetings, to augment those already provided the Land Management Advisor in South Coastal Canterbury To look at utilising active catchment group support during the roll out of PC3 in early 2018
GMP: All land is managed at good management practice (GMP) and priority issues/areas are dealt with and collaboration with irrigation schemes in key catchments			
Leverage support for extension and communications to ensure regional systems are aligned to accelerate GMP adoption	District Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial meeting held with Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki councils to progress improvement communications and discussion. Focusing on consenting areas initially 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First of the scheduled meetings to be held in early 2018
Support community and catchment initiatives to deliver GMP uptake in a prioritised manner	Rūnanga Catchment Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support is provided to the local Rūnanga, Catchment Groups and Irrigation companies to support the GMP messages. ECan supporting the Hakataramea Sustainability Collective, meeting with them in November. Meeting also supported by Zone Committee Chair. Southern Zone Delivery Team (OTOP, Lower Waitaki and Upper Waitaki) undertaking some voluntary work with the Hakataramea Sustainability Collective in the developed recreation area as their Christmas function (8th December) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to explore support options for support with the Hakataramea Sustainability Collective and other Catchment groups.
Biodiversity: The biodiversity in the priority areas of: Waitaki Mouth, Waitaki riparian wetlands, Northern Fan spring heads, and areas of grey scrub is protected and enhanced			
Further refine areas of existing significant biodiversity and take steps to protect it.	District Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate Steps Programme applies protection and enhancement to sites of most significant value Scheduled meetings initiated with Waitaki, Waimate and Mackenzie councils, as mentioned previously. Planning meeting for delivery of Grey Scrub programme held between Ecan and Max Crowe from Waitaki District Council Duntroon project discussed at the October meeting has been agreed and signed off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop Grey Scrub project – Kennedy reporting separately To continue developing activity with Waimate, Waitaki and Mackenzie District Councils

Co-ordinate funding, resources and key partners to an aligned approach.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All funding provided by ECan requires a contribution from the landowner or a third party. This can be in cash or in-kind. In the past year ECan has worked with DOC, LINZ, community groups and landowners to secure this resource. Combined meeting held with DOC Geraldine office on 4th December, with a view to enhance communication and possible synergies across the works being undertaken. Zone Manager undertaking regular (monthly) catch up meetings with Geraldine and Twizel DOC managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To finalise possible funding opportunities from within Zone Delivery to deliver on additional biodiversity and land management projects
Support to manage pest species in the catchment	LINZ DOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on Wallaby control - communications and media on activities ongoing. Environment Canterbury is also working with other agencies such as LINZ and DOC on the control of wilding conifers in this catchment. Rabbit control – awareness meeting being undertaken prior to release of K5 virus - High Country farmers on 15th December Removal of dead willow spars in Hakataramea 	
Plans and rules are understood and complied with: There is widespread community understanding of and compliance with the Waitaki sub-regional section of the LWRP and WCWARP			
Develop compliance guidelines for each zone that works with resource users on the priority issues and areas.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance guideline developed with the zone committee and implemented in the 2016/2017 year. 	
Support the development of implementation programmes that involve all the relevant parts of Ecan and external stakeholders.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A “soft launch” via letters was undertaken in September Communications placed in local media and through LARGE sign next to SH1. Industry and consultants meeting undertaken Two successful drop in days were held in Makikihi and Waimate, supported by Regional implementation, Consents and Zone Delivery (Land Management) In excess of 30 people attended the two days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue support for PC3 requirements up to the March 1st deadline for consents
Enforcement provisions are used to ensure sufficient deterrent to non-compliance.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hakataramea findings – Media release below 	
Improved scientific knowledge: We have increased catchment knowledge in priority areas (science) and we understand the effectiveness of interventions (monitoring) Include PC3			
Develop and implement an integrated monitoring framework.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Contact recreation water quality program has started, and a number of people have been noted out and about the rivers and lakes enjoying the good weather. No warnings for cyanobacteria have been issued for this zone to date, but it is likely they will develop rapidly under these conditions. The very low rainfall and warm weather recently has seen river flows drop extremely rapidly. As a result, a number of rivers in the zone have reached levels that have triggered irrigation restrictions. 	
Provide readily accessible science information to inform community decisions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Integrated Monitoring Framework will assist with this once completed. 	
Using the science that we have to inform decisions in the zone.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science investigations are complete or underway to support the following issues in the Zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Canterbury Deep Groundwater Investigation Investigation into groundwater flows in Waihuna/Elephant Hill 	
Community Ownership: There is widespread ownership of catchment health by the community			

Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plans for the zone.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans have been drafted for the zone but are yet to be finalised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise communication plans for the Lower Waitaki zone Roll out wintering management campaign
Targeted campaigns for key issues affecting water quality and biodiversity in the zone	Catchment groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soils management and Winter Fodder Crops campaigns completed in conjunction with Waihao Wainono Water Users Group. Wintering Management campaign currently under development. 	
Support / promotion for community and educational initiatives	Catchment groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work with Waihao Wainono Water Users Group to support their work. Project underway with local land owners to enhance Black Hole swimming spot on the Waihao River. Funding of \$18000 has been agreed. This will include willow removal, native planting along the riparian margin of the Waihao track. Support for the Waikakahi Catchment Group. ECan have promoted good news stories in the media via 'snapshot' advertisements. Monthly agreements made with local media outlets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote activity in the Black Hole Project Continue developing and promoting positive media opportunities with the Zone Committee

Staffing Update

- OTOP Zone Manager, Mike Hide, left ECan on 1st December. Zone Manager, Waitaki to take over support of the OTOP zone whilst recruitment is completed for a Zone Manager/Zone Lead role.
- Dave Moore, the new Zone Facilitator for Lower Waitaki, started with ECan on 4 December 2017.
- Two new Resource Management Officers, David Mair and Hannah Duncum, started with ECan on 4th December, replacing other RMO positions. One of the roles will likely take on more of an industrial focus. Both will work primarily in the OTOP area, but will cover work in other zones.

MEDIA RELEASE

Canterbury farm fined \$22,000 for breaching RMA

A Hakataramea farm and its director have been fined \$22,000 for illegally disturbing the bed of Sisters Creek and discharging sediment into the Hakataramea River.

MFS Ventures Limited and its director Gregory Nelson pleaded guilty to two charges each of breaching the Resource Management Act 1991.

The total fine for disturbing the bed of Sisters Creek was \$15,000 and the total fine for the discharge of sediment into the Hakataramea River was \$7,000. The fines were split evenly between MFS Ventures Ltd and Nelson.

MFS Ventures Ltd is in the Hakataramea Valley, Kurow. Under the direction of Nelson, the company started work at Sisters Creek in October 2016 to convert land to pasture. In November 2016, an Environment Canterbury compliance officer visited the site and saw extensive works, including the use of heavy machinery to excavate, scrape, grade and clear the Sisters Creek riverbed. No resource consent had been sought for this. An abatement notice was issued on 26 November 2016, requiring the works to cease. In January 2017 Environment Canterbury was alerted to sediment discharge in the Hakataramea River and this was found to have come from drain cleaning activities on MFS Ventures Ltd's property.

Environment Canterbury South Canterbury Operations Manager Judith Earl-Goulet said: "When Environment Canterbury detects significant non-compliance such as this, we use the powers available to us to ensure this is remedied. We accept the decision of the court today and want to move on."