



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 14 February 2018

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Waimate Event Centre

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Kate White (Chair)	Suzanne Eddington
Andrew Feierabend	Cr Jakki Guilford
Sandra Hampstead-Tipene	Andrew Hayes
Cr Jeremy Holding	Barney Hoskins
Daniel Isbister	Mark Kingsbury
Bruce Murphy	Brent Packman
Ranui Ryan	Cr Peter Scott

Lower Waitaki SCC Zone Committee Meeting

Waimate Event Centre

14 February 2018, 1:00pm

Time	Agenda Item	Who	Paper/Verbal
1:00pm	Karakia Welcome new members – Barney Hoskins, Cr Jakki Guilford and Daniel Isbister	Kate	Verbal
1:05pm	Standing Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies • Declaration of interests • Confirmation of minutes • Correspondence 	Chair	
1:15pm	Elections of Chairperson, Deputy Chair and CWMS Rep.	Dave/Liv	Paper
1.20pm	Zone Team Update	Chris Eccleston	Verbal
1:35pm	Facilitators Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priorities for 2018 - Clean Check Dry Advocacy Programme - Bridge Project update. - Long-Term Plan 	Dave Dave Dave	Paper Paper Verbal
1.45pm	Limestone Hills Road Immediate Steps Project Funding Proposal	Kennedy Lange	Verbal and tabled
2:00pm	Draft Annual Report	Dave/Liv	Paper
2:10pm	Update on proposed science work for flow regimes in the Hakataramea and tributaries on the south bank of the Waitaki river affected by mining rights.	Helen Shaw	Paper
2:40pm	Farewell Peter Ramsden	Kate	Verbal
2:45pm	Close meeting & Karakia		
2:50pm	Afternoon Tea		

LOWER WAITAKI SCC ZONE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

**LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE WAIMATE EVENT CENTRE, WAIMATE ON
WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2017, AT 1.16PM**

PRESENT	Chair Kate White (Community) Andrew Hayes (Community), Andrew Feierabend (Meridian Energy), 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), Ranui Ryan (Moeraki Runanga) and Cr Peter Scott (Environment Canterbury)
APOLOGIES	Jeremy Holding (Waitaki District Council)
IN ATTENDANCE	Olivia Smith, Zone Facilitator Karalyn Reid, Committee Secretary David Moore, Zone Facilitator

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

Chair Kate White thanked and presented a gift to the retiring members of the Committee - Liz Rollinson and Mark Giles (Community); Andrew Feierabend (Meridian) and Cr Miriam Morton (Waimate District Council) who has been replaced by Cr Jakki Guilford. She welcomed new facilitator of the Zone Committee Dave Moore, and Daniel Isbister one of the new Community members who came to observe the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Jeremy Holding (Waitaki District Council).

RESOLVED

LWSC17/27 Moved Suzanne Eddington
Seconded Sandra Hampstead-Tipene
"That the apologies are accepted."
MOTION CARRIED

Declaration of Interests

There were no additional interests registered.

Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

LWSC17/28 Moved Brent Packman
Seconded Liz Rollinson
"That the minutes of the Lower Waitaki Zone
Committee meeting held on 18 October 2017 are
adopted as a true and correct record."
MOTION CARRIED

Standing Reports

Correspondence

There was no outward or inward correspondence.

Regional Committee Update

Sandy Hampstead-Tipene attended the Regional Committee meeting. The Waitaki Iwi Management Plan has been signed and Sandy and Suzanne Eddington offered to give a presentation to the Zone Committee early in 2018.

Facilitator Update by Acting Facilitator Olivia Smith

- The Committee agreed the first meeting for 2018 will be held on 14 February 2018, and will continue to use the Waimate Event Centre as a venue for meeting on the scheduled 2018 Wednesdays: 14 February, 14 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 15 August, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November and 19 December.
- South Bank of the Waitaki – Mining Right update. A response from ECan's science team is expected in January and will be circulated to the Committee.
- The Committee has received no update on Hunter Downs.
- The below matters arose from the field trip last month:
 - Weed spraying along Ocean to Alps Track (to be discussed in Zone Manager's report)
 - Signage (refer to agenda item)
 - Maintaining river access to the Waitaki (a conversation has been started with ECan's river engineers)
- Cr Peter Scott reported ECan recently met with Central South Island Fish and Game and discussed reviewing the Hakataramea River Plan.
- The Committee asked ECan for a response regarding both the flow regime and also on the mining right renewal in the New Year.

RESOLVED

LWSC17/29 Moved Jakki Guilford
Seconded Mark Kingsbury
"That the standing reports are received."
MOTION CARRIED

Grey Scrub Project

Kennedy Lange updated the Zone Committee on grey scrub in the Waitaki Valley. The Lower Waitaki Water Management Committee previously identified grey scrub as an important habitat for protection. In response to this, the Zone Team are proposing that a collaborative grey scrub project be undertaken in 2018 as a key biodiversity project in the zone. The Committee supported this project and provided feedback.

RESOLVED

LWSC17/30 Moved Sandy Hampstead-Tipene
Seconded Cr Jakki Guilford
"That the Committee write to ECan; the Tuia meeting; and to Waitaki and Waimate District Councils in support of a collaborative Grey Scrub project be undertaken as a key biodiversity project in the Lower Waitaki Zone."
MOTION CARRIED

Integrated Land Use Consent – Pilot Project

The Lower Waitaki Zone Team are piloting a project to widen the ‘conversations’ with consent applicants to include Land Management and Biodiversity staff.

RESOLVED
LWSC17/31

Moved Kate White

Seconded Andrew Feierabend

That the Zone Committee write to ECan indicating support of the Integrated Land Use Consent Pilot Project.

MOTION CARRIED

Braided Riverbed Management Project

Andrew Parrish (Section Manager – Planning) gave a verbal report on a proposed Braided River Management Project – BRIDGE Project. This project is in response to increasing concerns about the management of braided riverbeds in Canterbury. The project involves research to better understand the values associated with these unique riverbeds. It is anticipated that this information will help inform improved management of braided riverbeds. The Waitaki River is one of five rivers identified for inclusion in the study. Andrew tabled an information sheet.

The Committee indicated support for the project and provided feedback on some of the criteria that could be used for the research. Andrew has agreed to report to the Committee in February at which time the committee will select a suitable stretch of river for inclusion in the study.

Signage at Project Sites

The Committee discussed priority project sites in the Zone that could benefit from signage. The topic was raised at the recent fieldtrip to the Waitaki River, particularly regarding the opportunities for signage along the Ocean to Alps cycle track.

The Committee identified potential sites as:

- Across the road from NOSH
- Waihao Box
- Kurow Walkway
- Otekaieke Wetland
- Duntroon wetland

Duntroon limestone IMS project

Verbal Update on Zone Communications

Kate tabled recent communications and asked for feedback for planning for 2018. Congratulations were extended to Kate for her good work in lifting ECan’s profile.

Cr Jakki Guilford excused herself from the meeting at 3.11pm.

Draft Annual Report

Zone Manager, Chris Eccleston sought input from the Committee for the Zone Committee Draft Annual Report. The Committee members provided feedback.

Zone Team Update (Chris Eccleston, Zone Manager)

The Committee discussed progress with Zone Delivery activities, and progress against the ZIP.

- Waihaorunga River meeting (November) – 25 people attended. There was good interest around assistance with Farm Environment Plans.
- The Waihao Wainono Water Users Group AGM held recently went well.
- The Nutrient Management Field Day (held 13 December 2017) was well attended.
- Spraying work to be undertaken along Alps to Ocean cycle track in early 2018
- Looking at developing closer links for consenting areas with other Territorial Authorities.

General Business/General Public

Verbal update from Department of Conservation. John has invited the local DoC Manager to give a report to the Committee and offered the Committee assistance with future field trips.

Cr Peter Scott closed the meeting with a Karakia at 3.26pm.

K White
Chairperson

**LOWER WAITAKI SCC ZONE COMMITTEE
INWARD AND OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE**

From: Chrys Berryman <chrysadie@gmail.com>

Subject: Black Hole Recreation Reserve

Date: 17 January 2018 at 12:26:54 PM NZDT

To: K.White@xtra.co.nz

Chairperson Kate White
The Lower Waitaki-South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee

Kia Ora Kate

On the 24/1/18 a large group of us who were staying near Waimate visited the Black Hole Recreation Reserve on the Waihao River.

I had been telling everyone that this was an amazing swimming spot, a place I had fond memories of when growing up in Waimate. On arrival I couldn't believe my eyes, it was warm and we were the only ones there. The grass was long and cattle excrement was everywhere even up to the waters edge (despite there being an electric fence). Dead fish were in the shallows and the final blow was when an ECAN app. said we couldn't swim because the ecoli levels were too high. Later I emailed my concerns to ECAN and two nice people phoned me. They were sympathetic and took my complaints seriously. I was told there was a Black Hole enhancement group, which is great, but their main focus seemed to be on willow removal and native planting. I was also told that there was another irrigation scheme coming to the area that will bring water from the Waitaki River and that this will result in further agricultural intensification. Surely this will further degrade a river that is not coping with the present levels of intensification around Arno especially dairy conversions?

So my question to your committee is what are you doing to improve the water quality situation in the Waihao River and the amenity of the Black Hole swimming site? I have one suggestion that would have an immediate impact, permanently fence off the reserve area and do not run cattle there. A few sheep would keep the grass down returning the river flat to the picnic area that used to exist.

The Black Hole used to be a community asset where work, school, and church picnics happened. There were teenage parties and the local holy rollers had baptisms there. It was a gathering place where people socialised and created memories, now it is a place where you have to consult an app. to see if its safe to swim.

Please table this letter at your next meeting. I will also send copies to;

editor@timaruherald.co.nz

olive.Smith@ecan.govt.nz

leighbank@xtra.co.nz (Chairperson Waihao Wainono Committee Catchment Group)

Thank you for reading my letter.

Chrys Berryman
8 Humariri Street,
Point Chevalier
Auckland 1022
098153647 02102905675



20 Jan 2018
Timaru Herald

Section: General News • Page: 6 • Item ID: 901286556

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Black Hole

What is a “recreation reserve”?

The Black Hole on the Waihao River near Waimate used to be one.

It was a community asset, a place for work, school and church picnics, family gatherings, teenage parties, and even holy-roller baptisms.

The Black Hole is still a recreation reserve but in name only.

We visited on a warm day just before Christmas and we were the only ones there. We could not swim as the E. coli levels were too high, dead fish were in the shallows, cattle excrement was right up to the edge of the water (despite an electric fence), and the picnic areas, which used to be grazed by sheep, were covered in long grass and cattle excrement.

Later I received two phone calls from Environment Canterbury in response to an email I had sent them. They were nice people who took my concerns seriously, but I was left with the feeling that any attempts to improve the river’s condition were not going to change much.

Also, there is a new irrigation scheme about to happen nearby which will result in further agricultural intensification and environmental degradation.

I won’t be going back there; my memories of what the Black Hole used to be like will have to suffice.

However, it just seems so wrong to me that we are destroying these special places where we used to socialise, create memories, and not have to check an app to see if it was safe to swim.

Chrys Berryman
Auckland

Chris Eccleston, ECan Zone Manager - Waitaki, responded:

The Black Hole swimming spot has been identified as a priority for water quality restoration due to its high recreational and community value and, as Mr Berryman mentions, a collaborative project is already under way.

Removing problem willow trees

that choke the river and planting natives is part of this project but Environment Canterbury has also been working closely with many of the farmers in the Waihao River catchment.

This work is crucial as it involves practical on-farm solutions to reduce sediment, bacterial and nutrient run-off into the water. More than 8000 hectares of farmland has now been surveyed and recommendations have been made to include in Farm Environment Plans.

Our science team has also recently studied the sources causing high E. coli levels at the Black Hole site and this suggested that both birds and ruminants (sheep and/or cattle) were contributing to the poor water quality.

Apart from the native planting and Waihao River walkway improvements, much of the work at the Black Hole won’t be visible to visitors and it will take some time, possibly years, for the water quality to improve.

Farmers are voluntarily contributing to the Black Hole restoration and locals, rānanga, community groups and schools are also getting involved.

The Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee will respond to Mr Berryman’s specific concerns directly at its next meeting, on 14 February. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

Our pollution team has investigated the incident involving cow effluent noted by Mr Berryman.

9 February 2018



Bill Bayfield
Chief Executive Officer
Environment Canterbury
200 Tuam Street
Christchurch

Dear Bill

Re: Lower Waitaki Zone Committee seeking ongoing support for two projects in the Lower Waitaki Zone.

Integrated Land Use Consent Project

We are pleased to support a project that was recently proposed to the Lower Waitaki committee by our local zone team. We understand the Integrated Land Use Consent Project involves better utilising the local knowledge and expertise of land management advisors and biodiversity officers in the land use consent process. The expertise, local knowledge and relationships held by zone team members, Kennedy Lange and Emily Anderson, are invaluable and have greatly contributed to delivering our zone outcomes. We hope that integrating their local knowledge into the assessment of consent applications will result in consent decisions that are better aligned with our delivery outcomes. As a committee, we consider this project a great opportunity and are proud to be the first zone piloting such approach. We hope that support for this project continues and that the learnings from this pilot project will benefit other zones in the Canterbury region.

Joint Grey Scrub Project

The committee strongly support a joint project between Waitaki and Waimate District Councils and Environment Canterbury to protect grey scrub vegetation. The Waitaki Valley is home to some of the best remaining examples of the Canterbury grey scrub. This scrub provides important habitat for threatened species and is coming under increasing threat as areas are cleared to enable land use intensification. The committee recommend that Environment Canterbury prioritise resources to coordinate and implement this valuable project with the District Councils.

Regards

Kate White
Chair
Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee



9 February 2018



Stuart Duncan
Chief Executive Officer
Waimate District Council
PO Box 122
Waimate 7960

Dear Stuart,

Re: Seeking support for a joint project to protect Grey Scrub vegetation in the Waitaki Valley.

The Waitaki Valley is home to some of the best remaining examples of the Canterbury grey scrub. Grey scrub provides important habitat for threatened native species and can also provide many benefits to farming systems.

As land use in the Waitaki Valley is intensifying an increasing amount of grey scrub is being cleared on private properties to make way for pasture development. The committee are aware that there appears to be a lack of awareness amongst some landowners about the significance of grey scrub and the range of benefits it can provide such as the habitat and water conversation.

When developing the Lower Waitaki Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP) the zone committee recommended (refer to Rec 4.19) that relevant agencies including District Councils, work together to protect the scrub. We are motivated to see this recommendation implemented in 2018 as a priority. There are opportunities for the Waitaki and Waimate district Councils to work collaboratively with Environment Canterbury to coordinate and implement a grey scrub project. The project may include mapping, education campaign, field days and practical actions.

The support and participation of the District Council in this project will greatly contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity values in our zone.

Regards

Kate White
Chair
Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee





9 February 2018

Michael Ross
Chief Executive Officer
Waitaki District Council
Private Bag 50058
Oamaru 9444

Dear Michael,

Re: Lower Waitaki Zone Committee seeking support for a joint project to protect Grey Scrub vegetation in the Waitaki Valley.

The Waitaki Valley is home to some of the best remaining examples of the Canterbury grey scrub. Grey scrub provides important habitat for threatened native species and can also provide many benefits to farming systems.

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The support and participation of the District Council in this project will greatly contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity values in our zone.

Regards

Kate White
Chair
Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee



LOWER WAITAKI SCC ZONE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Date **14 February 2018**

Report to **LWSCC Zone Committee**

From **Dave Moore, Zone Facilitator**

Subject **Election of Chair, Deputy Chair and Regional Committee Representative**

Purpose

To outline the role of the Committee Chair, Deputy Chair and Regional Committee Representative; and for the Committee to elect representatives to these position.

Background

Chair and Deputy Chair

The role of the Chair is to:

- Chair Zone Committee meetings
- Liaise with the facilitator on Zone Committee work planning
- Speak for the Zone Committee outside of meetings.
- Liaise with the media.
- The role of the Deputy Chair is to fill the above role when the Chair is absent.

Regional Committee Representative

The role of the Regional Committee Representative is to represent the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee at and contribute to the working of, the Regional Committee. The Regional Committee provides a regional perspective on the CWMS and meets four times a year, progressing work through its working groups (e.g. Biodiversity, Infrastructure). The Lower Waitaki Regional Committee representative is expected to update the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee on the Regional Committee progress.

The dates of the 2018 Regional Committee meetings are:

- 13 March
- 12 June
- 14 August
- 9 October
- 11 December

Recommendation

The Committee elects a Chair, Deputy Chair and Regional Committee representative.

Date **14 February 2018**

Report to **LWSCC Zone Committee**

From **Dave Moore, Zone Facilitator**

Subject **Zone Committee Priorities for 2018**

Purpose

To seek feedback from the Committee on priority activities for 2018.

Background

The overarching vision for CWMS: To gain the greatest cultural, economic, environmental, recreational and social benefits from our water resources within a sustainable framework both now and for future generations.

In 2016 the Zone Committee established the following six priorities to 2020:

- 1 The ecosystem health and mauri of Wainono lagoon and its catchments is improved.
- 2 All land is managed at good management practice and priority issues/areas are dealt with.
- 3 The biodiversity in the priority areas of Waitaki Mouth, Waitaki riparian wetlands, Northern Fan spring heads, and areas of grey scrub are protected and enhanced.
- 4 There is widespread community understanding of and compliance with the Waitaki sub-regional section of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan and Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Plan.
- 5 We have increased catchment knowledge in priority areas (science) and we understand the effectiveness of interventions (monitoring).
- 6 There is widespread ownership of catchment health by the community.

Delivering these will take time and a range of actions. It would be helpful to understand where the committee would like to focus its attention during 2018.

Recommendation

The Committee provides feedback on the Zone Committee priority activities for 2018 to inform meeting schedule/activities for 2018, and considers:

- a *What two or three outcomes would you like the committee to focus on?*
- b *Would you like to do anything differently?*
- c *Structure of the meetings – lunch, roundup, meeting?*
- d *Would you like to better involve community groups or other organisations?*

Date **14 February 2017**
Report to **LWSCC Zone Committee**
From **Dave Moore, Zone Facilitator**
Subject **Clean Check Dry Advocacy Programme Report**

Purpose

To inform the Zone Committee of the findings from the Clean, Check, Dry (CCD) Advocacy Programme and seek feedback.

Background

Bryce Warner, Fresh Water Advocacy Officer carried out the CCD advocacy programme in the Waitaki Lakes District over the holiday period from 20 December 2017 to 6 January 2018.

Bryce's report covers what was accomplished, discovered, and highlighted as improvements by the CCD advocacy. While most of the report focusses on the Upper Waitaki Zone, Bryce did visit Lakes Aviemore and Waitaki and there are aspects of the report relevant to the Lower Waitaki Zone.

Recommendation

The Zone Committee receives the report and provides feedback.

CCD Advocacy Programme 2017-2018: Waitaki District

From 20/12-23/12, 27/12-30/12, and 02/01-06/01 I carried out the CCD advocacy programme in the Waitaki Lakes District. The base of operations was in Twizel.

Two hundred CCD packs were taken and each was distributed to waterways users. An additional 75 floating keychains and stack of ECAN cards to help identify water weeds was also distributed.

Businesses

The first week was relatively devoid of waterway users, so there was time to touch base with businesses- 40 CCD packs were dropped at Southern Alps Outdoors. In speaking with the manager, they can sell this many fishing licenses in one afternoon- so I arranged with MPI to ship an additional 200 spray bottles, soap sachets, and how-to-clean pocket guides in the new year. An email will be sent in the coming weeks to touch base and to inquire about additional collateral supply. Jakes Hardware was also visited, and 100 each of the same was arranged for their business. In Omarama, Sierra Hotel (the only supplier of fishing licenses in the town) was visited, and I intend to ship collateral to this business in the coming weeks. In retrospect, contacting these businesses well in the future of the holiday season may be prudent to getting our message out.

Several holiday parks, including Lake Benmore Holiday Park, Glentanner Holiday Park, Twizel Holiday Park, Omarama Top 10, Otematata Holiday Park and Lodge, and Ruataniwha Holiday Park were visited. Most took informational brochures, allowed me to put posters up on noticeboards, and have a chat with their guests. Several were very interested in the impacts of the freshwater pests and what it could mean to their business. Lake Benmore Holiday park mentioned that they have hoses available for boaters to clean their vessels, and that they may be interested in hosting a purpose built cleaning facility.

Ruataniwha Rowing Complex

Lake Ruataniwha rowing complex was visited, and a chat with Trevor Wilson occurred about boats coming and going without being cleaned. He explained that even though he would put road cones across the road- to ensure boats go through the cleaning station, some would circumvent the system. I mentioned that MPI does have a 'fine' in place for knowingly spreading pests and that a gentle reminder to the boat owners could help our cause.

The Ruataniwha cleaning station for boats was also demonstrated. Built for around \$4000 + the cost of the pump, it works on a 30 second timer and sprays a mist of cleaning liquid on the boat as a vehicle slowly drives through. This sprayer would fail to hit the bottom of a traditional boat and wouldn't be practical as a boat cleaner: more of a didymo/ lake snow killer.

Trevor also pointed out some plants in the water that were causing issues for his complex. I took a sample to the local DOC office and determined that it was a native Milfoil. Although it may be a nuisance, it is not classed as a biosecurity pest.

Check Clean Dry/ Stop the Spread Signs

A significant part of the time in the lakes was spent checking, replacing, and repairing signs. The water access to the north side of the Waitaki river had changed significantly over the past few years, and many of the previous access points were now private, fenced land. For the south side, many of the access points were without signs, badly damaged, or faded. In some cases, signs were moved to more logical and easily read places, and in some, they were removed altogether (How to CCD signs along 100 km/hr roads are impractical). Kurow island was resigned, as were small tributaries in the region.

Birchwood road up the Ahuriri River was re-signed. According to database records, it had not been checked in many years- Nearly all signs were missing, and I ran out of stock while checking. Places where a sign should be present were marked on GPS and a CCD sticker was put in place as a temporary measure. Collateral for cleaning was left in one of the more accessible DOC huts.

Other places also visited and checked were Aoraki/ Lake Pukaki, Lake Ohau, Lake Alexandrina, Lake Benmore, Lake Aviemore, and Lake Waitaki. A brief stop in Lake Tekapo occurred to check boat ramp signs, although more time in the surrounding area may be prudent.

One newer 'Stop the Spread' sign was damaged beyond repair and found at a strange location. I couldn't determine where it had been originally.

While checking, signs were cleaned, tightened, and replaced if necessary. If I happened to come across people at the more isolated spots, there would be a good chat about the CCD message.

DOC

I met with Dean Nelson, who identified the milfoil from Lake Ruataniwha and explained that the DOC office had given up on the CCD programme for the McKenzie basin. Ian (Gus) Guthrie mentioned that they still had a large amount of collateral from when there was a full-time Didymo advocate in the office. I told him about our cleaning bottles and tried to convince him to take some of the 1L bottles and a how-to booklet into some of his backcountry huts that were near waterways. Ian also mentioned new signs coming for some of the local DOC campsites and that there may be space to put some biosecurity information on them. I will follow this up with Gemma Livingstone.

Survey

I took an indirect approach with the surveys- preferring to hold a conversation with people about the impacts and then using that information to fill in the survey afterward. I believe that looking at a phone while conversing with someone is very impersonal- In the future filling a paper copy at the scene before submitting electronically may be of more benefit. 54 electronic surveys were completed and submitted, although I chatted with and handed out information to well over 3x that.

Most people that I talked to were at campsites or the Ohau canals. Feedback was generally good, and the inclusion of Lake Snow and a photo from Genesis showing a clogged filter caught the attention of many people. There many theories about why lake snow is now becoming a nuisance.

Many people wanted to know if there was a way to kill didymo, and others wanted to know why it had not yet spread to the north island.

Lagrosiphon seemed to be high in concern from people from Otago- having dealt with it in lakes Dunstan, Wanaka, and Wakitipu; most Cantabrians were unaware of it. I searched lake Benmore in several places for Lagrosiphon to show people, and was fortunately only able to find Canadian pond weed. For boat trailers harbouring aquatic plants I saw around towns, I left information cards under windscreen wipers. Most people, I noticed were quick to pull any weeds off their trailers when moving out of the water.

Users

While talking with boat owners, it seemed that moving between waterways during their holiday was minimal- most would stay in one lake for the entire time. They were keen to clean their boat when leaving, but mentioned that there was no practical way to do it at the lakes. I mentioned that when they get home they should go through the process, but many admitted that they would probably forget/ be too busy/ or couldn't be fussed. It is of note, that many mentioned that they are weekend users only and that if they are thoroughly dried, a week is more than enough time to kill algal spores. Some people also admitted to power washing their boats with simply water after getting home. I explained that if that water gets into the storm drains, it could move those pests into their local stream and rivers.

Jetskiers seemed to be the water users that travelled the most. I could find the same jetski on several different water bodies in the same day. Most people I approached acted keen to hear about what I had to say, but I believe it may have been because they saw me step out of an ECAN vehicle. I could see their eyes glaze over and they would attempt to end the conversation. As these users are very high risk and generally care less for the environment, an environmental only approach may not work best with them. I emailed Rose Bird (Advocacy Support), and she suggested telling them about how things like Didymo and Lake Snow could affect their wallet.

Most boat and jetskiers were near impossible to talk to at boat ramps. There seems to be a lot of tension at these places. At Sailor's Cutting, for instance, a large queue was always present.

People fishing seemed to have the most free time and were happy to have a long winded conversation. Other than the overfishing in the canals, they seemed to be most concerned with didymo. Nearly all practiced good CCD methods and the ones that didn't were happy to change their methods. Several mentioned freezing equipment, using nappy san, or boiling water to clean their stuff- which are great alternatives to the information I was providing.

There was a lot of concern (especially from parents and pet owners) about cyanobacteria in the rivers, as well as some misinformation. Many had attributed it to dairy run off- and were

accusing ECAN of allowing it to happen. Upon correction, I was able to use this to reinforce the message to protect our waterways.

Council Campsites

Some surveying and chatting occurred at council campsites, although the amount could be improved upon next year. Every council site had either a stop the spread or a protect our waterways sign at a boat ramp, most also received a poster on the bulletin board and one or two in each toilet block. Next year, laminating some of the smaller posters would be ideal to prolong its life.

Radio Ads

Three different radio ads were played during the holidays on Port FM. Of the 70+ people that I asked about the ads, only 3 could confidently talk about hearing it. Several more mentioned that they think they heard it, but couldn't really remember, and many people either listened to a different radio station or their own music.

Date **14 February 2017**

Report to **LWSCC Zone Committee**

From **Kennedy Lange, Biodiversity Officer, Environment Canterbury**

Subject **Limestone Hills Road – Immediate Steps Funding Proposal**

Purpose

To inform the Zone Committee of the Limestone Hills Road Immediate Steps proposal for fencing an area of scrub and to seek approval of funding.

Further information will be tabled at the meeting.

Background

An area of scrub with high biodiversity value has been identified on a property in Limestone Valley Road. A paper will be presented to the Zone Committee explaining the location and significance of scrub and requesting funding for fencing to preserve the scrub.

Recommendation

The Zone Committee receives the report and provides feedback and approval of funding.

Date **14 February 2018**

Report to **LWSCC Zone Committee**

From **Dave Moore, Zone Facilitator**

Subject **2017 Draft Annual Report**

Purpose

To finalise the Lower Waitaki 2017 Annual Report.

Background

Every year each Zone Committee completes an annual report highlighting the key achievements in the Zone and the focus for the upcoming year. The report forms the basis for the Chair reporting to Environment Canterbury Council and the Waitaki and Waimate District Councils.

In late 2017, the Committee provided input for the contents of the report. A draft report has now been developed and follows this report.

Recommendation

The Zone Committee finalise and approve the 2017 Draft Annual Report.

Lower Waitaki Water Zone Committee

2017 Annual Report

Delivering water management priorities through key

The Lower Waitaki Water Zone Committee has worked with the community, councils and other organisations to help improve water quality and quantity in local waterways.

This has included developing local environmental limits and helping landowners reduce their impact on our waterways by developing Farm Environment Plans and utilising good management practices on farm.

The committee has been particularly focused on improving the water quality of Wainono Lagoon. This has included installing sediments traps to try and reduce the amount of sediment entering the lagoon.



Rob Carson and Helen Risk from Environment Canterbury surveying native eels in the Wainono Lagoon

Key achievements for 2017

- The committee has helped to drive on-the-ground actions that deliver sustainable benefits for water including:
- Allocated more than \$100,000 to community-driven projects that aim to protect and enhance the natural environment.
- Helped secure more than \$500,000 of national funding for the Te Mana Te Wai project to help restore Wainono Lagoon.
- Supported the Department of Conservation research project to create nesting islands for braided river birds along the Waitaki River.
- Helped landowners understand how to comply with new environmental limits outlined in Plan Change 3.
- Encouraged landowners to implement good management practices on farm. This included a project with MGI shareholders to identify actions farmers can take to reduce their environmental impact.
- Supported an investigation into the sources of E. coli at Black Hole (Waihao River). Work is underway to improve water quality so it is suitable for contact recreation.
- The committee initiated a science investigation into groundwater flows in the Northern Fan. The study confirms that groundwater flows from Elephant Hill / Waihuna to Waikakahi Springs. This information will help inform land management decisions in the area.

Work gets underway at Wainono

Controlling weeds, clearing willows and working on stream erosion - while looking after resident mudfish and tuna - has been the recent focus of the team working at Wainono Lagoon on Te Rūnanga o Waihao's Te Mana O Te Wai Project.

The project aims to improve the water quality of the lagoon through a range of measures and is led by the rūnanga and funded by the Ministry for the Environment with contributions from Environment Canterbury and the Department of Conservation.

The majority of the physical work carried out in the past year has focused on controlling weeds and willow trees that have an impact on the water quality and biodiversity of the lagoon. This has included working with the Department of Conservation to control the weeds on the gravel bar and completing willow control on important wetlands on the lagoon margins.

Work has also commenced on properties in Waituna with willow clearance and bank protection work to reduce erosion into the waterway.

Two new native mudfish populations have been found in small streams that run into the Lagoon and habitat protection and enhancement is being carried out protect these sites. Fish barrier work to help prevent other fish species from preying on the mudfish is being undertaken on Buchanan's Creek by the Working Waters Trust.

Annual tuna (eel) monitoring was also undertaken by rūnanga and Environment Canterbury biodiversity staff to better understand eel populations as an indicator of overall ecological health in Wainono Lagoon and its catchments.

The Wainono Lagoon is a 480-hectare coastal lagoon and wetland of national and international importance for its birdlife and native fish. Its importance derives from the lagoon's size, diversity of habitats and location in a chain of coastal wetlands. The lagoon and its tributaries are highly significant to Waihao rūnanga as a mahinga kai source and a cultural site.



Lower Waitaki Water Zone Committee

Focus on better winter grazing practices

Improving on-farm grazing practices during the winter months to reduce run-off into waterways was a key focus for the zone in 2017 with the development of clear information for farmers and on-farm events.



South Canterbury's soil types, topography and the quantity of winter feed crops makes many farming areas high risk for phosphorus and sediment loss into our waterways. This can lead to poor water quality. Good winter grazing practices can help reduce run-off and also help with better soil productivity.

A new brochure 'Better grazing to help water quality' was produced for farmers to highlight simple and low-cost ideas to minimise pasture damage and reduce run-off into waterways. This proved timely with an extremely wet July in the area.

Key points included paddock selection (choosing paddocks away from waterways and wet areas), using grass buffer strips, and strategic grazing to protect wet areas over the wet months. Planting a cool-tolerant catch crop to soak up nutrients from soil is also suggested.

In addition, an on-farm field day with expert speakers was held near Waimate in May 2017 focusing on best soil practice for productivity and the environment.

Held at Hugh and Liz Wigley's Hook farm, around 50 farmers and industry representatives came along to hear from Trish Fraser from Plant and Food Research and Andrew Barber from Agrilink - as well as a look at how the Wigleys have been addressing sediment loss, using sediment traps, bank battering and grass buffers next to risk areas.

The event was hosted by the Waihao Wainono Community Catchment Group, who promote good management practice on farms to improve sustainability and reduce environmental impacts, and was supported by FAR, Te Rūnanga o Waihao, Farmlands and Environment Canterbury.

Environment Canterbury offers free advice on best practice water and soil management. This includes farm visits by experienced staff members who can offer guidance and support.

Ancient 'Narnia' valley protected

Prehistoric limestone fossils dating back 23 million years, endangered marsh grass and freshwater crayfish are three reasons why the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee allocated funding to protect the biodiversity of a Duntroon valley.

The partnership project at 'Anatini' received funding of \$13,000 from Environment Canterbury's Immediate Steps Programme and a contribution of \$10,000 from the QEII National Trust, along with the contributions from landowners John and Margaret Hors.

The funding will enable the land to become a QEII covenant, safeguarding the natural features of wetland and limestone escarpment - which featured as a location in the 2005 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' Narnia film. Fencing and weed control will also contribute to protecting the local flora and fauna.

The wetland itself has been fenced from livestock for about 30 years and is already well-established with native plants, such as toetoe and bronze tussocks, but the funding will enable a wider buffer area to be fenced and more planting to take place.

The site has the outstanding natural features including the 23 million year-old limestone cliffs with fossils and its diverse plant community, include rare marsh arrow grass. The waterway is also home to at-risk freshwater kākawai crayfish.

A public walkway is also planned for the project - the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail passes through the site and it is also part of the Vanished World fossil trail.



Black Hole focus of collaborative river enhancement project

A popular recreational area on South Canterbury's Waihao River, the Black Hole, is to undergo a collaborative restoration project to improve its water quality.

The project involves landowners, community groups and local schools working together to enhance the river hole, which has been affected by poor water quality - particularly E.coli bacteria.

Work is underway to remove willows, plant natives along riparian margins, and manage gullies and wet areas to mitigate run-off into the waterway, as well as the enhancement of the Waihao River walking track.

The restoration is part of a larger Waihao River extension project, which includes working with farmers in the upper catchments of the river to reduce nutrient run-off by using good management practices and following Farm Environment Plans.

The zone committee has identified the Black Hole as a priority for restoration due to its high recreational value as a once popular summer swimming spot.



Progress Towards CWMS Targets

Ecosystem health and biodiversity	<p>Our major restoration project – Wainono Lagoon – is in the catchment of our coastal lagoon taonga. This project encompasses multiple scales: on-farm works, in-catchment works, and lagoon riparian works.</p> <p>We have provided significant of funding towards individual projects to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p> <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 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 seven Islands created and birds nesting on many.</p>
Drinking water	<p>We have set catchment load limits for nitrates for all the catchments in our zone.</p> <p>CDHB are communicating nitrate risk to at risk groups who are potentially exposed to drinking water with elevated nitrate concentrations.</p>
Kaitiaki tangata	<p>Our committee process has enabled the expression of Kaitiaki tangata 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>
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 in 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	<p>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 help identify actions to improve irrigation efficiency which can be incorporated into Farm Environment Plans.</p>
Irrigated land area	<p>Hunter Downs Irrigation Scheme are planning to progress with developing a scheme which will increase the amount of land irrigated in the zone that is supplied reliable water from the Waitaki River.</p>
Energy security and efficiency	<p>Our recommendations for changes to the Waitaki Allocation Plan provide more certainty for energy security, while also providing for other values.</p>
Regional and national economies	<p>Our zone will contribute to new growth in regional and national economies through the Hunter Downs and Waihao Downs irrigation schemes.</p>
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 are now operative.</p>

The focus for 2018

- Encourage and support landowners to complete Farm Environment Plans and undertake Good Management Practices on farm.
- Improve the water quality of Wainono lagoon will continue to be a focus for the committee. This year the committee will focus on supporting augmentation of the lagoon. Augmenting the lagoon with high quality water from the Waitaki River will assist in meeting the agreed freshwater outcomes for the lagoon. Restoring the health of the lagoon is of significance to local rānanga.
- Support local councils to work together to undertake a biodiversity project to help landowners protect grey scrub on their properties. The Waitaki valley contains some of the best remaining examples of Canterbury grey scrub. Protecting this scrub is important as it provides habitat for several threatened native species and benefits for farming systems.
- Improve recreation opportunities in the zone by ensuring there are plenty of safe swimmable sites and good access to rivers. In 2017 an investigation was carried out to understand sources of E.coli at the 'black hole'. This year, the focus will be on working with landowners to reduce the amount of E.coli entering the waterway.

Irrigation scheme takes part in waterway survey

More than 8000 hectares of farmland in the Waihao area, south of Waimate, has been surveyed for its impact on water quality in a joint project between Environment Canterbury and the Morvern Glenavy Ikawai Irrigation Company (MGI).

The entire collective of 22 local farmers in the scheme have been working with Environment Canterbury's Land Management and Biodiversity team to identify their Critical Source Areas - the small, low-lying parts of farms such as gullies and swales where run-off can enter the waterways.

Recommendations were then given to each farmer on the best ways to reduce phosphorous sediment, nutrients and bacteria transferring into the waterways on their property. The aim was to provide landowners with practical and customised approaches to improving their management of water, such as adding a wider grass buffer, or reducing winter grazing in hilly areas.

The Environment Canterbury advisors have also been able to help with prioritisation - figuring out what changes will have the biggest impact on the environment. For example, riparian planting might not be the best focus if the farmer also has poorly-situated winter feed paddocks that could cause more run-off issues.

The recommendations from Environment Canterbury will also be incorporated into Farm Environment Plans, which are now required as part of the land use consenting process, as part of Plan Change 3 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.



Lower Waitaki-South Coastal Canterbury Zone

The Lower Waitaki-South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee covers the Waimate and part of the Waitaki District, including the Waitaki River and its tributaries below the Waitaki Dam, Wainono Lagoon and its tributaries including the Waihao and Hook rivers and the Makikihi and Otaio rivers.

It is a joint committee of the Waimate and Waitaki district councils, and Environment Canterbury. The zone is in the rohe of Kāi Huirapa.

The zone boasts significant recreational, cultural and natural values. It has a network of spring-fed streams, coastal lagoons and complex groundwater flows, and includes part of the large alpine Waitaki River, home to the largest hydro-electricity generation scheme in New Zealand.

Canterbury Water Management Strategy Vision:

"To enable present and future generations to gain the greatest social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits from our water resources within an environmentally sustainable framework."

Zone committee members

Kate White, Community Member, Chair

Mark Giles, Community Member, Deputy Chair

Elizabeth Rollinson, Community Member

Andrew Hayes, Community Member

Mark Kingsbury, Community Member

Bruce Murphy, Community Member

Brent Packman, Community Member

Ranui Ryan, Rūnanga Representative Moeraki

Suzanne Eddington, Rūnanga Representative Waihao

Sandra Hampstead-Tipene, Rūnanga Representative Arowhenua, Regional Committee Representative

Andrew Felerabend, Meridian Representative

Miriam Morton, Waimate District Council Appointee

Jeremy Holding, Waitaki District Council Appointee

Peter Scott, Environment Canterbury Councillor



The Lower Waitaki Water Zone Committee is a community led committee supported by Environment Canterbury and local councils.



E0816505

Date 14 February 2017

Report to LWSCC Zone Committee

From Helen Shaw, Surface Water Science Manager

Subject Proposed Science Work in the Hakataramea Catchment, and some Tributaries of the Lower Waitaki Main Stem

Purpose

In 2017, the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee received two requests to ask Environment Canterbury to review the flow regime in certain areas of the Lower Waitaki catchment.

In June 2017, in response to a request from Fish and Game, the Committee moved:

“That the Zone committee ask ECan to provide an outline of a work programme to start gathering technical work required for the review of the Hakataramea Flow Regime.”

In September 2017, in response to a letter from a consultant representing holders of deemed permits (previously mining rights), the Committee moved:

“That the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee ask ECan to support a study into the flows and potential allocation of the rivers on the South Bank of the Waitaki affected by mining rights. We ask that this is done in conjunction with the mining rights farmers and with some urgency in order to provide clarity with regard to application for water to the Kurow Duntroon Irrigation Scheme.”

This paper is to provide the Zone Committee with an update of progress to date, and the plan for the coming months, and also to invite comment on the stakeholder list for collaboration.

Background and Introduction

The Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan (WCWARP) was made operative in 2006. Whilst parts of the WCWARP have been reviewed (resulting in Plan Changes 1, 2 and 3, which affect much of the Lower Waitaki), there are areas of the plan which have not been reviewed. Environment Canterbury has a current timetable for the review of the WCWARP, resulting in notification of a plan change in about 5 years' time. Science work often commences about 3-4 years before notification (starting with filling of data gaps).

There is merit to collecting data and conducting science work early, to ensure we have:

- An opportunity to collaborate with our partners and stakeholders, including during science scoping;
- adequate datasets for good decision making
- better information to address any issues that arise early.

Proposed Approach

We propose to carry out science work in the Hakataramea catchment and on some of the tributaries of the Lower Waitaki main stem, in the context of a broader programme of work that will help prepare for the review of the WCWARP.

We intend to engage fully with our partners, stakeholders and the community during the science phase of the work, in order to share knowledge and gain maximum benefit from the work that everyone in the catchment is doing.

Environment Canterbury, through our Tuia Programme, is currently working on a process to incorporate mātauranga maori into our science work – we are hoping that this will be used in the Waitaki.

We have identified the following key stakeholders (draft list for addition/discussion):

- Papatipu rūnanga – Arowhenua, Moeraki, Waihao, and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
- Waitaki District Council
- Mackenzie District Council
- Upper and Lower Waitaki Zone Committees
- Department of Conservation
- Land Information New Zealand
- Central South Island Fish and Game
- Irrigation Schemes
 - Waitaki Irrigators Collective
 - Benmore Irrigation Scheme
- Aquaculture Information Group (? Relevance?)
- Genesis Energy
- Meridian Energy
- Deemed permit holders (formerly mining rights)

Our approach will be to make contact with all partners and stakeholders over the next few months, in order to establish 'Key Science Questions' for further exploration over the coming years. This will mean we can discuss what data and information everyone is collecting, and how to use it most effectively to form a comprehensive dataset.

Figure 1 below illustrates the early stages of the process.

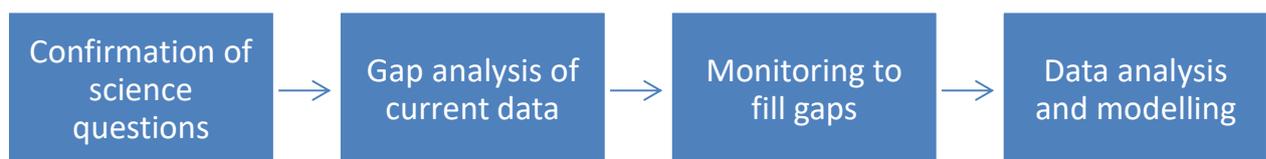


Figure 1: Early stages of the technical work stream- WCWARP review

Initial Draft of Key Science Questions

While we expect that many of the science questions will centre around meeting objectives for the catchment (initially based on the Zone Committee objectives already established during the nutrient limit setting process), we have made a 'starter for 10' list, based on our expert knowledge of the catchment, and emerging / known issues.

- Hakataramea catchment – we already have a working hydrological model of this catchment, but it likely needs some further work to increase confidence in the tributaries / main stem interaction.
- Ahuriri catchment – more flow gauging data will help understand the contributions of smaller tributary flows to the area covered by the Water Conservation Order.
- Lower Waitaki Tributaries – there are some data gaps in this area, and we are likely to be required to undertake analysis for consent decisions.
- Waterways affected by the hydroelectric scheme. Meridian and Genesis Energy have resource consents which expire in 2025; work on the plan change will be in parallel to work required to discuss consent renewal applications.
- Flow stressed rivers – our work on the nutrient limit setting process identified some rivers that are potentially flow stressed (predominantly in the Upper Waitaki).

Current Work

Whilst drafting up the initial science questions, and considering that we could make some early progress in some of the areas (as requested via the ZC), we recognised that there were certainly some data gaps in the Hakataramea and Ahuriri catchments, and in the Lower Waitaki tributaries (Awakino, Kurow, Otaike and Otekaieke). As our field teams visit the Waitaki on a monthly basis, we have included some additional gauging sites into these runs.