



**HURUNUI**  
*District Council*



# Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee

## Agenda

**3.00pm, Monday, 16 April 2018**

*1.00pm Public Workshop*

**Community Hall, Amuri School, School Road, Culverden**

*Community Partnership in Growth and Wellbeing*

### **Committee Membership:**

John Faulkner (Chairperson)  
Mayor Winton Dalley (Hurunui District Council)  
Cr Vince Daly (Hurunui District Council)  
Cr Cynthia Roberts (Canterbury Regional Council)  
James Costello  
Ben Ensor (Deputy Chairperson)  
Michele Hawke  
Ken Hughey  
James McCone  
Makarini Rupene (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga)  
Dan Shand  
Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash (Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura)

### **Quorum:**

The quorum of the meeting consists of:

- half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even; or
- a majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.

**Committee Secretary** – Michelle Stanley

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### **The purpose of local government:**

- (1) The purpose of local government is—
  - (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
  - (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.
- (2) In this Act, **good-quality**, in relation to local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions, means infrastructure, services, and performance that are —
  - (a) efficient; and
  - (b) effective; and
  - (c) appropriate to present and anticipated future circumstances.

*(Local Government Act 2002 – Amendment Act 2012)*

**HURUNUI – WAIAU ZONE COMMITTEE**  
**WORKSHOP & MEETING**

Monday, 16 April 2018  
Community Hall, Culverden

**1.00pm – 2.45pm Public workshop – Presentation of technical information prepared for AIC to support a possible Glenrae-related plan change:**

Hydrology; Terrestrial ecology; Landscape; Dam Break; Freshwater ecology and quality. (Reports relating to this are at a dropbox at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lf5rq6vx0c8oy60/AADuJh2hIRAFexR5yYd09fsFa?dl=0>)

**AGENDA**

|   |        |   |                                  |
|---|--------|---|----------------------------------|
|   | 3.00pm | <b>Zone Committee Meeting commences</b> with karakia and formal order of business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apologies</li> <li>• Announced urgent business</li> <li>• Interests register (changes or updates)</li> <li>• Confirmation of minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 19 March 2018</li> <li>○ 26 March 2018 (to be circulated at a later date)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Matters arising</li> <li>• Correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Letters to Ballance Farm Awards winners</li> <li>○ Letter to The Press in response to article on implementing minimum flows</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | 4<br><br>5-17<br><br>18-19<br>20 |
| 1 | 3.20pm | Update on Regional Committee<br>Winton Dalley and Michele Hawke   |                                  |
| 2 | 3.25pm | Update from Zone Committee members on activities and meetings attended that relate to the Committee's outcomes for the zone   |                                  |
| 3 | 3.30pm | Public Contribution   |                                  |
| 4 | 3.35pm | Verbal update from Zone Delivery<br>Paul Hulse, Environment Canterbury  |                                  |
| 5 | 3.50pm | Update from organisations wishing to speak  |                                  |
| 6 | 4.00pm | Proposal for a staged implementation of HWRRP minimum flows alongside an environmental enhancement package<br>Ken Hughey, HWZC Working Party  | 21-39                            |
|   | 5.10pm | BREAK   |                                  |
| 7 | 5.25pm | Recommendations relating to fixing the 10%-rule issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• addressing the need for collectives in HWRRP and nutrient loss reporting</li> </ul> Lisa Jenkins, Environment Canterbury  | 40-41                            |
| 8 | 6.20pm | Zone Facilitator's report<br>Ian Whitehouse, Environment Canterbury   | 42                               |
|   | 6.30pm | Meeting concludes   |                                  |

## Register of Interests for the Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee

| Committee Member        | Interests  |
|-------------------------|--|
| James Costello          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm owner – sheep in the Hurunui Catchment</li> <li>• Water Resource Consent to take water from the Waitohi River</li> <li>• Shareholder in Hurunui Water Project</li> <li>• Possibly an affected landowner by infrastructure of Hurunui Water Project</li> <li>• Dryland Farmers Committee member</li> </ul>  |
| Ben Ensor               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land owner in the coastal hills, Jed and lower Waiau catchments.</li> <li>• Managing director of Seaward Stock Company Ltd, comprising sheep, beef and cropping enterprises.</li> <li>• Consent holder to take water for irrigation from a stream hydraulically connected to the Waiau River.</li> <li>• Member of the Hurunui Waiau Landcare Group (Dryland Farmers Group).</li> </ul>   |
| John Faulkner           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dairy farm owner in the Amuri Basin.</li> <li>• Irrigation water supplied by Amuri Irrigation Company Ltd (Shareholder).</li> <li>• Dairy Support block owner, consent to take water from a gallery.</li> <li>• Member of the independent irrigators Group.</li> </ul>  |
| Michele Hawke           | Nil  |
| Dan Shand               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land owner Hurunui and Waiau catchments</li> <li>• Dry land farmer</li> <li>• Member of the Hurunui/Waiau Landcare Group</li> </ul>   |
| Mayor Winton Dalley     | Register of Interests lies with the CEO of the Hurunui District Council.   |
| Ken Hughey              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor of Environmental Management, Lincoln University (2 days per week)</li> <li>• Chief Science Advisor, Department of Conservation, Wellington (3 days per week)</li> <li>• Board member Waihora Ellesmere Trust</li> <li>• Board member Hanmer Springs Conservation Trust</li> <li>• Member Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.</li> <li>• Member Royal Society of NZ</li> <li>• Member NZ Geographical Society.</li> <li>• Occasional contract water-related research work including for Environment Canterbury.</li> </ul> |
| Makarini Rupene         | TBC  |
| James McCone            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry Creek Dairy Ltd- AIC Balmoral scheme</li> <li>• Kinloch Dairy Ltd- AIC Waiau Scheme</li> <li>• Amuri Irrigation Company Director</li> <li>• Committee Member Upper Waiau Independent Irrigators</li> <li>• Informal interest in potential emu plains irrigation</li> </ul>  |
| Cr Vince Daly           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm owner - mixed cropping and livestock farm</li> <li>• Water resource consent to take water from unnamed lake in Jed catchment</li> </ul>  |
| Cr Cynthia Roberts      | Register of Interests is held by Environment Canterbury.   |
| Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash | TBC  |

# HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES



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| <b>Meeting</b>                           | Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee   |
| <b>Date and Time</b>                     | 19 March 2018, 3.00pm  |
| <b>Venue</b>                             | Waikari Community Hall, Waikari  |
| <b>Agenda</b>                            | <a href="http://www.hurunui.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/19-March-2018-HWZC-Agenda.pdf">http://www.hurunui.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/19-March-2018-HWZC-Agenda.pdf</a>  |
| <b>Members Present</b>                   | John Faulkner (Chair), Mayor Winton Dalley, Cr Vince Daly, James Costello, Ben Ensor, Ken Hughey, James McCone, Cr Cynthia Roberts, Makarini Rupene, Dan Shand and Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.  |
| <b>In Attendance</b>                     | <p><b>Environment Canterbury (ECan)</b> – Ian Whitehouse (Zone Facilitator), Cr Claire McKay, Michael Bennett, Hamish Graham, Lisa Jenkins, Kimberley Dynes, Stephen Bragg, Jess Hill, Ned Norton, Suzanne Gabites, Paul Hulse, and Nadine Dommissie</p> <p><b>Hurunui District Landcare Group (HDLG)</b> – Josh Brown</p> <p><b>Hurunui Water Project</b> – Chris Pile and Christina Robb</p> <p><b>Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC)</b> – David Croft and Andrew Barton</p> <p><b>Department of Conservation (DOC)</b> – John Benn and Danny Kimber</p> <p><b>Dairy New Zealand</b> – Charlotte Wright</p> <p><b>Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT)</b> – Lisa Mackenzie and Matt Dale</p> <p><b>Federated Farmers New Zealand (FFNZ)</b> – Lionel Hume</p> <p><b>Hurunui District Council</b> – Cr Nicky Anderson</p> <p><b>Dairy Farmer</b> – Shaun Lissington</p> <p><b>Dryland Farmer</b> – David Fincham</p> <p><b>Committee Secretary</b> – Michelle Stanley</p> |
| <b>Recording Device</b>                  | A recording device was in use for the accuracy of the minutes.   |
| <b>Karakia</b>                           | Makarini Rupene led the karakia.   |
| <b>Apologies</b>                         | <p>Apologies were received from Michele Hawke and Makarini Rupene for 5.50pm early departure.</p> <p>THAT THE APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED.</p> <p>Faulkner/Costello <span style="float: right;">CARRIED</span></p>   |
| <b>Conflict of Interest Declarations</b> | Nil.   |
| <b>Urgent Business</b>                   | Nil.   |

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**Health and Safety**

The appropriate emergency evacuation plan was outlined out at the beginning of the meeting.

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**Minutes**

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2018 ARE CONFIRMED, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

- Page 6, Urgent Business, change to read "... agenda items would be changed to accommodate attendees and the **Rural Advocacy Group** correspondence item..."
- Page 8, item Correspondence, first paragraph, change all incidents of Ben Ensor **to** Dan Shand.
- Page 8, item Correspondence, second paragraph, change first sentence to "Cr Cynthia Roberts noted that ECan had a legal responsibility to look..."
- Page 8, item Correspondence, third paragraph, change last word in paragraph 'compensated' **to** 'considered'.
- Correct all instances of Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash's name.
- Page 9, item 2, second paragraph, second sentence, change to read: "He also noted an emailed letter **that ECan** received from..."; change email **to** letter; and final sentence in paragraph change she **to** he.
- Page 9, item 2, fourth paragraph, insert into the paragraph after "...\$62.5kpa." "Scott Pearson noted, in response to Shuan, that the survey that Fish and Game had completed was on the Hurunui River minimum flows and not the Waiau River minimum flows. Shaun then stated that...."
- Page 9, item 2, fifth paragraph, fifth line, change agriculture **to** irrigation.
- Page 11, item 2, second bullet point, second sentence, change to read "He said the purpose of minimum flows is to increase water in the river and asked if it had to be beneficial just at peak times."
- Page 11, item 2, second paragraph, change end of first sentence to read "... and give an indication the Committee was heading in the correct direction."
- Page 12, item 5, fourth bullet point, change the word distant **to** distance.
- Page 14, item 6, fourth paragraph, final sentence, change to read "Cr Cynthia Roberts agreed that the Committee needed more information along with clear recommendations." (delete rest of the sentence).
- Page 16, item 7, after paragraph four, to be inserted into the minutes as a post meeting statement [*Ben Ensor wished to have it noted in the minutes that he has land in this area and therefore a perceived conflict of interest*].
- Page 16, item 7, last paragraph, change the word 'Downstream SH1 (Map5)...' **to** at SH1 (Map 5) starting above the bridge..."

Faulkner/Roberts

CARRIED

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**Matters Arising:***Plan Change for Integrated Water Storage (page 13)*

Ken Hughey clarified that the statement made by Andrew Barton concerning “currently no option of an integrated water storage in Zone C and a plan change was needed to enable major storage at Glenrae in Zone B” was incorrect.

For the sake of clarity it was noted that it is a non-complying activity under the HWRRP and therefore a plan change was not their only option. They could also apply for a consent to enable major storage at Glenrae in Zone B.

*Correspondence, Rural Advocacy Network (page 6)*

It was discussed that an official letter responding to the Rural Advocacy Network Groups original letter on concerns over the mapping of wetlands, springs and riverbed lines, is still to be written.

It was suggested that a response in person via a meeting that has already been scheduled between ECan, The Rural Advocacy Group and Mayor Winton Dalley would be better. Mayor Winton Dalley to take the record from the minutes to give a sense of how the letter and issue was handled.

It was noted by Nadine Dommissie, Director of Operations ECan, that they have made some changes to their processes in response to this issue. The following was noted:

- When a consent is applied for, where riverbed lines are involved, the consent is handled by their more experienced consent officers. This enables a better conversation between the applicant and ECan.
- In some cases where there is a dispute about the riverbed lines then officers might visit the area with the applicant to get a better sense of the situation.
- It was not disputed that in some cases there would still be considerable cost to the applicant to employ consultants to assess a mapped line that is impeding a consent. As it stands all applicants applying for a consent bear the costs associated with it, what ECan is trying to do is start the conversation early so that the process is as streamlined as possible. They are happy to continue this conversation to come up with a solution that works.

Concern was expressed that the lines still impact people with consents, and induce considerable costs, even though the lines are not proven and are not legally part of a plan; they are just guide riverbed lines.

ECan noted that this is a complicated issue and that the BRIDGE project is tasked to be the long-term solution to this but in the meantime the approach that they are taking will streamline the process.

**Correspondence*****Letter to Environment Canterbury Supporting Cultural Land Management Advisor***

Taken as read and no further comments were made.

***Letter to Environment Canterbury asking for Hurunui-Waiaua Zone Committee Working Party to meet with Regional Councillors***

Taken as read and no further comments were made.

### ***Email regarding dinner post the Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee meetings***

It was noted that there has been a change of direction with regard to the committee's after-meeting dinner. The secretary, after receiving no response to the email, provided the Committee with a larger afternoon tea. There were some that did not want the dinners to stop despite the poor attendance. The Committee Secretary reiterated that HDC did not want to take the Committee's meals away from them but that we had to also consider the impact on the local business of booking for 14 people on a Monday night and having only a small number turn up.

A number of different scenarios were considered and it was decided that the best course of action would be to book for eight people. This would mean that it would not be too big an impact on the local businesses if a couple of people were unable to attend or if a couple of extra people wished to attend dinner.

### **Zone Committee Workshops and Briefings**

Ken Hughey updated the committee on other meetings held. The following was noted:

- The working party has had a productive meeting with AIC since the last Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee meeting.
- Ken Hughey has had separate meetings with Scott Pearson (Fish and Game New Zealand) and then Jen Miller and Peter Anderson (Forest and Bird). He noted that both meetings were open and frank meetings at which he was very careful to convey that his intentions were not to influence their thinking but to outline the benefits and costs as summarised from the discussions between the working party and AIC. He noted that neither party has made any promises except to consider the information received. He encouraged them to attend the meeting today and the 26 March, but they have not attended.
- The working party met with councillors of the Regional Council to debrief them on the work that has been happening between the working party and AIC. Ken spoke on where they had landed in draft preliminary form and got very positive feedback. There was some good searching questions and legal debate.

There was some discussion at this meeting with the Regional Council regarding the proposed Plan Change around the Glenrae.

There was also support for a binding arrangement between parties if the enhancement package and staggered minimum flow raising with AIC is agreed to. It was not considered that this would be an issue for future Regional Councils as arrangements like these are not uncommon.

Ken noted that the working party had felt very nervous about being at the meeting, partly due to being unsure as to how they would be received, given that they were trying to integrate a huge number of issues by putting them into a package that has a whole lot of wins to it but would never make anyone completely happy.

Ken Hughey provided an update on the committee-only workshop held before the formal meeting on implementing HWRRP minimum flows. The workshop was held to update the Zone Committee on the working parties activities and to ask for some direction going forward. The following was noted:



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- The Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee supports the working parties process and progress, and asked it to continue working in the direction it has been. The Zone Committee did add some additions to the work which were helpful. These were:
    - An offer by AIC to assist with the 10% rule, which has been gratefully received. It was noted that ECan is already working with AIC on this and that the Zone Committee will work with ECan to make sure there is a defined pathway and timeline towards the plan change.
    - The Zone Committee suggested adding to the enhancement package in regards to establishing benchmarks that will be able to be measured against going forward. These will include the mauri (life force and well-being) of the rivers. The Zone Committee want to ensure that the water is being used in the most efficient and effective way so that if there is any surplus water, that water can be returned to the river for the rivers benefit. These alterations/suggestions are of real significance and importance to the Zone Committee and hopefully matters that can be negotiated with AIC.
    - It was acknowledged that AIC has already measures in place to monitor soil moisture, what the working party are encouraging is timelines and assurance that water is being used efficiently and effectively.
    - The Plan Change for integrated water storage is important to AIC. Ken noted that, consistent with the recommendation from the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2018 (page 14 of the agenda), AIC is still gathering information around the proposal before deciding on its merits or otherwise but the Working Party certainly see the recommendation on integrated storage as part of the bigger picture.
  - There are to be some further meetings to be had with AIC and the Regional Council, at its request. They also hope to meet with the two Rūnanga. Makarini Rupene noted that the Executive Chair of Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga asked that a letter be sent to the Chair, care of the Secretary, which will be addressed accordingly.
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## 1. Update on Regional Committee

Due to Michelle Hawke and Mayor Winton Dalley's absence from the last Regional Water Management Committee, Cr Claire McKay was asked if she would update the Zone Committee on the 13 March 2018 Regional Committee meeting. The following was noted:

- This was the first meeting of 2018.
  - Email invitations have been sent regarding the Watershed 2018 event involving members of all ten zone committees. It is running on Monday 9 April in Christchurch. It is to celebrate the past and look towards the future.
  - CWMS Quick Guide was discussed and it is a very good review of where the CWMS has come from and what the future could look like.
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- A presentation on Telling the Farmer Story – Irrigation New Zealand Communication Project was given. This included tips on positive media stories and strategies for working on public perspective of farming in New Zealand.
  - The ‘Can I Swim Here?’ Campaign was discussed. The campaign directed people to the LAWA website ([lawa.org.nz/swim](http://lawa.org.nz/swim)) through social media, targeted online advertising, radio, cinema and billboards in the city. They reported that there has been up to 15,000 hits on this site which is positive.
  - An update on Urban Stormwater Opportunities was provided. This is aimed at improving water quality in urban areas. Cr Vince Daly asked that the impact of a State Highway running through small rural towns on the Stormwater systems be taken into consideration. He felt there was some unfairness that these communities had to fund it.
  - Braided rivers project had an update.
  - ECan is scoping a Recreational and Amenity Project currently that is being spearheaded by Scott Pearson.
  - Fish screens were discussed.

The Regional Committee agenda can be found at <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/council-and-committee-meetings/>

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**2. Update from Zone Committee members on other activities and meetings attended that relate to the Committee’s outcomes for the Zone.**

Updates from the following members were received:

- Cr Cynthia Roberts thanked Jess Hill, ECan, for organising the Biodiversity Working Party field trip to the Conway Flats. It was a fully packed outing with a visit to various properties around Conway. She noted that it costs approximately \$50,000 per hectare to restore an area back to native plantings from pasture but nearly nothing to protect what already exists.
- Cr Cynthia Roberts noted that the Regional Pest Management Plan was passed last week. ECan have reduced the eleven pest management boards to four boards with a much broader take on managing pests by amalgamating pest classifications.

There was discussion round the downgrading of the Chilean Needlegrass classification from an eradication to a containment policy. There was concern that this downgrade would undo all the hard work that farmers have put in to eradicate the pest from their farms. There was concern that if eradication is taken out of the equation then the pressure comes off the pest programs and in a short amount of time, the pest will once again be out of control. There needs to be encouragement to declare an infestation rather than try to hide it.

Cr Cynthia Roberts noted that they are planning to increase the education campaigns. She encouraged Zone Committee members to lodge an appeal if they have concerns with the Pest Plan and noted that she will also relay this information back through the appropriate channels.

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The Zone Committee encourages people to submit to the Pest Management Plan. Stating that containment is not going to work and that the eradication classification needs to remain in place for Chilean Needlegrass. John Faulkner to note this in the next news article.

- Cr Cynthia Roberts noted that the Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan is out for consultation. The deadline for submissions is 29 March 2018.
  - The Zone Committee congratulated Nick Gill and Mark and Jane Schwass who won a 2018 Balance Farm Environment Awards and the supreme winners: David and Brenda Hislop, Mark Daly and Janet Girvan. These winners are from the Hurunui Zone.
  - John Faulkner has had conversations with Cr Tom Lambie in regards to the Earthquake Recovery Project and tree planting opportunities. He felt that this is something that needs to be explored further for its potential benefit to people for waterway protection etc.
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### 3. General Public Contribution

- Shuan Lissington also noted the fantastic efforts of the Ballance Farm Environment Award winners. There were two finalists from this area for the supreme award, which is significant for this area. He noted that this win, on top of the recent Pahau Enhancement Award, that runs through dairy heartland in Amuri, proves that there is a lot of headway and progress being made. He also noted that he was disappointed that Fish and Game and Forest and Bird representatives were not present at the meeting to acknowledge this achievement.
  - Lesley Shand, landowner, stated that the Hurunui District Council had almost as many submissions against investing in the HWP water shares as for it. She also stated, from a recording on National radio, that dryland farming is putting *E.coli* on the land.
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## REPORTS, SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS

### 4. Verbal update from Zone Delivery Paul Hulse, ECan.

Paul Hulse, Zone Delivery Manager, who has stepped in to support the Zone Team during the transition of Leanne Lye moving out of that acting role. He gave a verbal update on the Zone Delivery Team. The following was noted:

- The search for a permanent Zone Delivery Manager is continuing.
  - Paul has been working to confirm the Cultural Land Management Role as requested via a letter to ECan from the Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee. He noted that it has been entered into the Long Term Plan, which is still out for consultation. This is an important and significant role and as such, subsequent to some internal conversations, there will be a Cultural Land Manager in place working in Hurunui and Kaikoura within the next couple of months.
  - Work has been progressing on the review of the Zone Team's priorities and work program. This is to be discussed further at the workshop on the 26 March 2018.
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### 5. Update from Organisations wishing to speak

Nil.

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**6. Zone Committee work programme March – May**

Ian Whitehouse, ECan.

Ian Whitehouse spoke to the report.

Discussion was held around the timing of the Community Public Meetings. It was decided that the week of Monday, 30 April 2018 would be the best time for all attending. It was agreed that Culverden and Cheviot were the logical places to hold the meetings. Ian Whitehouse to confirm via email the time and venue.

John Faulkner asked the Zone Committee for leave for the 21 May 2018 zone committee meeting as he will be away.

**7. Recommendations relating to fixing the 10%-rule issue**

Lisa Jenkins, ECan

John Faulkner, on behalf of the Zone Committee, thanked Lisa Jenkins for all her hard work.

Lisa Jenkins spoke to her presentation on recommendations relating to fixing the 10% rule issue. The paper asked the Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee to consider making a recommendation to the Canterbury Regional Council to pursue a targeted plan change to the Hurunui Waiau Rivers Regional Plan, for the purpose of permitting normal dryland farming.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- Ken Hughey asked if there was a proposed timeline for the recommendation that ECan works with irrigators to identify and lock in voluntary nitrogen loss reductions so that permitting normal dryland farming does not breach the Nitrogen load limit for the Hurunui River. Lisa noted that this will be up for discussion at the next Zone Committee meeting. Ken noted that the minimum flows working party have discussed this and need to align with ECan on this.
- It was noted that the rationale for the measurement that winter grazing does not occur over 100 hectares where a property is more than 1000 hectares in size, is that it makes it consistent with Plan Change 5 and that this cap has been used through all the modelling done to estimate a plausible worst case scenario.
- Discussion was held on the difference between Plan Change 5 and the suggested recommendation. There was favour shown towards Plan Change 5 and it being a better friendlier package than the recommended 10% rule. Lisa noted that if the Zone Committee wanted to pursue Plan Change 5 then this would be a much broader and less targeted change than what the Zone Committee had previously asked for.
- A member of the public asked, assuming PC5 will be implemented in the future along with the Portal, if any work has been done on the implications of the good management practice (GMP) nitrogen loss rates of the portal across the catchment, irrigated and non-irrigated, and the reductions that might be likely to occur with these portal GMP loss rates coming into place. Lisa replied there is no study on this due to the Portal GMP nitrogen loss rates not being a requirement in this zone.
- In response to a query on what was meant by “voluntary reductions”, that this referred to AIC, HWP and Ngāi Tahu Farming agreeing to a portion of their consented N load they would voluntarily give up to enable dryland farming to be a permitted activity without breaching the N load limit for Hurunui River. The term voluntary has been used as ECan cannot take away Nitrogen loads from a consent.

- There is a concern that in 2023 when the plan is reviewed that any agreement that is put in place now could be overturned and the Portal brought in on the intensive irrigating farms. Lisa noted that it is certainly a possibility.
  - Andrew Barton, AIC, noted that the Portal is just generating a number for the GMP N loss expected from the property. AIC already have a self-management process with Farm Environment Plans in place therefore it is expected that when the portal comes in, AIC farmers will be matching the portal's GMP N loss. Good results have already been shown by the farmers in the Amuri collective with a Ballance farm champion, and sheep and beef farmers both part of that self-management system. He also noted that AIC would like to see the voluntary Nitrogen loss reduction as a part of a package that includes a plan change related to water storage.
  - Good management practice and its relation to portal numbers was discussed. Andrew Barton, AIC, noted that Good Management Practice is about what you are doing on the farm and then you can measure that by using the portal. If a farmer has met the criteria required in their audited Farm Environment Plan, the expectation is that when the Portal GMP N loss rates land on AIC, the figure coming out of the portal should match what is being seen on the farm.
  - It was asked if ECan is proposing replacing the 10.1 and 10.2 rules with the thresholds from PC5. Lisa noted that they are looking at changing the definition of land use change or alternatively putting in permitted activity for dryland farmers. Rules 10.1 and 10.2 also deal with catchment accounting and collectives and there are options for how this will be progressed. The solution will be drafted in a way that avoids effecting anyone except for dry land farmers.
  - There was concern expressed around the possibility of an unintended consequence from using the term 'lock' in the recommendation. Lisa noted that the idea of having the wording 'lock in voluntary Nitrogen loss reductions' is to have some sort of solid agreement so that when a hearing is held there will be evidence and certainty to convince the panel.
  - Concern was also held over agreeing to lock in these reductions without seeing the agreements first. Lisa noted that conversations are happening with the irrigators at the moment but no agreement has been achieved yet. Ian Whitehouse noted that the recommendation is not about the specifics but about ECan pursuing the conversation as it is clear that it is not landed yet.
  - James Costello asked for clarification around dryland farmers in the HWP command area. HWP replied that a HWP shareholder that takes water within the command area has a N load for their property as part of the HWP N load and that this N load includes the N losses from the dryland and irrigated areas of the farm. Nitrogen losses for a HWP shareholder that does not take water, or a dryland farmer without shares, in the HWP command area are not included in the HWP N load and so are covered by the HWRRP 10% rule and the proposed changes to this rule to permit normal dryland farming.
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John Faulkner asked the Zone Committee to note if they are happy with the recommendation. After discussion Zone Members were happy with the recommendations and the following comments were made:

- Cr Vince Daly is concerned that there is not enough consultation with the public and wants to make it as simple for the dry land farmer as possible. Whilst he was originally unsure about moving ahead with the recommendation, after discussion he agreed to the recommendation.
- The HDLG's survey showed, as reported to the Science Stakeholder Group, that about 3% of farms had more than 10% of their farm area in winter grazing. It was noted that these farms were wintering dairy cows and were therefore at the risk of producing extra Nitrogen.
- Mayor Winton Dalley reluctantly agreed with the recommendation as it is about getting it over the line.

**That the Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee recommends that the Canterbury Regional Council pursues a targeted plan change to the Hurunui-Waiau Rivers Regional Plan to be notified in 2018. The Plan Change will:**

- a) **Permit normal dryland farming where:**
  - I. **Normal dryland farming will be determined to be farming that :**
    - **The property is not irrigated**
    - **Winter grazing (of cattle on root or brassica crops) will not occur over more than 10% of the property area, or over 100ha where a property is more than 1000ha in size.**
- b) **Include an approach developed with the Zone Committee that addresses the current requirements for dryland farmers to be a part of a nutrient management collective and report nutrient losses.**

**The Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee recommends the Canterbury Regional Council works with irrigators to identify and lock in voluntary Nitrogen loss reductions so that permitting normal dryland farming does not breach the Nitrogen load limit for the Hurunui River.**

**McCone/Shand**

**CARRIED**

**Break**

*The meeting adjourned for a break at 4.54pm and reconvened at 5.25pm.*

**8. Recommendations relating to strengthening water quality limits for Waiau catchment**

Lisa Jenkins, ECan

Lisa Jenkins spoke to the report on recommendations relating to strengthening water quality limits for Waiau Catchments. The goal is to establish a limit on the Waiau River and to ensure there is robust processes and monitoring in place that will control or keep the water quality at or about where it is.

The following was noted:

- A site for the chlorophyll A monitoring in the lower Waiau has now been established.
- Emu Plains will need to prove in their hearings that any additional periphyton growth from the new development of Emu Plains, alongside dryland farming and consented but undeveloped land use, will be within the limit set for periphyton growth in the HWRRP.

- 
- Discussion was held on how, given there is no accurate prediction from nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations of potential periphyton growth, consent applicants are having to predict what the periphyton increase will be from irrigation development.
  - Ned spoke to how the periphyton is measured and what the limits are. They are trying to measure the amount of algae that is living on the bed of the river. The way the limit is expressed in the Plan is as biomass periphyton in milligrams of algae per square metre. Essentially the team visits an established site at the river that meets a certain number of criteria, they then take a scraping from known areas of stones on the river bed. They take that to the lab who then estimate what the weight of the algae is sitting in the river point at that point in time.
  - There is also another way of measuring periphyton cover, via a viewer which is used to estimate the percentage cover of periphyton on the stones on the riverbed. This periphyton cover is used in to measure the periphyton limit for both the Hurunui and Waiau Rivers as stated in the Plan.
  - It was noted that Emu Plains is undergoing quite a rigorous process to get consent and may have trouble meeting periphyton outcomes in the tributaries that run across the Emu Plains. The Plan has periphyton limits for the mainstem of the Waiau River but not for these tributaries. The difficulty that Emu Plains is experiencing is that those tributaries are more sensitive to nuisance periphyton growth than the main stem.
  - Discussion was held on the value of the tributaries in the zone. It was noted that each one will be different and an assessment of each tributaries values would be beneficial and necessary. As such it was agreed to add the tributaries to the below recommendation in order to start the work program on this.

There is no periphyton biomass (Chlorophyll A) monitoring at the Waiau River State Highway 1, although there is a long record of nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations at this location and the concentrations are high enough to cause nuisance periphyton, at times, at State Highway 1 based on predictive relationships.

1. **The Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee recommends that the Canterbury Regional Council pursues, as soon as practicable, a plan change to the Hurunui Waiau Rivers Regional Plan (HWRRP), for the purpose of strengthening the water quality limits in the Waiau River and tributaries (to manage periphyton growth), acknowledging:**
    - a. Fixing the 10% rule issue is a priority for the targeted plan change to be notified in 2018;
    - b. A plan change of this nature will take 3-4 years to prepare under the CWMS collaborative planning process.
    - c. The consideration of the effects of the earthquake on water quality in the catchment.
  2. **The Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee recommends that the Canterbury Regional Council:**
    - a. do additional chlorophyll a monitoring in the Waiau river by establishing a monitoring site established in the lower Waiau;
-

- 
- b. undertakes a work programme to better understand the relationship between nutrient loads and periphyton growth rate;
  - c. investigate options to provide clarity to consent applicants, consent staff and decision makers that the nutrient losses from:
    - i. development that has been consented but not implemented;
    - ii. development that is in a consent process; and
    - iii. the increased load anticipated to come from permitted dryland farming, could push close or even exceed a yet-to-be-determined total nutrient load that would ensure the HWRRP periphyton limit for the Waiau is achieved. Any further development consent applications will need to justify their nutrient losses.

Roberts/Ensor

CARRIED

## 9. Zone Facilitators Report

Ian Whitehouse,  
ECan

Ian Whitehouse spoke to his report. He asked that the Zone Committee notes:

- the proposed approach for Stage 1 of the braided riverbed lines (BRIDGE) project that will be used in the reach of the Waiau River near State Highway 1; and
- that the toxic cyanobacteria warning has been lifted from Hurunui River at Balmoral campground swimming site.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- Kimberley Dynes, ECan, spoke on the work that was done over the summer on finding the source of *E.coli* upstream of the bridge at State Highway 7. All of the data from the five sites, including above and below bird colonies and tributaries, is now being processed which will take a couple of months to input and analyse. Once this has been completed a report will be brought back to the Zone Committee accordingly.
  - It was noted that there are now two monitoring points on the Hurunui River at State Highway 7: one by the campsite in a side braid and another one on the main channel. It was noted that when there was a toxic algae warning on the swimming hole this summer it was put on the website that the warning was for the side braid.
  - All of the sites with high readings of *E.coli* will be flagged to ESR for Faecal Source Tracking which will hopefully lead to pinpointing the sources of the *E.coli*. Kimberley noted that just by the raw data there were some high readings again this summer and these were in the lower portion of the river (i.e. closer to SH7). Without having studied the data, she noted that it appears to vary between sites on certain days.
  - It was asked if the pig farm is a factor in this as public feel that the birds are feeding at the pig farm and then defecating into the river. The possibility of this is being looked into with samples taken above and below the bird colonies being analysed.
  - It was asked what happens to the periphyton once a flood comes through. It was noted that the movement of the gravel and water disrupts the periphyton which breaks it up into very small fragments and these are taken in the flood waters out to sea. The Hurunui River is monitored near the mouth at Spring bridge and periphyton has not been seen to accumulate at this site. It was noted that the species of periphyton that is in the river cannot survive in salt water.
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**Urgent Business**

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Nil

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**Meeting concluded**

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The meeting concluded at 6.13 pm

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**Next meeting**

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26 March 2018 – Amberley

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**Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee**

9<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Mark and Jane Schwass

**Kaiora Downs**

Dear Mark and Jane

The Zone Committee would like to congratulate Kaiora Downs on achieving the Beef and Lamb New Zealand Award for Canterbury in the 2018 Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

It is pleasing to see whilst the Zone Committee and others spend considerable time in debate over environmental enhancement and Good Management Practice, landowners such as yourselves are well down the active sustainable management road and leading the way.

The riparian retirement and enhancement of waterways, wetlands and native biodiversity on dryland properties is of significant interest to the Zone Committee and the value of voluntary restoration work cannot be underestimated.

The work undertaken on Kaiora downs and the exposure helps build the relationship and trust with non-land users that farmers are acting in a manner that will deliver improved water quality and environmental stewardship, without the need for strenuous regulatory intervention.

Regards

John Faulkner

Chair Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee



**Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee**

9<sup>th</sup> April 2018

David and Brenda Hislop, Mark Daly and Janet Girvan

**Medbury Farm**

Dear Dave, Brenda, Mark and Janet

The Zone Committee would like to congratulate Medbury Farm Ltd on achieving the Supreme Award for Canterbury in the 2018 Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

The commitment and dedication to developing a high performing, environmentally sustainable Dairy business near the Hurunui River, one of the most contested and debated rivers in New Zealand is significant.

The public scrutiny of rural New Zealand especially the dairy industry and the misconceptions of an industry unwilling to address the environmental issue's surrounding it is a misconception that is being addressed by landowners such as Medbury Farm.

It is pleasing to see the environmental and business leadership shown by yourselves to the Amuri Basin dairy farmers and the wider industry.

Perhaps more importantly is the willingness to "open" the farm operation to view and critique, thus helping to provide confidence to the public that the industry embraces the environmental challenges ahead.

Medbury Farm demonstrates that if given time to understand the problem farmers will act to improve water quality while being able to economically sustain the associated costs.

Regards

John Faulkner  
Chair Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee

## The Press

06 April 2018

### **Hurunui River flows**

The letters from John Kent and David O'Neill (Mar 29) regarding minimum flows in the Hurunui and Waiau rivers require response.

The Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee wants the minimum flows in the local plan implemented sooner rather than later.

The zone committee identified an opportunity to leverage an environmental enhancement package by the main water take, Amuri Irrigation, while also implementing the minimum flows. We firmly believe this could deliver better environmental and cultural outcomes than a consent review could. Consent review may also be costly and slow.

The zone committee has therefore agreed consideration of a proposed enhancement package with the company supported by voluntary implementation of staged minimum flow increases starting in the 2018 irrigation season.

The package includes enhancing spring-fed streams, restoring wetlands, predator and weed control to protect braided-river birds, improving the

Hurunui and Waiau hapua (lagoons), helping farmers deliver mahinga kai values, reducing nitrogen inputs to the Hurunui River, investigating ways to provide river flows to help salmon migrate, and a managed aquifer recharge trial.

At its meeting on April 16 the zone committee will discuss the proposed package and make recommendations to Environment Canterbury.

**John Faulkner**  
Hurunui Waiau Zone  
Committee chairman

**DATE:** 10th April 2018

**TO:** Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6

**FROM:** Ken Hughey, Chair of the 'Minimum Flow Working Party', Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee

**SUBJECT:** **Discussion Paper: Staged minimum flow and environmental enhancement package – a proposal**

**ACTION REQUIRED:** The Zone committee discuss the proposed staged implementation of the Plan minimum flows alongside an environmental enhancement package. The committee will make a recommendation on this proposal at the 21 May zone meeting.

## 1. Background

The Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan contains the provision for minimum flows in both rivers to be raised, from:

- 15 to 20 cumecs for the Waiau
- 12 to 15 cumecs for the Hurunui

Minimum flows are brought in when resource consents come up for review. These resource consents have not yet been brought into line with the Plan, for several reasons:

- The zone committee has always sought an integrated solution to water management issues and this has proved difficult to achieve
- There were other matters that the Zone Committee also wanted to achieve, e.g., all irrigated farmers having operative farm environment plans – we have achieved this
- And the fact that minimum flows can only really be implemented in one of the following ways:
  - As consents come up for renewal – in this case the largest consents lie with AIC and their renewal is not until 2033
  - The regional council reviews the consents to impose the minimum flows – this process could take up to 3 years (including worst case legal challenge scenarios)
  - Consent holders agree to raise the minimum flows thus reducing the reliability of supply to them.
  - Through new consents being issued with the higher Plan minimum flow.

In 2017 the Zone Committee realised the minimum flows had to be implemented sooner rather than later – it tasked, in November 2017, a Working Party of Ken Hughey, John Faulkner, Nuku Tirikatene-Nash and Ben Ensor, to work with Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC) to explore pathways for achieving the Plan minimum flows. Most of the remainder of this briefing deals with that process and what might be possible.

## **2. Other major issues to be considered alongside the minimum flows**

There are two other very significant issues that the Zone Committee and Hurunui District and important elements of the broader community face also.

First – how to deal equitably with the dryland farmers over what is colloquially known as the 10% rule. Much has been said and written about this rule. The bottom line though is that most farmers in Hurunui are dryland farmers and generally their activities have minor effects on water quality – the far bigger effects are attributable to the intensive irrigated farmers, especially in terms of Nitrogen and Phosphorus. The Hurunui has defined load limits for both nutrients; the Waiau has an interim position where water quality is not allowed to deteriorate. The Zone Committee is reaching a point where dryland farming will be a permitted activity subject probably to some requirements that all farmers have a farm environment plan. For this to work the irrigated farmers must surrender some of the nutrient load allocated to them through resource consents, to create the head room needed for the dryland farmers and to help sustain water quality targets in the river. AIC is committed to working on a solution to allow dryland farming to be permitted.

The second issue is around storage. Originally in pre- and early Zone Committee days there were plans to raise Lake Sumner and to dam the South Branch of the Hurunui. The Zone Committee over time reached a position where this is no longer permissible. While this decision is widely appreciated it has made development more difficult for AIC, Hurunui Water Project and Ngāi Tahu Properties. They still desire stored water, to then enable easier implementation of the required minimum flow changes. The current situation is that AIC is investigating water storage in the Glenrae catchment that would improve reliability of water supply for a range of users – it can apply for a consent under current plan provisions but to make the application simpler and to provide them with more certainty they wish to have a plan change to rezone the Glenrae River catchment as Zone C (infrastructure development) if the technical assessments support such a change. Such a change, alongside the provisions to operationalise a workable alternative to the 10% rule could be part of the Targeted Plan Change Process, being run by ECan, which is planned for notification in October this year.

## **3. Issues faced by the Working Party in negotiations with AIC: caught between a rock and a very hard place**

In one way or another both of the above are linked, either directly or indirectly to the changes required in the minimum flows for both rivers. Herein then lies the challenge – seeking ECan, via a review of AIC and other consents on similar timelines, to implement the minimum flows ‘now’ (which as noted will likely take in the order of 2-3 years) potentially risks alienating multiple communities because:

- It will not immediately address the head room needed to resolve the 10% rule, thus alienating dryland farmers
- It will alienate AIC and linked dairy farmers who we are trying to work with to achieve water quality targets.

Equally however, to not seek to implement the minimum flows 'now' risks alienating multiple communities because:

- Affected rūnanga will perceive the river (and its mauri) not improving and low flows being perpetuated
- Fish and Game and likely others will see it as a matter of principle – the flows are in the plan and need to be implemented.

Essentially the Working Party, faced with the above, has taken a pragmatic approach – it has worked with AIC to see what can be achieved given an almost universal view that the minimum flows need to be increased sooner rather than later.

#### **4. The negotiation process and the position now facing the Working Party, the Zone Committee and others**

The Working Party has:

- met formally with AIC six times
- briefed the Zone Committee on several occasions on progress
- held direct discussions with Fish and Game, Forest and Bird and DOC
- And it has met with the Regional Council to brief it on progress and issues.

The culmination of these discussions is what is now called the proposed 'Staged minimum flow and environmental enhancement package' – this package might best be described as a set of 'gifts and gains'.

The package contains the following components (see Appendix 1 for full 'details'), all to be funded by AIC and secured through a negotiated Memorandum of Understanding (or similar) with ECan:

- Starting in the 2018/19 irrigation season the minimum flows in both the Waiau and Hurunui will be increased by 1 cubic metre of water per second (cumec) – these increases will be followed over the course of the next few years to reach the Plan minimum flows (noting of course that in dry years the river can naturally flow at levels lower than the designated minimum flows) for both rivers (See p3 of Appendix 1 for details of staging increases).
- Concurrently, but staggered according to need, AIC and partners will:
  1. Enhancing cultural knowledge and mahinga kai values (p4 of Appendix 1)
  2. Improving Hurunui and Waiau River hapua (p5 of Appendix 1)
  3. Enhancing spring-fed streams (p6 of Appendix 1)
  4. Enhance riverbed bird habitat (p7 of Appendix 1)
  5. Wetland enhancement (p8 of Appendix 1)
  6. Reducing nitrogen inputs to Hurunui and Waiau Rivers (p9 of Appendix 1)
  7. Mitigate the risk of adverse impact on salmon passage (p10 of Appendix 1)
  8. Soil moisture monitoring (p11 of Appendix 1)
  9. Public access (p11 of Appendix 1)
  10. Managed aquifer recharge trial (p11 of Appendix 1)
  11. Hydro-electricity generation (p11 of Appendix 1)

Consistent with the above AIC remains committed to helping resolve the 10% rule issue – it will do this in part by saving nutrients which also will benefit the river. And the Zone Committee will ‘support’ a plan change involving the Glenrae so long as such an option delivers multiple outcomes, and at a high level it meets environmental and other objectives of the ZC and the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

## 5 The choice now facing the ZC (and others)

The Zone Committee faces a stark choice – it needs to choose between two options:

**Option A: Ask the Regional Council to call in consents on the Waiau and Hurunui and seek to have the minimum flows implemented now.**

Pluses: - Likely to be strongly favoured by environmental NGOs (and perhaps by rūnanga).

Minuses: - Unlikely, for legal and resourcing reasons, to be achievable for 2-3 years  
- Likely to antagonise irrigated farmers as does not allow a phase in period  
- Likely to result in many environmental gains in the package not being achieved

**Option B: Negotiated staged increase in minimum flows complemented by the environmental enhancement package.**

Pluses: - Likely to be ‘supported’ by the broader Hurunui community  
- Likely to achieve higher minimum flows faster and a broad range of other positive environmental, recreational and cultural outcomes  
- Cost-efficient to achieve

Minuses: - Will likely be strongly opposed by environmental NGOs  
- Might also be opposed by rūnanga

Appendix 2 provides a ‘qualitative’ summary evaluation of the costs and benefits of these two options.

The Working Party, as at 9 April, had not come to a consensus position on which option to support. Instead it supports a full, frank and informed discussion at the Zone Committee table with a view to making a recommendation at the 21 May Zone Committee meeting Zone.



## **Appendix 1:**

### **Proposed staged minimum flow and environmental enhancement package (provided by AIC and agreed by the Working Party as an accurate portrayal of the negotiated package)**

#### **Introduction**

Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC) have resource consents with lower minimum flows than those in the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan (HWRRP) and have requested that full implementation of the HWRRP minimum flows be delayed until water storage is established. The Zone Committee established a Working Party, who have met regularly with AIC to understand the implications of the lower minimum flows and seek a way forward. Options considered included:

- Mitigation to offset the lower minimum flows;
- A staged approach to increasing minimum flows;
- Formal review of AIC's consents to implement the HWRRP minimum flows; or
- Some combination of the above.

#### **The proposed package**

AIC initially proposed a range of projects to offset the potential effects of the current consent minimum flows continuing, as presented to the Zone Committee at its 20 November 2017 meeting. These have been further developed by the Working Party and AIC, along with staged increases to the Hurunui and Waiau River minimum flows. The proposed package is now comprised of two components:

1. Staged increases to minimum flows in the Hurunui and Waiau Rivers.
2. A range of mitigation and environmental enhancement projects designed to address the effects of lower minimum flows; and

While one project can be considered as business as usual for AIC, the balance are either new enhancement projects or have been accelerated as part of this package. Business as usual is defined as being within the current budgeted scheme operations or required by conditions of AIC's resource consents; accelerated projects are those that are likely to be offered by AIC as mitigation, or required by Environment Canterbury, when AIC's consents are replaced in 2033; and enhancement projects are those that AIC would be otherwise unlikely to undertake.

The timing, expenditure and nature of the environmental mitigation and enhancement projects are summarised in Table 1 below. The expenditure figures are limited to direct costs to AIC and do not include costs to farmers, e.g. soil moisture measurement, wetland enhancement. The projects are budgeted until 2025-26 when the HWRRP minimum flow regime will be fully implemented. Continuation of projects beyond this will be at AIC's discretion.

The components of the package are presented in detail on the following pages. Following this, the proposed mitigation projects are evaluated against the relevant targets of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS).

**Table 1: Summary of the mitigation and environmental enhancement projects**

| Project  | Project status    | 2018-20          | 2020-22          | 2022-24          | 2024-26          | Total              |
|--|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Staged increases to minimum flows                     | Accelerated       | n/a <sup>1</sup> | n/a <sup>1</sup> | n/a <sup>1</sup> | n/a <sup>1</sup> | n/a <sup>1</sup>   |
| 2. Enhancing cultural knowledge and mahinga kai values   | Enhancement       | \$50,000         | \$60,000         | \$75,000         | \$75,000         | <b>\$260,000</b>   |
| 3. Improving Hurunui and Waiau River hapua               | Enhancement       | \$19,500         | \$46,000         | \$38,000         | \$26,000         | <b>\$129,500</b>   |
| 4. Enhancing spring-fed streams                          | Enhancement       | \$5,000          | \$20,000         | \$20,000         |                  | <b>\$45,000</b>    |
| 5. Enhance riverbed bird habitat                         | Enhancement       | \$43,000         | \$76,000         | \$76,000         | \$76,000         | <b>\$271,000</b>   |
| 6. Wetland enhancement                                   | Enhancement       |                  | \$15,000         | \$115,000        | \$20,000         | <b>\$150,000</b>   |
| 7. Reducing nitrogen inputs to Hurunui and Waiau Rivers  | Enhancement       | \$1,700,000      | \$190,000        | \$190,000        | \$190,000        | <b>\$2,270,000</b> |
| 8. Mitigate the risk of adverse impact on salmon passage | Accelerated       | \$5,000          | \$20,000         | \$30,000         | \$50,000         | <b>\$105,000</b>   |
| 9. Soil moisture monitoring                              | Accelerated       | \$0 <sup>2</sup> | \$0 <sup>2</sup> | \$0 <sup>2</sup> | \$0 <sup>2</sup> | \$0 <sup>2</sup>   |
| 10. Public access  | Enhancement       | \$5000           |                  |                  |                  | <b>\$5000</b>      |
| 11. Managed aquifer recharge trial                       | Enhancement       | \$20000          | \$100000         | \$5000           | \$5000           | <b>\$130000</b>    |
| 12. Hydro-electricity generation                         | Business as usual | -                | -                | -                | -                | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |                   | <b>\$1842500</b> | <b>\$527000</b>  | <b>\$454000</b>  | <b>\$442000</b>  | <b>\$3265500</b>   |

<sup>1</sup> Costs are not able to be assigned to the staged increases to minimum flows, as these will depend on the future climate.

<sup>2</sup> Soil moisture monitoring would be a direct cost to the shareholder farmers, rather than AIC. The costs are estimated to be an average of \$10,000 per farm, with the minimum irrigable area and timeframes still to be finalised.

### 1. Staged increases to minimum flows

The conditions of AIC's resource consents are not consistent with the minimum flows in the HWRRP.

- For the Waiau River, consented minimum flows for the Waiau Irrigation Scheme in February and March are 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s, with 20 m<sup>3</sup>/s specified in the HWRRP. For other months, the consented minimum flows are either consistent with, or higher than the HWRRP.
- For the Hurunui River, consented minimum flows for the Balmoral Irrigation Scheme in December are 13.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, with 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s specified in the HWRRP. For January to April, the consented minimum flow is 12 m<sup>3</sup>/s, with a 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s minimum flow specified in the HWRRP. For other months, the consented minimum flows are either consistent with, or higher than the HWRRP.

Without either Environment Canterbury reviewing the resource consents, or AIC voluntarily changing the resource consent conditions, these minimum flows would remain until the resource consents expire in 2033.

Project outline:

- The consented minimum flows will increase in stages, as shown in Table 1, with the HWRRP minimum flow regime being fully implemented by 2025-26.
- AIC will apply to change the conditions of their resource consents to implement the staged increases to the consented minimum flows.

**Table 1:** Proposed staged increases to minimum flows

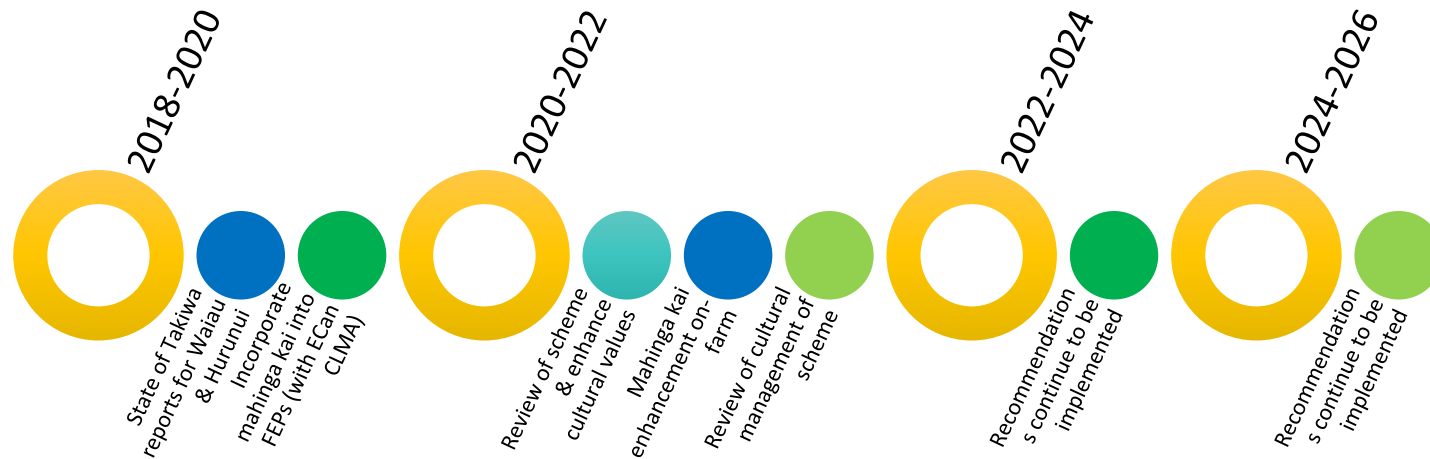
| Season  | Waiau Irrigation Scheme                       | Balmoral Irrigation Scheme                    |
|---------|---|---|
|         | Minimum flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s) <sup>1</sup> | Minimum flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s) <sup>1</sup> |
| 2018-19 | 16  | 13  |
| 2019-20 | 16  | 13  |
| 2020-21 | 16  | 13  |
| 2021-22 | 16  | 13  |
| 2022-23 | 18  | 13  |
| 2023-24 | 20  | 13  |
| 2024-25 | 20  | 13  |
| 2025-26 | 20  | 15  |

NOTES: 1. These minimum flows are for February and March for the Waiau River, and January to April for the Hurunui River. Consented minimum flows for other months are consistent with or higher than the HWRRP minimum flows.  
2. The consented partial restriction regime will remain until the HWRRP minimum flows are implemented in 2025-26.

## 2. Enhancing cultural knowledge and mahinga kai values

Project outline:

- AIC to fund State of the Takiwa reports for the Hurunui and Waiau catchments.
- This work will include a cultural review of the scheme (but exclude the mixing of waters between catchments) and recommendations for how AIC can improve cultural values within its scheme area, particularly improving the mauri of waterbodies and enhancing mahinga kai. These will be implemented with the assistance of ECan's Cultural Land Management Advisor.



### Costs

|                                 | 2018-2020       | 2020-2022       | 2022-2024             | 2024-2026       |                  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| State of Takiwa reports         | \$50,000        |                 |                       |                 |                  |
| Cultural review of scheme       |                 | \$35,000        |                       |                 |                  |
| Deliver on-farm recommendations |                 | \$10,000        | \$30,000 <sup>1</sup> | \$30,000        |                  |
| Deliver scheme recommendations  |                 | \$15,000        | \$45,000              | \$45,000        |                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>\$50,000</b> | <b>\$60,000</b> | <b>\$75,000</b>       | <b>\$75,000</b> | <b>\$260,000</b> |

### 3. Improving Hurunui and Waiau River hapua

Project outline:

- Develop and implement Action Strategies for the Waiau and Hurunui River hapua. AIC to organise initial workshops and offer to drive project.
- Monitor the Hurunui River hapua geomorphology, continuing the monitoring established by Richard Measures (NIWA) in June 2015.
- Monitor the Hurunui River hapua water quality. Note that ECan installed a dissolved oxygen logger in December 2017.
- Initiate monitoring of the Waiau River hapua, including capital expenditure to purchase monitoring equipment.



#### Costs

|  | 2018-2020             | 2020-2022       | 2022-2024             | 2024-2026       |                  |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Hurunui River Hapua Action Strategy preparation    | \$12,000 <sup>1</sup> |                 |                       |                 |                  |
| Waiau River Hapua Action Strategy preparation      |                       |                 | \$12,000 <sup>1</sup> |                 |                  |
| Hurunui River Hapua Action Strategy implementation |                       | \$15,000        | \$15,000              |                 |                  |
| Waiau River Hapua Action Strategy implementation   |                       |                 |                       | \$15,000        |                  |
| Hurunui River hapua monitoring                     | \$7,500               | \$5,000         | \$5,000               | \$5,000         |                  |
| Waiau River hapua monitoring <sup>2</sup>          |                       | \$26,000        | \$6,000               | \$6,000         |                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       | <b>\$19,500</b>       | <b>\$46,000</b> | <b>\$38,000</b>       | <b>\$26,000</b> | <b>\$129,500</b> |

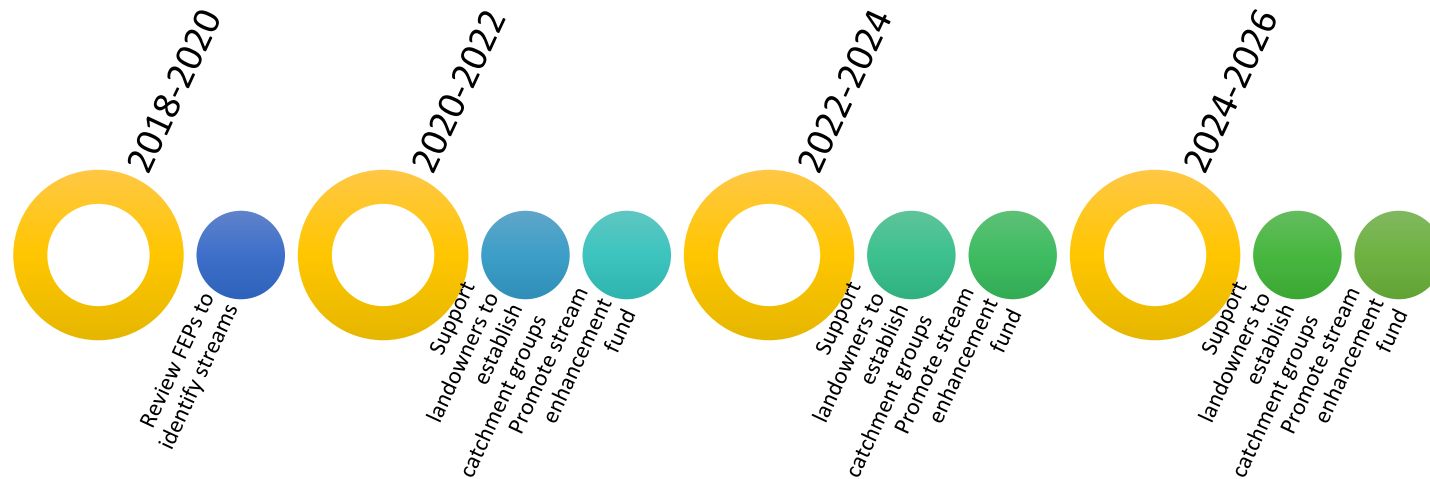
<sup>1</sup> based on 1 person 3-4 days a month for 4 months

<sup>2</sup> CAPEX of \$10,000 to purchase equipment and \$10,000 to install. Ongoing costs are higher as access is only by jetboat.

#### 4. Improving spring-fed streams

Project outline:

- Review Farm Environment Plans to identify streams that would benefit from enhancement.
- Support landowners to establish catchment groups.
- Initiate and promote fund to improve ecological, recreational and cultural values, e.g fencing, planting.



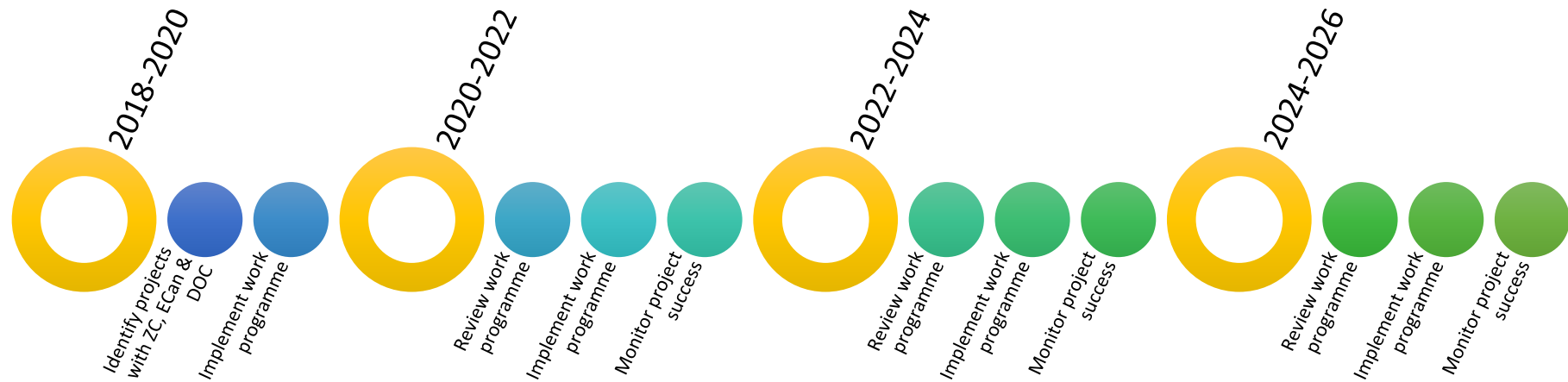
#### Costs

|                                 | 2018-2020      | 2020-2022       | 2022-2024       | 2024-2026 |                 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Review FEPs to identify streams | \$5,000        |                 |                 |           |                 |
| Catchment group support         |                | \$5,000         | \$5,000         |           |                 |
| Enhancement fund                |                | \$15,000        | \$15,000        |           |                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>\$5,000</b> | <b>\$20,000</b> | <b>\$20,000</b> |           | <b>\$45,000</b> |

## 5. Improving braided river bird habitat

### Project outline:

- Work with Zone Committee, ECan and DOC to identify projects to complement Immediate Steps work, e.g. continued maintenance of braided river islands, weed control and predator control adjacent to constructed islands.
- Allocate funds for habitat enhancement projects. More funds are allocated from 2022, when Immediate Steps funding finishes.
- Undertake project monitoring, e.g. replicated index counts as a baseline and every 5 years.
- Promote involvement of landowners adjacent to project sites to ensure farm management practices along braided river edges are sympathetic to braided river values.



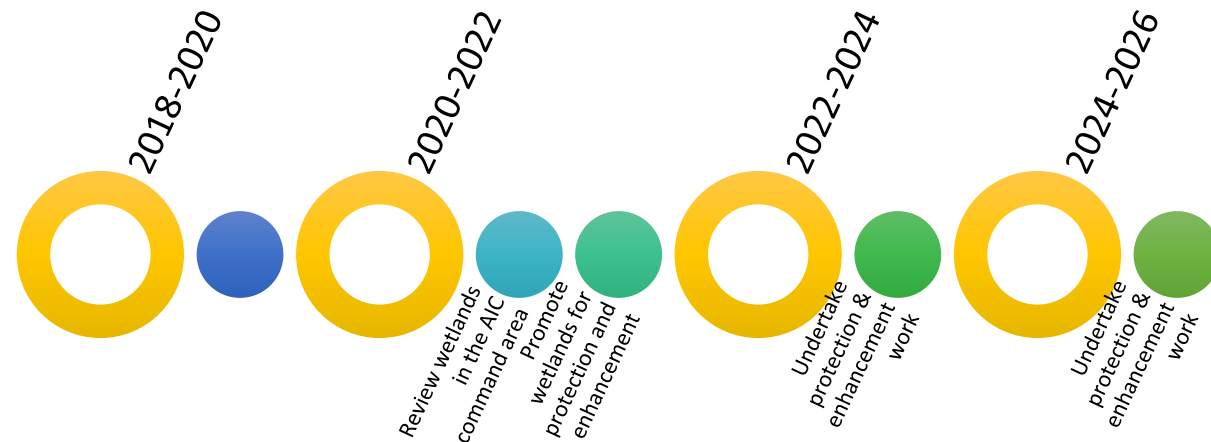
### Costs

|   | 2018-2020       | 2020-2022       | 2022-2024       | 2024-2026       |                  |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Identify and scope projects               | \$5,000         |                 |                 |                 |                  |
| Undertake enhancement work programme      | \$30,000        | \$60,000        | \$60,000        | \$60,000        |                  |
| Project monitoring (\$5,000/yr)           | \$5,000         | \$10,000        | \$10,000        | \$10,000        |                  |
| Annual work programme review (\$3,000/yr) | \$3,000         | \$6,000         | \$6,000         | \$6,000         |                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>\$43,000</b> | <b>\$76,000</b> | <b>\$76,000</b> | <b>\$76,000</b> | <b>\$271,000</b> |

## 6. Wetland enhancement

Project outline:

- Construction of a wetland in the Pahau Drain to enhance ecological values and improve water quality.
- Review existing wetlands in the AIC command area through FEPs and make recommendations for protection and enhancement.
- Promote the benefits of protection and enhancement work to landowners, e.g fencing, planting, hydrological enhancement.



### Costs

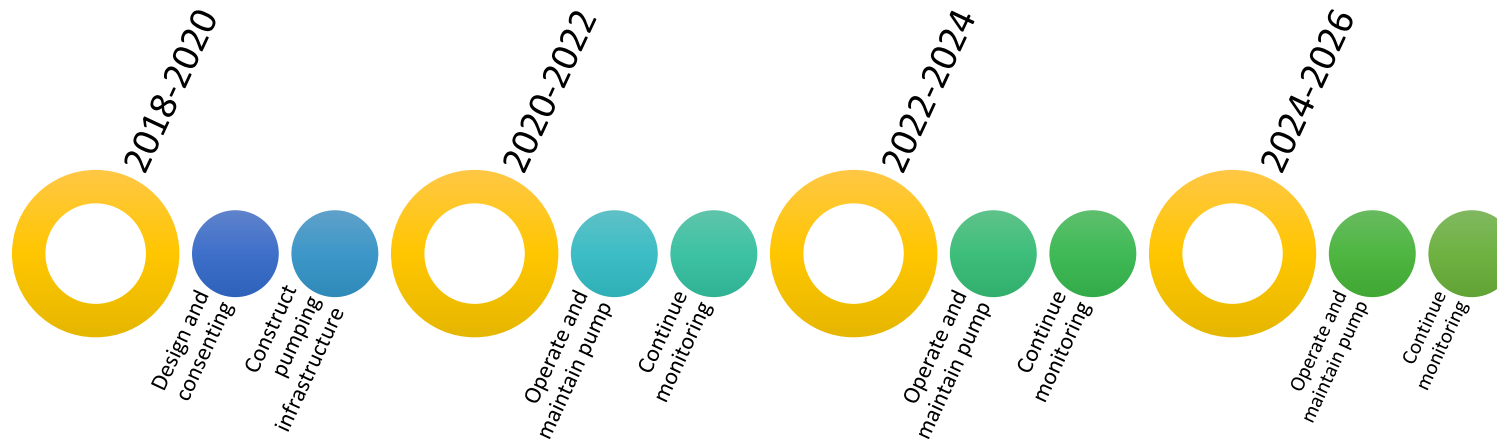
|   | 2018-2020 | 2020-2022       | 2022-2024        | 2024-2026       |                  |
|---|-----------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Review of wetlands in AIC command area    |           | \$10,000        |                  |                 |                  |
| Promote wetland restoration               |           | \$5,000         |                  |                 |                  |
| Undertake protection and enhancement work |           |                 | \$15,000         | \$20,000        |                  |
| Pahau Drain wetland                       |           |                 | \$100,000        |                 |                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              |           | <b>\$15,000</b> | <b>\$115,000</b> | <b>\$20,000</b> | <b>\$150,000</b> |



## 7. Reducing nitrogen inputs to Hurunui and Waiau Rivers

Project outline:

- Undertake design work and obtain resource consents to pump water from St Leonards and Lowry Drains for re-use on neighbouring farm land and/or via the main AIC pipelines.
  - Construct, operate and maintain pump infrastructure.
- Note that the nitrogen reductions from this project may in part be used to offset the additional load anticipated to come from dry land farming through the upcoming Plan Change



### Costs

|   | 2018-2020          | 2020-2022        | 2022-2024        | 2024-2026        |                    |
|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Design and consenting                         | \$50,000           |                  |                  |                  |                    |
| Capital expenditure on pumping infrastructure | \$1,500,000        |                  |                  |                  |                    |
| Project management                            | \$150,000          |                  |                  |                  |                    |
| Maintenance & operation                       |                    | \$50,000         | \$50,000         | \$50,000         |                    |
| Debt servicing (\$70,000/yr)                  |                    | \$140,000        | \$140,000        | \$140,000        |                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>\$1,700,000</b> | <b>\$190,000</b> | <b>\$190,000</b> | <b>\$190,000</b> | <b>\$2,270,000</b> |

## 8. Mitigating the risk of adverse impact on salmon passage

Project outline:

- Explore options with Fish and Game New Zealand to enhance salmon numbers. This could include enhancing spawning habitat, smolt releases, bywash management, or reducing the rate taken at a critical period to support salmon passage.
- Undertake agreed measures.
- Review Waiau River fish screen configuration



### Costs

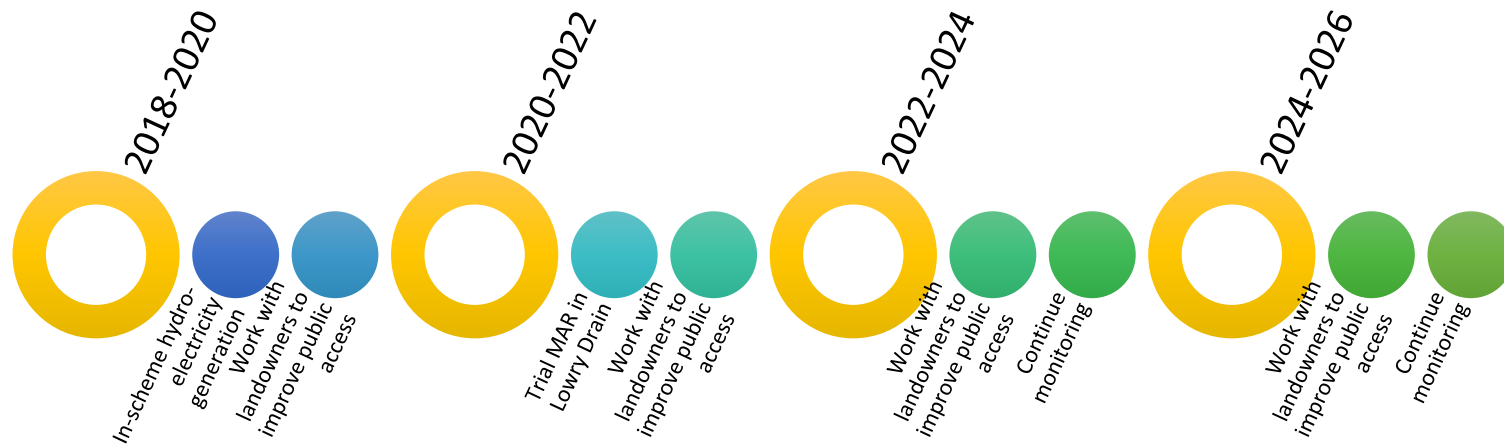
|  | 2018-2020      | 2020-2022       | 2022-2024       | 2024-2026       |                  |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Identify options with F&G  | \$5,000        |                 |                 |                 |                  |
| Implement agreed measure to increase salmon numbers <sup>1</sup> |                | \$20,000        |                 |                 |                  |
| Review Waiau River fish screen                                   |                |                 | \$30,000        |                 |                  |
| Implement recommendations from fish screen review                |                |                 |                 | \$50,000        |                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$5,000</b> | <b>\$20,000</b> | <b>\$30,000</b> | <b>\$50,000</b> | <b>\$105,000</b> |

<sup>1</sup> This does not consider provision for reducing the rate taken for short period flows, which could result in a substantial cost.

## 9. Other projects

Other projects include:

- Continue to investigate incorporating hydro-electricity generation into the AIC scheme, aiming for construction in 2019/20. This includes discussions with electricity distribution networks, design, consenting and construction. This will provide dilution through tributary stream augmentation.
- Trial managed aquifer recharge in the Lowry Drain.
- Implement an on-farm soil moisture monitoring programme.
- Advocate with landowners to improve public access.



### Costs

|   | 2018-2020        | 2020-2022        | 2022-2024        | 2024-2026        | Total            |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Hydro-electricity generation <sup>1</sup> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Managed aquifer recharge                  | \$20000          | \$100000         | \$5000           | \$5000           | \$130000         |
| Soil moisture monitoring                  | \$0 <sup>2</sup> | \$0 <sup>2</sup> | \$0 <sup>2</sup> | \$0 <sup>2</sup> | \$0 <sup>2</sup> |
| Public access                             | \$5000           |                  |                  |                  | \$5000           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>\$25,000</b>  | <b>\$100,000</b> | <b>\$5,000</b>   | <b>\$5,000</b>   | <b>\$135,000</b> |

<sup>1</sup>Hydropower generation will create a positive return so costs not included

<sup>2</sup> Soil moisture monitoring would be a direct cost to the shareholder farmers, rather than AIC. The costs are estimated to be an average of \$10,000 per farm, with the minimum irrigable area and timeframes still to be finalised.

### **Alignment of the mitigation package with CWMS targets**

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy sets out 10 broad target areas:

1. Environmental Limits
2. Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity
3. Natural Character of Braided Rivers
4. Kaitiakitanga
5. Drinking Water
6. Recreational and Amenity Opportunities
7. Water-use Efficiency
8. Irrigated Land Area
9. Energy Security and Efficiency
10. Indicators of Regional and National Economies

Relevant to the work of the Working Party, the Environmental Limits target sets the following specific target (Target 3) for 2020: *“Established and begun to implement a programme to review existing consents where such review is necessary in order to achieve catchment load limits”*. Also, the Irrigated Land Area target for infrastructure states that by 2020 *“Started construction of regional storage and improved reliability of supply for at least 50% of irrigated land”* and *“started construction of infrastructure identified in zonal implementation programmes”*. The work of the Working Party is contributing towards achieving these targets.

### **Evaluation of the mitigation projects against the CWMS targets**

The table below presents the relevant CWMS target(s) for each of the proposed mitigation projects. For each, a rating is given which indicates the extent to which the project contributes towards achieving the target. A rating of 1 means that it has a low contribution and/or is expected through consent conditions. A rating of 3 means that the project is making a significant contribution to the target over and above what would otherwise be expected of AIC.

| Proposed mitigation                                      | Business as usual or enhancement? | Key CWMS target(s)   | Contribution (low=1, high=3) |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Staged increases to minimum flows                     | Accelerated                       | <i>Environmental limits</i> , Target 3: By 2020 established and begun to implement a programme to review existing consents where such review is necessary in order to achieve catchment load limits.   | 3                            |
| 2. Improving Hurunui and Waiau River hapua               | Enhancement                       | <i>Ecosystem health and biodiversity</i> , hapua, lagoons and estuaries targets especially Target 2 (by 2020): A significant protection and restoration programme is in place on the most ecologically significant river mouth or coastal lagoon in each management zone.  | 3                            |
| 3. Enhancing spring-fed streams                          | Enhancement                       | <i>Ecosystem health and biodiversity</i> , lowland streams & lakes target by 2020: Improve condition and water quality in at least 60% of lowland streams and 60% of lowland lakes in each zone.   | 2                            |
| 4. Enhance riverbed bird habitat                         | Enhancement                       | <i>Natural character of braided rivers</i> , ecosystems, habitats and species/riparian wetlands, springs and lagoons targets:<br>From 2010: Implement actions to correct the decline in usable braided river bird habitat.<br>By 2015: Enhance and protect breeding populations of indigenous braided river birds. | 3                            |
| 5. Delivering mahinga kai values                         | Enhancement                       | Wāhi taonga & mahinga kai, especially Target 3 (identified customary uses (current and potentially restored) for all waterways) & Target 6 (increase the abundance of, access to and use of mahinga kai)   | 3                            |
| 6. Wetland enhancement                                   | Enhancement                       | <i>Ecosystem health and biodiversity</i> , wetlands target by 2020: Protected all wetlands   | 2                            |
| 7. Reducing nitrogen inputs to Hurunui and Waiau Rivers  | Enhancement                       | <i>Recreational and Amenity Opportunities</i> , Recreational water quality target by 2020: of the lake and river sites used for contact recreation, an increase in the percentage that meet recreational water quality guidelines  | 2                            |
| 8. Mitigate the risk of adverse impact on salmon passage | Enhancement                       | <i>Ecosystem health and biodiversity</i> , Freshwater species & their habitat from 2010 Target 1: No further reduction in the number and areas of existing salmon spawning sites.  | 2                            |

|                                    |             |   |   |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---|---|
| 9. Soil moisture monitoring        | Accelerated | <i>Water-use Efficiency</i> targets, especially by 2020 eighty percent of water used for irrigation and stockwater is operating according to best practice water use.   | 3 |
| 10. Public access                  | BAU         | <i>Recreational and Amenity Opportunities</i> Water based recreational opportunities, by 2015/2020: A positive trend in the availability and/or quality of recreational opportunities in each zone.   | 2 |
| 11. Managed aquifer recharge trial | Enhancement | <i>Drinking water, source water quality</i> Target 4 by 2020: A demonstrable decrease in nitrate concentrations in shallow groundwater in priority areas is achieved.   | 2 |
| 12. Hydro-electricity generation   | BAU         | <i>Energy Security and Efficiency</i> , Target 1: Generate at least 40-45% of the power used by irrigation in Canterbury from irrigation infrastructure (including multi-use hydro and irrigation systems) within Canterbury and other renewable on-farm sources. | 3 |

**Appendix 2. Qualitative evaluation of relative benefits from increasing minimum flows ‘now’ versus a staged introduction plus a package of AIC funded and managed enhancement measures: +++ = very positive outcome; ++ = positive outcome; + = slightly positive outcome; 0 or -1 = no benefit or a long term cost. Coloured evaluation cells represent similar scoring using a traffic light system.**

| Package components   | Staged increases to minimum flows  | Enhancing cultural knowledge and mahinga kai values   | Improving Hurunui and Waiau river hapua   | Enhancing spring-fed streams  | Enhancing riverbed bird habitat  | Wetland enhancement  | Reducing nitrogen inputs to Hurunui and Waiau rivers   | Mitigate the risk of adverse impact on salmon passage   | Soil moisture monitoring   | Enhanced public access  | Managed aquifer recharge trial  | Hydro power   |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| What the package delivers, by component  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better habitat for trout and salmon</li> <li>better minimum flows for jetboating</li> <li>more natural flows</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State of the takiwa</li> <li>Cultural review of irrigation scheme</li> <li>Implementation programme</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whitebait habitat protection</li> <li>river mouth monitoring</li> <li>better access</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F&amp;G and Iwi involvement in habitat improvement for exotic and native fish</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuation of Immediate steps funding - huge gains for at risk spp</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new wetland delivering multiple outcomes including for water quality</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big investment to deliver 15-20 tonnes of N saving</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with F&amp;G to identify options to improve salmon numbers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver real time water management</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better recreation and other opportunities for all</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better water quality including for drinking</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversify benefits from irrigation scheme</li> </ul> |
| Min flows introduced now (i.e., 2021 after due process) (possibly linked to AIC built onfarm storage) + <b><u>NO</u></b> enhancement package                       | ++<br>Have to wait for benefits  | +<br>Might be undertaken by Ngai Tahu anyway or with ECan support. Land owner issues?   | 0 – unless ZC does the work which it probably will – in which case +++  | 0 – unless ZC does the work which it probably will try but with limited landowner cooperation – in which case +                 | 0 – unless ZC does work and will for 3 yrs under Immed Steps but this is a forever project – in which case +++ to -1   | 0 – no one will do it  | 0 – no one will do it and AIC will dig their toes in   | 0 - little incentive for AIC to voluntarily do this   | +++<br>Doing this already as part of BAU   | 0 – farmers likely to become more steadfast in attitudes  | +<br>Planning to do as part of committed practice   | +++<br>Planning to do as part of committed practice   |
| Conditioned staggered introduction of min flows starting summer 18/19, fully implemented by 23/24 (Waiau) & 25/26 (Hurunui) <b><u>PLUS</u></b> enhancement package | +<br>Some immediate benefits but flows staggered over time   | +++<br>Greatly increased knowledge. Farmer cooperation. Improved practices  | +++<br>Also likely to have farmer buy in thus promoting better outcomes   | +++<br>All shareholders and likely others on board  | +++<br>Probably sustained, further increased benefits over and above Immed Steps                                       | +++<br>Wetland will deliver multiple benefits and be paid for by farmers   | +++<br>If done well could deliver water savings and N savings  | ++<br>Opportunities for F&G to improve the salmon fishery   | +++<br>Improved ability to manage real time should reduce water demand               | +++<br>Better access as farmers buying into the total package                                       | +<br>Better water quality   | ++<br>Significant increase in hydro will increase District power supply                     |

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| MEETING ITEM: 7      | <b>SUBJECT MATTER:</b><br><br><b>Recommendations for nutrient loss reporting and collective/ farm plan requirements for normal dryland farming and update on conversations regarding off-sets to enable maintenance of water quality</b> |
| AUTHOR: Lisa Jenkins | DATE OF MEETING: 16 April 2018   |

### Action required

1. The Zone Committee makes a recommendation in relation to catchment accounting and Farm Plan and collective requirements for permitted dryland farming.

The suggested recommendation is:

*The Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee recommends that the Canterbury Regional Council pursues a targeted change to the Hurunui Waiau Rivers Regional Plan, to be notified in 2018. In addition to permitting dryland farming within previously specified limits<sup>1</sup>, the plan change will address the current requirements for dryland farmers to be a part of a nutrient management collective and report nutrient losses by requiring that farmers undertaking a “normal dryland farming activity”:*

- a. report the area of their farm used for winter grazing of cattle on root vegetable or brassica crop through the Farm Portal and hold and implement a Management Plan for Farming Activities; or*
  - b. are a member of a dryland farmers collective group that has the purpose of reporting winter grazing area and encouraging the adoption of Good Management Practices through farm management plans.*
2. The Zone Committee receives an update regarding the conversations taking place with irrigation groups to identify off-sets for the anticipated increase in nitrogen load from dryland farming.

### Discussion: Collectives and catchment accounting

At the 26 March meeting of the Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee, the Committee received a paper outlining options for addressing catchment accounting and collective requirements. The committee provisionally agreed that a mechanism for catchment accounting was needed, and also that a mechanism for driving Good Management Practices was needed.

Ben Ensor suggested an option that gave farmers a choice of either meeting these requirements through a collective, or individually (reporting through the Farm Portal and holding and implementing a Farm Management Plan). There was general agreement that this option achieved the nutrient management principles set out by the Zone Committee in August 2016 and that this option should be pursued.

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<sup>1</sup> See recommendations made by the Zone Committee on 19 March 2018



## **Discussion: Off-setting anticipated increases in nitrogen from permitted dryland farming**

There have been two meetings held with irrigators (Amuri irrigation, Hurunui Water Project and Ngāi Tahu Farming), Environment Canterbury staff, Hurunui District Landcare Group and Beef and Lamb NZ. Fish and Game (Scott Pearson) also attended the first meeting.

At the first meeting (12 March) we discussed:

- What are the options for offsetting a 0 – 3% increase in dryland load
- How much load is available for offset and from where
- What are the challenges / risks associated with making a load available?

At the second meeting (28 March) we discussed:

- Where (who) the offset load will come from; and
- process options for making load available

With regard to options for offsetting the load, aside from simply surrendering the load the only other option that has been considered closely has been the concept of reducing nitrogen concentration in tributaries (and consequently the main stem of the Hurunui) by irrigating with high nitrogen water. This concept has been included in the environmental enhancement package proposed by AIC alongside a staged implementation of the HWRRP minimum flows.

We have not yet reached agreement on where the off-set load will come from. Irrigation representatives are discussing this with their respective boards and will report back in May.

There are challenges and risks associated with making load available. In particular, the irrigation companies need certainty around how much nitrogen is needed and this has been the topic of much debate. We are generally agreed from a technical perspective that the nitrogen offset required is 8 or 38 tonnes. Fish and Game do not agree that the offset is appropriately precautionary. Ned Norton has provided two memos that set out the technical reasons for why we are comfortable with the 8 and 38 tonnes – these will be circulated prior to the Zone Committee meeting.

Because the Hurunui catchment is technically over-allocated (nitrogen load is fully allocated through consents and there is still an additional 10% increase in permitted losses provided for in the Plan), there is a question around whether water quality needs to be maintained or improved in the context of this plan change. If a Panel can be convinced that water quality can be maintained, 8 tonnes of N will be needed to off-set the dryland load. If a Panel consider the NPSFM requires water quality improvement, 38 tonnes of N will be needed to fully off-set the anticipated dryland load. We are investigating options for making the full 38 tonnes available, should it be needed.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| AGENDA ITEM NO: 8                                    | SUBJECT MATTER:<br><b>Zone Facilitator's Report</b> |
| REPORT BY: Ian Whitehouse, Environment<br>Canterbury | DATE OF MEETING: 16 April, 2018                     |

**Action required**

1. Note the evening community meetings the zone committee is hosting:
  - Monday 30 April at Cheviot;
  - Thursday 03 May at Culverden.
2. Note the key items for the 21 May Zone Committee meeting at Greta Valley.

**1 Community meetings**

The Zone Committee will host evening meetings at Cheviot Hotel on Monday 30 April and at Culverden Community Centre on Thursday 03 May. The committee will brief people on:

- Implementing the Plan minimum flows;
- Fixing the 10% rule.

**2 Key items for 21 May Zone Committee meeting**

The 21 May zone committee meeting at Greta Valley will include the following items:

Recommendation on implementing the Plan minimum flows;

- Consideration of whether the proposed plan change relating to Glenrae water storage delivers multiple outcomes and at a high level meets the objectives of the ZIP and CWMS and so should be “supported” by the committee.
- Results of FEP auditing for AIC and Cheviot Irrigators Group.

**3 Loch Katrine water quality**

At the March zone committee meeting a question was asked about the water quality of Loch Katrine. The state of this lake is assessed as part of the high-country lakes monitoring undertaken by Environment Canterbury annually. Results of this monitoring will be presented at the May or June committee meeting.

# Hurunui Waiau Zone Water Management Committee

## Terms of Reference

The area of the Hurunui Waiau Water Management Zone is shown on the attached map.

## Establishment

The Committee is established under the auspices of the Local Government Act 2002 in accordance with the Canterbury Water Management Strategy 2009.

The Committee is a joint Committee of Environment Canterbury (the Regional Council) and Hurunui District Council (the Territorial Authority).

## Purpose and Functions

The purpose and function of the Committee is to:

- Facilitate community involvement in the development, implementation, review and updating of a Zone Implementation Programme that gives effect to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy in the Hurunui Waiau area; and
- Monitor progress of the implementation of the Zone Implementation Programme.

## Objectives

- 1) Develop a Zone Implementation Programme that seeks to advance the CWMS vision, principles, and targets in the Hurunui Waiau Zone.
- 2) Oversee the delivery of the Zone Implementation Programme.
- 3) Support other Zone Implementation Programmes and the Regional Implementation Programme to the extent they have common areas of interest or interface.
- 4) Ensure that the community of the Zone are informed, have opportunity for input, and are involved in the development and delivery of the Hurunui Waiau Implementation Programme.
- 5) Consult with other Zone Water Management Committees throughout the development and implementation of the Hurunui Waiau Implementation Programme on matters impacting on other zone areas.
- 6) Engage with relevant stakeholders throughout the development of the Hurunui Waiau Implementation Programme.
- 7) Recommend the Hurunui Waiau Implementation Programme to their respective Councils.
- 8) Review the Implementation Programme on a three yearly cycle and recommend any changes to the respective Councils.
- 9) Monitor the performance of Environment Canterbury, Hurunui District Council, and other agencies in relation to the implementation of the Hurunui Waiau Implementation Programme.
- 10) Provide Environment Canterbury and Hurunui District Council with updates on progress against the Zone Implementation Programme.

## **Limitation of Powers**

The Committee does not have the authority to commit any Council to any path or expenditure and its recommendations do not compromise the Councils' freedom to deliberate and make decisions.

The Committee does not have the authority to submit on proposed Resource Management or Local Government Plans.

The Committee does not have the authority to submit on resource consent matters.

## **Committee Membership**

The Zone Committee will comprise:

- 1) One elected member or Commissioner appointed by Environment Canterbury;
- 2) One elected member appointed by each Territorial Authority operating within the Zone Boundary;
- 3) One member from each of Tūāhuriri and Kaikōura Rūnanga;
- 4) Between 4-7 members appointed from the community and who come from a range of backgrounds and interests within the community;
- 5) Environment Canterbury and Hurunui District Council will appoint their own representatives on the Committee. Tūāhuriri and Kaikōura Rūnanga will nominate their representatives and the appointments will be confirmed by Environment Canterbury and Hurunui District Council.

## **Selection of Community Members**

To be eligible for appointment to a Zone Committee the candidate must either live in or have a significant relationship with the zone. Recommendations on Community Members for the Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee will be made to Environment Canterbury and Hurunui District Council by a working group of representatives from Environment Canterbury, Hurunui District Council, Tūāhuriri and Kaikōura Rūnanga. The recommendations will take into account the balance of interests required for Hurunui Waiau, geographic spread of members and the ability of the applicants to work in a collaborative, consensus-seeking manner. Environment Canterbury and Hurunui District Council will receive the recommendations and make the appointments.

## **Quorum**

The quorum at a meeting consists of:

- (i) Half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even; or
- (ii) A majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.

## **Chair and Deputy Chair**

Each year, the Committee shall appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair from the membership by simple majority. There is no limit on how long a person can be in either of these positions.

## **Term of Appointment**

Members of Committees are appointed for a term of three years. To coincide with Local Government Election processes terms shall commence from January each year, with each Committee requiring confirmation of membership by the incoming Council. The term for community members will be staggered so that one third of the community members is appointed (or reappointed) each year. There is no limit on the number of consecutive terms.

## Financial Delegations

None

## Operating Philosophy

The Committees will at all times operate in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and will observe the following principles:

- 1) Give effect to the Fundamental Principles, Targets and goals of the CWMS;
- 2) Be culturally sensitive observing tikanga Maori;
- 3) Apply a Ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea) approach;
- 4) Work with the CWMS Regional Committee to support the implementation of the CWMS across the region as a whole;
- 5) Give consideration to and balance the interests of all water interests in the region in debate and decision-making;
- 6) Work in a collaborative and co-operative manner using best endeavours to reach solutions that take account of the interests of all sectors of the community;
- 7) Contribute their knowledge and perspective but not promote the views or positions of any particular interest or stakeholder group;
- 8) Promote a philosophy of integrated water management to achieve the multiple objectives of the range of interests in water;
- 9) Seek consensus in decision-making where at all possible. In the event that neither unanimous agreement is able to be reached nor a significant majority view formed, in the first instance seek assistance from an external facilitator to further Committee discussions and deliberations. Where the Committee encounters fundamental disagreements, despite having sought assistance and exhausted all avenues to resolve matters, recommend that the respective Councils disband them and appoint a new Committee.

## Meeting and Remuneration Guidelines

- 1) The Committee will meet at least eight times per annum and with workshops and additional meetings as required. At times, the workload will be substantially higher. Proxies or alternates are not permitted.
- 2) Any Committee may co-opt such other expert or advisory members as it deems necessary to ensure it is able to achieve its purpose. Any such co-option will be on a non-voting basis.
- 3) Remuneration for members will be paid in the form of an honorarium currently set at the following levels:
  - a. Appointed members - \$4,000 pa
  - b. Deputy Chair - \$5,000 pa
  - c. Chair - \$6,000 pa.

Staff or elected members of Territorial Authorities or the Environment Canterbury shall not be eligible for remuneration.

Mileage will be reimbursed.

## Committee Support

The Committee shall be supported staff from the Territorial Councils and Environment Canterbury, primarily through the Committee Secretary and the Zone Facilitator.

## Map showing Hurunui Waiau Water Management

