

**ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

on

Monday 11 June 2018

2pm

**Council Chamber
Timaru District Council
2 King George Place
Timaru**

ORARI-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that an Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Management Committee meeting will be held on Monday 11 June 2018 at 2pm, in the Council Chamber, Timaru District Council, 2 King George Place, Timaru.

Committee Members:

Hamish McFarlane (Acting Chairman), David Anderson, Phil Driver, Sue Eddington, Kylee Galbraith, Ivon Hurst, Richard Lyon, Anne Munro, James Pearce, Lan Pham, Ad Sintenie, Glen Smith, Herstatt Ulrich and Mark Webb

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

11 JUNE 2018

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ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2018

Report for Agenda Item No 3

**Prepared by Barbara Gilchrist
Facilitator**

Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

Purpose

To outline the role of the Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Background

Following the resignation of the previous chairperson, the OTOP Zone Committee is now required to elect a new chairperson and deputy chairperson.

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

The role of the chair is to:

- chair zone committee meetings
- liaise with the facilitator on zone committee work planning
- speak for the zone committee outside of meetings.
- liaise with the media.

The role of the deputy is to fill the above roles when the chairperson is absent.

Recommendation

That the Committee elects a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2018

Report for Agenda Item No 5

**Prepared by Barbara Gilchrist
Facilitator**

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the May Committee meeting.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 7 May 2018, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF AN ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TIMARU DISTRICT
COUNCIL, 2 KING GEORGE PLACE, TIMARU, ON MONDAY 7 MAY 2018 AT 2PM**

PRESENT John Talbot (Chairperson), Sue Eddington, Cllr Anne Munro, Cllr Richard Lyon, Hamish McFarlane, Kylee Galbraith, James Pearce, Ad Sintenie and Mark Webb, Herstatt Ullrich, Glen Smith

APOLOGIES Proposed Sue Eddington
Seconded Mark Webb
“That the apologies from Cllr David Anderson, Ivon Hurst and Cllr Lan Pham be accepted.”

Motion Carried

IN ATTENDANCE Barb Gilchrist (Facilitator), Barbara Nicholas (Facilitator Craig Davison (Senior Planner), Dan Clark (Senior Hydrology Scientist and Technical Lead), Lyn Carmichael (Senior Planner and Community Lead), Peter Constantine (Principal Planning Officer), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator), Lochiel McKellar (ECan), Cllr Peter Scott (ECan), Chris Eccleston (ECan), Mark Geddes (TDC District Planning Manager), John Benn (Department of Conservation), Dermott O’Sullivan, Prue Thirkettle

Opihi Flow and Allocation Working Party - Andrew Mockford, Georgina Hamilton, Murray Bell, Julia Crossman, Greg Ryder, Justin Geary, Judy Blakemore for item 6

1 DEATH OF COMMITTEE MEMBER MANDY HOME

The Chairman acknowledged the recent death of committee member Mandy Home. Her contribution and the loss of her input to the committee was noted.

2 REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were not items of interest declared.

3 COMMUNITY FORUM

There were no members of the public wishing to speak at the community forum.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

a Proposed Hamish McFarlane
Seconded Anne Munro

“That the minutes of the OTOP meeting of 26 March 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.”

Motion Carried

b

Proposed Mark Webb
Seconded Sue Eddington

"That the minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Orari-Pareora Water Zone Committee meeting of 16 April be confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to the date being amended."

Motion Carried

5 TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME

The Timaru District Council District Planning Manager presented on TDC's biodiversity programme which began with a comprehensive Significant Natural Area survey across the District. As a result of the SNA survey, there are now well informed land owners, many of whom are very receptive to maintaining the significant biodiversity areas on their properties.

A Steering Group has been established and District Plan provisions will be recommended to Council, together with non statutory measures being implemented. Provision will be made in Timaru District Council's Long Term Plan.

Despite the challenges, it is a positive situation with a comprehensive knowledge base, buy-in from almost all parties, good policy and funding available.

Mr Geddes referred to TDC's view of the OTOP ZIP Addendum, being generally supportive around biodiversity but Council would prefer a less directive approach, as the same outcome could be achieved through other means. However the Chairman advised that OTOP does not agree with this view.

Clr Peter Scott commented that TDC is an exemplar compared with other local authorities across the region and on behalf of ECan he thanked Council for its work in this area.

TDC is going to enhance biodiversity areas through non statutory measures – education, possibly carry out some of the work by council and continue with parks and recreation endangered species work. Council policy is for SNA's but this policy may be reviewed, given the additional funding available.

In regard to consistency between different districts/authorities, TDC has looked at Mackenzie District Council's rules and found they are not inconsistent, although it is difficult to totally align the rules, however there is a statutory responsibility to be consistent. Further, Timaru District Council now has an ECan officer working in the TDC building two days a week to increase the collaborative approach.

It was noted that there would have been benefit in bringing the work of TDC on biodiversity and the biodiversity work of OTOP into line at an earlier stage.

6 OPIHI FLOW AND ALLOCATION WORKING PARTY

Murray Bell representing the Opihi flow and allocation working party, introduced the presentation.

Andrew Mockford explained that the Working Party had significant challenges in its work, including shortcomings in the economic assessment and assumptions made in that assessment. The working party has put in a great deal of time in

preparing its final recommendations to meet OTOP's timing and has had to make compromises in order to present a collaborative package.

The team wanted to provide reliability figures, balancing availability with demand. The working party will continue to work with ECan and may revise some of the figures arrived at.

Greg Ryder detailed the ecological investigation and ramifications of the recommended regime. Justin Geary explained how the working party arrived at the economic aspect of its recommendation and the effect on the farming sector and the wider community from an economic perspective.

There is still ongoing work in regard to other aspects of the flow and allocation regime.

Proposed Herstatt Ullrich
Seconded Kylee Galbraith

"That the work of the working party, carried out within a short timeframe in order to present recommendations to the OTOP committee, be formally acknowledged."

Motion Carried

7 RESIGNATION OF CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER JOHN TALBOT

Consistent with his earlier indications to the committee, John Talbot confirmed that today is his last day on the committee and in the chair. Comments of appreciation for his work were made by members and officers, acknowledging John's guidance through a difficult process, his statesmanlike leadership, thoughtful manner and calm and quiet approach.

Proposed Mark Webb
Seconded Hamish McFarlane

"That the Committee formally acknowledges John Talbot's expertise, dedication, leadership and significant input into the work of the OTOP Committee."

Motion Carried

The meeting concluded at 4pm.

Chairperson

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2018

Report for Agenda Item No 7

Prepared by **Barbara Gilchrist**
Facilitator

Facilitator Update

Powers of Zone Committees

You may recall that in late April I wrote to all Zone Committee members about recent challenges to our collaborative process, particularly in the Hurunui-Waiau zone.

These challenges prompted us to seek legal advice on the powers of Zone Committees. While the situation in Hurunui-Waiau has moved on since that advice was sought (the particular application was withdrawn), the points made by our advisers are still relevant. Their letter is attached for your information.

In summary, the ability of Zone Committees to make recommendations to Council are confirmed, while it is not appropriate for them to enter into agreements that may have the effect of binding Council in future. This is in line with the terms of reference Zone Committees have been working to for some time.

I'd appreciate it if this email and the attachment could be tabled at your next meeting so your members and everyone who works with your committee is clear on these points.

Meantime, it is very important that we continue our commitment to deliver water outcomes to our communities via our Zone Committees. They play a crucial role in helping the community get to the outcomes it wants.

There are many opportunities for members of local communities to have their say and make an impact, and we strongly encourage them to keep doing this.

If you or your committee have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me via your Zone Facilitator.

Regards
Bill Bayfield

14 May 2018

Attention Catherine Schache
Canterbury Regional Council
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

CONFIRMATION OF POWERS OF ZONE COMMITTEES

1. Forest & Bird has recently lodged an Application for Declarations in the Environment Court calling into question the extent of the Canterbury Water Zone Committees' (Zone Committees) powers. Of particular concern to Forest & Bird is the question of whether Zone Committees can enter into agreements with third parties in relation to the review of conditions of resource consents issued by Environment Canterbury.
2. You have asked us to confirm what powers Zone Committees have in relation to such agreements.

Powers of the Zone Committees

3. The Zone Committees are joint committees between the Canterbury Regional Council and the relevant District Council/s within the zone. The Zone Committees are required to act in accordance with the relevant Joint Committee Agreement (between the Regional Council and the District Council/s), and the Terms of Reference for the Zone Committees.
4. The Terms of Reference for the Zone Committees determine the powers and responsibilities (if any) that are delegated to the Zone Committees by the relevant Councils. These Terms are largely identical across the Zone Committees. They contain a number of limitations to the Zone Committee's powers, and expressly provide that *"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"*.¹
5. In respect of the powers of the Zone Committees:
 - a. A Zone Committee does not have the power to enter into an agreement with a third party that purports to bind Environment Canterbury. Accordingly, a Zone Committee should ensure that it does not enter into an agreement with a third party that purports to bind Environment Canterbury, including in respect of initiating a section 128 review of the conditions of a resource consent.

¹ We note that the Kaikoura Zone Committee has slightly amended Terms of Reference that instead state *"No Committee shall have the authority to commit any Council to any path or expenditure and shall operate in such a way as it does not compromise those Councils' freedom to deliberate and make such decisions as it deems appropriate."* We consider this clause has the same effect as the limitation of powers clauses in the other Zone Committees' Terms of Reference.

- b. A Zone Committee can make recommendations to Environment Canterbury in respect of its decision making powers, including as to the review of resource consents in the relevant zone, in light of its objectives to oversee the implementation and delivery of their Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP). The recommendations could include whether or not the Zone Committee considers that it is appropriate to carry out any reviews, and the timing and staging of any such reviews. However, any such recommendations are not binding on Environment Canterbury.
- c. A Zone Committee could enter into an agreement (best framed as a memorandum of understanding) with a third party as to the basis on which the Zone Committee might make recommendations to Environment Canterbury. For example, in light of a third party carrying out particular actions/works in the catchment.
 - i. A memorandum of understanding may be appropriate given the Zone Committee's broad objectives to oversee the delivery and implementation of the ZIP, as the ZIP recommendations also encompass other environmental outcomes and non-regulatory actions.
 - ii. Any memorandum of understanding should make it explicit that the Zone Committee is simply making recommendations to Environment Canterbury, and that both parties (i.e., the Zone Committees and any third party) understand that such recommendations will not and do not bind Environment Canterbury.
 - iii. We consider that such a memorandum of understanding would not be unlawful, provided that it does not purport to bind the Council, as such an arrangement would not fetter a statutory discretion or power.
 - iv. The Council would need to consider any recommendations simply as recommendations, and will need to turn its own mind to the exercise of its review power (noting that the contents of the Zone Committees' recommendations may be a relevant factor when deciding whether or not to exercise that power).

Yours faithfully
Wynn Williams



Philip Maw / Kirstie Wyss
Partner / Associate

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Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Management Committee

Terms of Reference

The area of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora 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), Timaru District Council, MacKenzie District Council and Waimate District Council (the Territorial Authorities).

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 Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora 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 Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora 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 Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Implementation Programme.
- 5) Consult with other Zone Water Management Committees throughout the development and implementation of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Implementation Programme on matters impacting on other zone areas.
- 6) Engage with relevant stakeholders throughout the development of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Implementation Programme.
- 7) Recommend the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora 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, Timaru District Council, MacKenzie District Council and Waimate District Council, and other agencies in relation to the implementation of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Implementation Programme.
- 10) Provide Environment Canterbury, Timaru District Council, MacKenzie District Council and Waimate District Council updates on progress against the Zone Implementation Programme.

Brought to you by Environment Canterbury working with



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 Councillor appointed by Environment Canterbury;
- 2) One elected member appointed by each Territorial Authority operating within the Zone Boundary;
- 3) Two members from Arowhenua Rūnanga;
- 4) Between 4-7 community members from a range of backgrounds and interests within the community; with provision that this number may be exceeded if Environment Canterbury and each Territorial Authority operating within the zone boundary agree. Community members should represent a range of backgrounds and interests within the community.
- 5) Environment Canterbury, Timaru District Council, MacKenzie District Council and Waimate District Council will appoint their own representatives on the Committee. Arowhenua Rūnanga will nominate their representatives and the appointments will be confirmed by Environment Canterbury, Timaru District Council, MacKenzie District Council and Waimate 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 Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee will be made to Environment Canterbury, Timaru District Council and MacKenzie District Council by a working group of representatives from Environment Canterbury, Timaru District Council, MacKenzie District Council and Waimate District Council, and Arowhenua Rūnanga. The recommendations will take into account the balance of interests required for Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora, geographic spread of members and the ability of the applicants to work in a collaborative, consensus-seeking manner. Environment Canterbury, Timaru District Council, MacKenzie District Council and Waimate 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, which may be extended on a case by case basis if Environment Canterbury and each Territorial Authority operating within the zone boundary agree. Each Committee requires confirmation of membership by Environment Canterbury and each Territorial Authority operating within the zone boundary. The term for community members will be staggered so that one third of the community members is appointed (or reappointed) by a refreshment process involving Environment Canterbury, each Territorial Authority in the zone, and Rūnanga whose rohe is in the zone. Committee refreshments will occur in two years out of three or where numbers fall below strength due to attrition. There is no limit on the number of consecutive terms a member may serve.

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.

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2018

Report for Agenda Item No 9

Prepared by Mike Bell
Wildlife Management International Ltd

Frances Schmechel
Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Southern Black-backed Gull/Karoro Strategy

PURPOSE

To inform all Zone Committees and stakeholders of the development of a Southern Black-Backed Gull/Karoro strategy for Canterbury and inviting participation in this process.

BACKGROUND

Southern Black-backed Gull/Karoro (SBBG) numbers have increased significantly following the clearance of native vegetation and the shift to an agricultural economy in New Zealand. SBBG are one of the native species which have adapted well to land use changes. Pasture has provided gulls with more foraging area, and easier access to food. SBBG have also readily adapted to new human derived food sources - especially rubbish tips and offal.

In Canterbury, an estimated 30,000 pairs of SBBG are breeding (so over 60000 individuals), predominately on braided rivers (see attached map, with this data collected during an aerial survey on the region's major braided rivers in 2016). Based on historical accounts prior to land clearance and conversion to agriculture, SBBG will have only nested as single pairs and not formed the super large or abundant colonies we see today.

Research on braided rivers have highlighted that SBBG are a significant predator of braided river dependent birds, many of which only breed on these rivers and have declining populations (i.e. wrybill, black-fronted tern, and kaki/ black stilt). The gulls predate the eggs and chicks of most species found on braided rivers. We have direct evidence (through direct observation or video surveillance) of SBBG predating black-billed gull, black-fronted tern, banded dotterel, and wrybill nests (see figure 1).

DISCUSSION

Environment Canterbury has contracted Wildlife Management International Ltd (WMIL) to develop a Canterbury Southern Black-backed Gull Strategy. As part of developing this strategy stakeholder meetings will be held to provide you with some background context and, most importantly, to listen to your views.

This is the first stage of developing the Strategy and we have no clear views formed yet. We are very interested to learn about the stakeholders' relationship with Southern Black-backed Gull/Karoro, with braided rivers generally and with the other (in many cases endangered) birds which depend on braided rivers.

ACTION

We look forward to your attendance at meetings to be held:

- Tūhaitara Coastal Park (1 Woodend Beach Rd, Woodend Beach) – Monday 2nd July, 10am-12pm
- Ashburton (Seniors Centre, 206 Cameron St) - Tuesday 3rd July, 1pm-3pm
- Waihao Marae (26 Maori Rd, Morven) – Wednesday 4th July, morning (time to be confirmed)

If you are interested in attending one of these meetings please contact Donna Lill, 027-460-2885, dwoodley@hotmail.com so that we can provide you with further information prior to the meeting.

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings and have information which you would like to provide to our team please call Donna to discuss.

We welcome you to forward this invitation on to other groups and individuals who may wish to input into the strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To engage in the process to develop a Southern Black-Backed Gull/Karoro strategy for Canterbury.

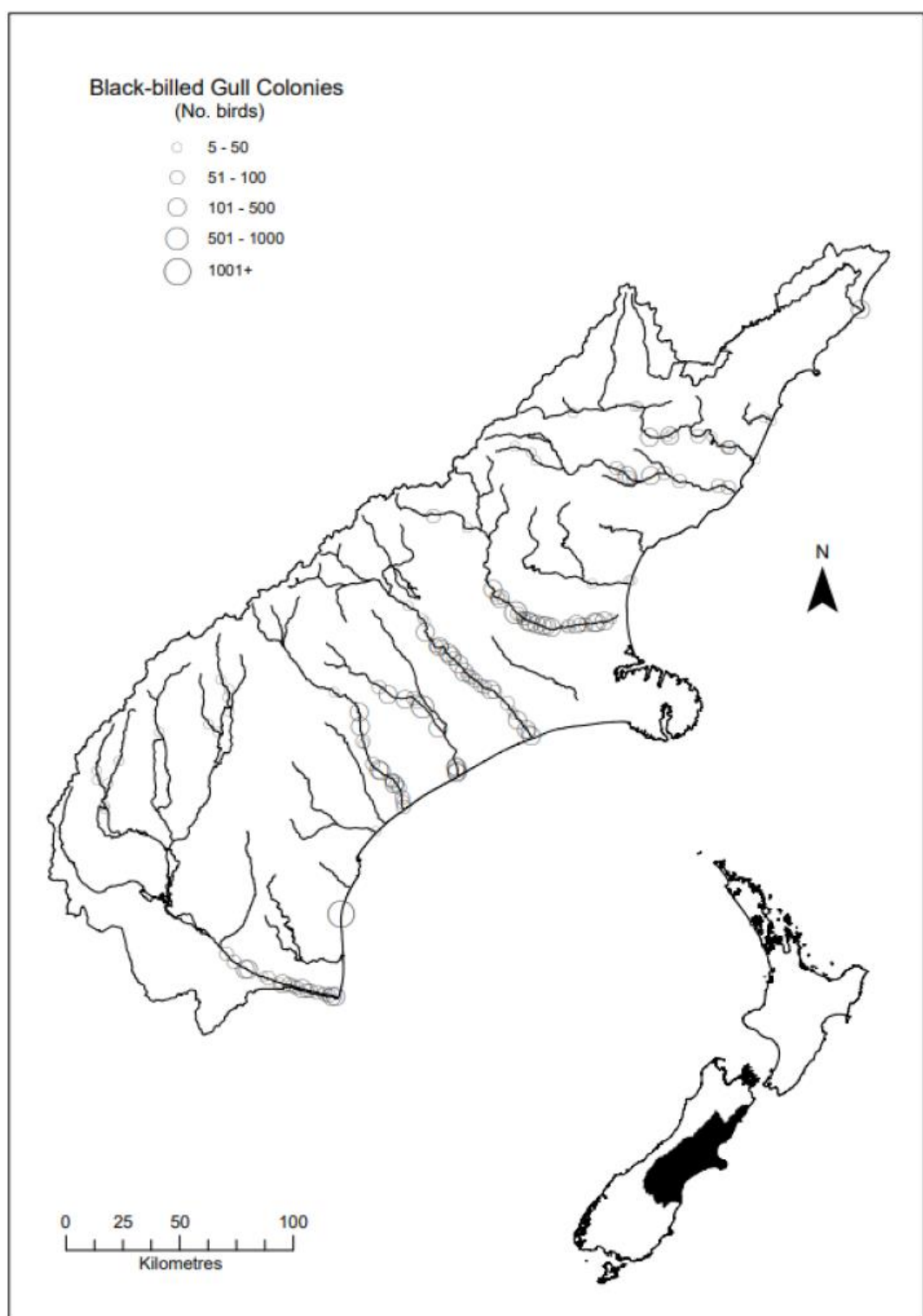
Figure 1. Images of Southern Black-backed Gull/Karoro predating braided river bird nes

A) SBBG carrying off black-billed gull chick, Wairau River Marlborough.



B) SBBG predating BFT nest, Clarence River, Canterbury.





ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2018

Report for Agenda Item No 10

Prepared by Andrea Richardson
Senior Planner

Omnibus Plan Change

Omnibus Plan Change 2019

Purpose

To inform the Zone Committee that Environment Canterbury is undertaking an 'omnibus' plan change to the region-wide provisions of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP), which will be publicly notified in mid-2019.

This memo is for information purposes only in recognition that your Zone Committee is currently in a sub-regional planning process. Environment Canterbury has committed to undertake omnibus plan changes reasonably regularly (the next in approximately 2022) and so there will be future opportunities for involvement.

Rationale and timing for Omnibus Plan Change

The Omnibus Plan Change will cover a range of issues to ensure the regional planning provisions in the LWRP are responsive to new directives from central government, emerging environmental issues, and changes in matters that are strategic priorities for Environment Canterbury.

Key milestones for the Omnibus Plan Change include public engagement on potential plan changes to address the regionally significant issues in October-November 2018, consultation on the draft plan in March-April 2019, public notification of the proposed plan change in mid-2019, a public hearing on submissions on the plan change in early 2020 and a decision to be notified by mid-2021.

Topics for Omnibus Plan Change

For your information, the list of significant region-wide topics that are proposed to be covered in the Omnibus Plan Change is attached to this memo.

Attachment 1: Proposed Regionally Significant Topics for Omnibus Plan Change 2019

Topics	Rationale
Braided Rivers	The protection of the natural character of braided rivers is one of Environment Canterbury's priorities, and in order to ensure braided rivers are protected we need to define the edge of the 'bed' of the river.
Tangata Whenua values	Some controlled and restricted discretionary rules constrain the ability of a decision maker to consider effects on tāngata whenua values because the rule does not list this effect as one of the matters that may be considered.
Indigenous freshwater species and habitats, and salmon spawning sites	There has been incremental loss of indigenous freshwater species and habitats, and this plan change seeks to amend rules to increase protection. Identification and protection of new salmon spawning sites is also proposed.
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management	Region-wide provisions need to give effect (as far as practicable) to the recent amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, which requires Councils to establish freshwater management units and limits to achieve freshwater outcomes.
Horticultural operations	To avoid soil-borne diseases, horticultural growers typically rotate the type of crop grown on a land parcel. The rules in the LWRP regulate farming activities according to a nitrogen limit that is derived from a historic land use. The plan change will investigate options to better provide for rotational and lease-hold arrangements.
National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry	Review and (if necessary) amend LWRP provisions to ensure they are consistent with the new National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry.

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2018

Report for Agenda Item No 11

2017 Nitrate Report

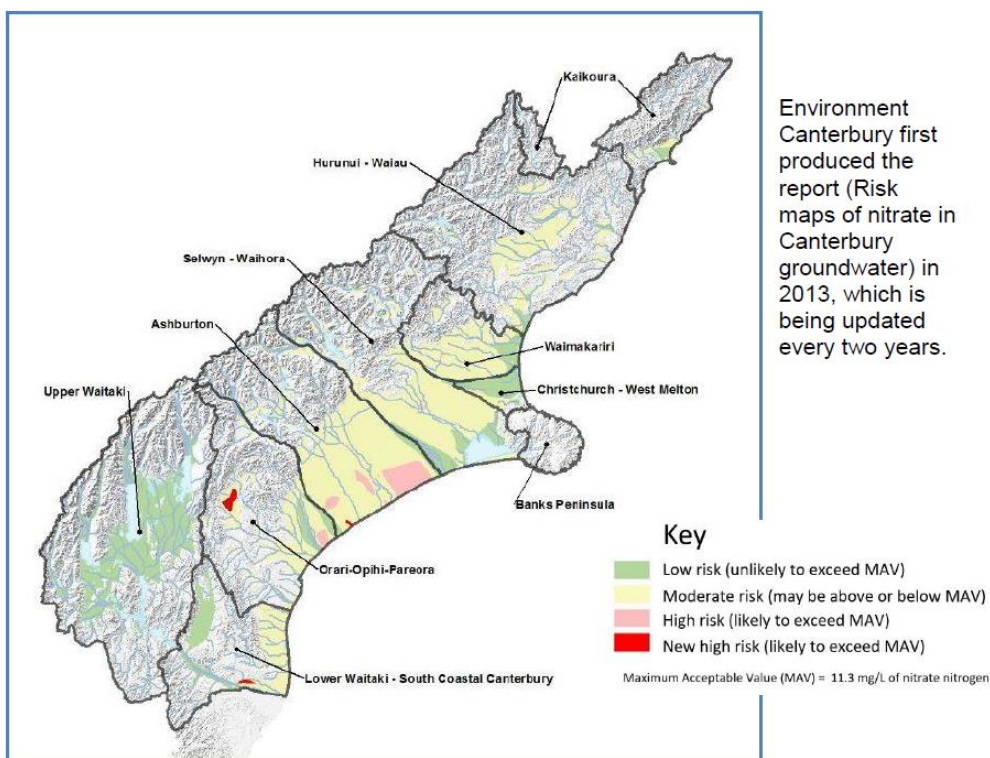
Risk maps of nitrate in shallow groundwater, Canterbury – 2017 update

The 2017 update to nitrate levels in shallow groundwater across Canterbury shows little change across most districts, with three new high-risk areas and one area that has gone from high to medium-risk.

The nitrate risk maps are for people with private bores drawing water from shallow groundwater aquifers and are used by Community and Public Health to help ensure safe drinking water. They show the risk of shallow groundwater, in an area, exceeding the maximum acceptable value for drinking water of 11.3 mg/L of nitrate nitrogen.

In high risk areas there is an active programme to ensure people are aware of the health risks from high nitrates, and what they need to do to avoid effects, particularly for babies and pregnant women, and others at risk. This includes encouraging people to get their bore water tested for the nitrate level, and using alternative drinking water supplies if necessary.

There are three new small areas which have moved into the high-risk category, and one area which has moved from high to medium risk (near Cheviot). The new high-risk areas are near Ikawai (north of the lower Waitaki River), near Fairlie, and near Lowcliffe in the Ashburton district (see map below).



The maps and advice are available at <https://www.cph.co.nz/your-health/drinking-water/>

The report is available at www.ecan.govt.nz (search for Risk maps of nitrate groundwater).

Nitrate levels in Canterbury: limits aim to reverse the trend

There's a significant effort in Canterbury to manage and reduce nitrate levels in groundwater caused by more intensive farming over the past 20 years and more.

In 2012 strict nitrate pollution limits were imposed on Canterbury farmers (in the Land and Water Regional Plan). Since then even more stringent limits have been introduced in the most affected areas to begin reducing high nitrate levels (in particular Selwyn district, Ashburton Hinds, and South Coastal Canterbury). In some areas, however, nitrate levels may continue to rise for a time because of the pollution that is already flowing through the groundwater system.

Under the rules in the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, many farmers now require a consent to farm and a Farm Environment Plan (FEP) to deal with environmental risks. To ensure farmers are doing what they need to do, there are regular independent FEP audits which result in a grade (A, B, C, or D). Those farmers performing poorly (C or D grade) receive regular follow-up visits from Council compliance officers until their performance improves. Those performing well (A or B) are encouraged to continue to improve their environmental performance and are rewarded with fewer compliance visits and costs.

This regime is designed to get farmers working within the environmental limits needed to protect our waterways. The introduction of Farm Environment Plans allows us to promote agreed good management practices (GMPs) and address, in one place, the environmental rules associated with farming.

There are defined good management practices around water use efficiency, nutrient management, effluent management, soil management, as well as farm hotspots (waste pits, offal or silage pits). FEPs also cover riverside and drain management (erosion and sediment) as well as keeping stock out of waterways, to protect water quality.

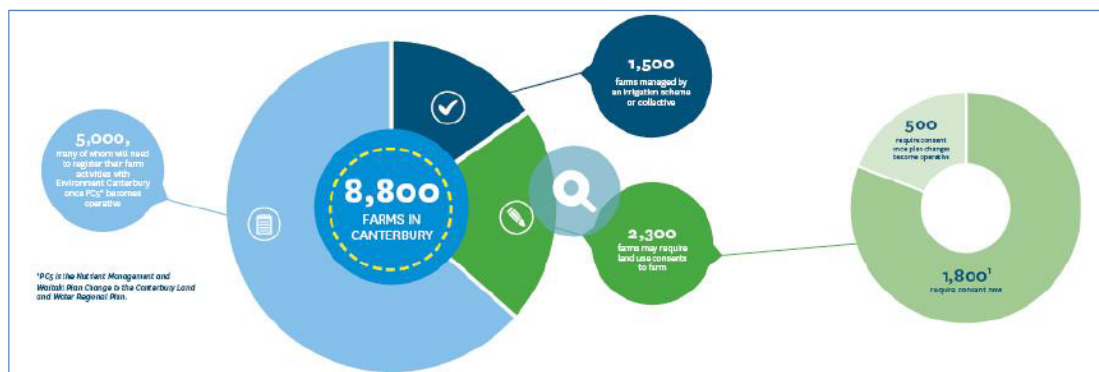


Figure 1 The number of farms in Canterbury that require FEPs, and their status.