

Waimakariri - Work Programme Progress update 30 June 2018

Waimakariri Work Programme Summary

Considerable effort has been placed in the development of the Waimakariri Land and Water Solutions Programme. This has been a collaborative community focused process and has resulted in joining together their aspirations, the science, planning & strategy process with priority on-ground actions, most notably in the Ashley/Rakahuri River, Kaiapoi River / Silverstream catchments, and coastal lowlands incorporating Tūhaitara Coastal Park.

Also of note is the work with farmers which has resulted in solid progress being made towards good management practice (GMP). A campaign to encourage priority farms in Waimakariri's red and orange nutrient allocation zones to get a land use consent to farm played an important part in this.

Implementation of the Solutions Programme - in particular the on-ground actions is the key focus for 2018/19

Outcome	Status	Progress update
<p>Relationships, Respect and Communications Everyone who lives, works or plays in Waimakariri has a part to play in improving our local waterways. Our aim is to build and leverage relationships, networks and resources, to do so in a manner that respects everyone's values, shares ideas and has the output of getting stuff done.</p>	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a strong focus on connecting with community-led groups who are focused on improving our waterways and supporting their projects. We continue to work with, align and leverage ECan functions to assist delivery. The relationship and coordination with WDC continues to develop and is working well at all levels. We are maintaining strong connections with industry partners such as WIL and have established a Waimakariri Primary Industry Network who meet on a quarterly basis to coordinate priorities. We are a sponsor of the Enterprise North Canterbury Environmental Step Change Award which we will leverage to build industry awareness. We review our communications plan each quarter to align it with initiatives and the addressing of issues.
<p>Waimakariri Corridor Successfully establish and maintain an ecological corridor of stepping stones consisting of native planting sites and protected native remnants along the river which provide habitat for native fauna.</p>	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine sites make up the corridor concept on the north bank of the Waimakariri. The work done includes an extensive area of successful planting at Groyne Zero Bush, Dog Trial Road Wetland, Dixons Bay Bush and a large area of planting at Smith's stream following engineering works re-battering of the flood banks. Planting at Poyntz Road Backwater has struggled in dry and exposed conditions and McIntoshes fishing area has seen the slow-establishment of a set of salt-tolerant estuarine species along highly-tidal land at the base of the stop-bank.
<p>North Waimakariri Loop The development of a 27-km fresh water-biodiversity focused recreational loop that brings the Regional Park to the doorstep of Kaiapoi. This loop would simultaneously establish wetlands to assist in resolving high nitrate levels in the upper reaches of Silverstream, see the protection of major springheads, restore ecological habitat, enhance critical biodiversity values and further develop the links to form a 27-km recreational loop track. All work would acknowledge the great work done by community groups to-date and dovetail into the existing community/ECan assets such as reserves and the plans that WDC have for the Urban section of the Kaiapoi River.</p>	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A collaborative approach is being taken to establish a shared vision and plan for this area. The support is positive and the momentum is clearly building. Some initiatives are already underway with 3 x First 500¹ projects, ongoing planting in the Silverstream Reserve, trial planting of salt-tolerant estuarine species in the tidal area of Kaiapoi and willow control and planting Courtenay Confluence. An objective of this work is to demonstrate multiple stakeholders genuinely working together on a reasonable scale project and agreed vision. While the aim is to deliver the core of this Big Rock in the next 2 years, realising the vision is longer term. <p>¹Pro-active, pre- funding approved springhead protection and riparian planting of at least the first 500m of streams in priority catchments</p>
<p>Cam River Connected Improvement Connected improvement and support of the Cam River Enhancement Subcommittee stream improvement initiatives, the protection of major springheads and targeted Land Management advice to provide an integrated, cost effective and coherent approach to rehabilitate of the Cam River by 2022.</p>	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cam River Enhancement Subcommittee has allocated \$200k to various projects mainly aimed at sediment mitigations. Our focus is on the upper reaches of the 3 Brooks that feed in to the Cam where we have 3 x First 500 projects. One that involves a farm and 4 lifestyle block neighbours, another on a farm that has been an ongoing challenge and one that involves a weir to protect Koura. As part of each project we will be providing supporting Land Management advice to the surrounding landowners.

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<p>Coastal Corridor Extension (Tūhaitara Coastal Park Extension) Support Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust and demonstrate Biodiversity Step Change with the expansion of the Coastal Corridor.</p>	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are currently working with the Trust developing a Million Metres planting application for the Taranaki Stream at Waikuku and with WDC in the Taranaki Reserve. Both projects complement one another. We also have work underway protecting the Wakeman Wetland and wetland willow control at Pines Beach.
<p>Te Aka Aka Connections Reconnect linkages and ecosystems between the Lower Ashley Rakahuri River, the estuary, Salt Water Creek, Te Aka Aka Fenton Reserve, The Regional Park, Environment Canterbury owned land on the northern banks of the river, DOC land and Tūhaitara Coastal Park to provide an exceptional cultural, recreation and biodiversity treasure for Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga, residents and visitors alike.</p>	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While many of the elements for this Big Rock are understood, the focus at this stage is on collaboration and building an even clearer understanding between partners. Aligning with the work being done by the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Implementation Working Party at the estuary is an important aspect of this. In the interim we are identifying possible projects in the surrounding area and progressing planting in Saltwater Creek on the Morris's Farm.
<p>Ashley Rakahuri Stepping Stones The Ashley/Rakahuri is small in comparison to the bigger braided rivers, it provides a unique opportunity for effective intervention. A programme of connected Ashley River/Rakahuri projects that deliver improvements in overall braided river ecosystem health and recreational opportunities by 2020 is to be established.</p>	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several projects have been identified such as woody weed removal in the reach of the river between the gorge and the Okuku River. We are currently assessing these projects against the Regional Braided River Strategy. In the interim we are providing ongoing support to the positive work that the Ashley Rakahuri RiverCare Group is doing. This work is focused on making the river a safe place for birds such as black-fronted terns, wrybill, black-billed gulls, banded dotterels, pied stilts, and oystercatchers.
<p>Foothills Downs and Lees Valley Protection Develop projects that target specific threats such as Sediment & Erosion Control and pro-active monitoring</p>	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$110K over 3 years of IMS and CBS funds have been allocated to the fencing of a QEII Covenant and weed control (pines) at White Rock Mains.
<p>GMP Showcase Leverage the boutique nature of the Waimakariri Zone, the relatively small numbers of farms, the high number of Lifestyle properties and motivated stakeholders to lead and become a showcase Good Management Practice initiatives at Farm, Lifestyle and Urban levels by 2020.</p>	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good progress is being made in Waimakariri. See the Regional report. An infiltration trial is soon to take place in the upper Silverstream catchment. The purpose of this trial is to provide information that may lead to wider mitigation of nitrates in Silverstream. Last year we ran Pilot Workshops for Lifestyle Block owners. We intend to run a refined version based around priority catchments, however due to limited resources this is currently on hold.
<p>Compliance & Alliance Programme To ensure that all priority consents in the Waimakariri Zone that need monitoring are monitored, the Farming to Good Management Practice Project and future programmes are implemented, high risk pollution incidents are responded to and that consent holder's practices are aligned with CWMS & the Zones Community outcomes.</p>	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work takes up a considerable amount of resource and attention particularly in relation to escalated events and has an impact on the progression of other Big Rocks. Within the greater Monitoring programme consents surrounding the location based Big Rocks are set as a priority. Overall Waimakariri is making good progress. See the Regional report.