

Sixth meeting of the Hurunui Science Stakeholders Group.

Wednesday 15 February 2017. St Johns Hall. Amberley

Attendees:

- Environment Canterbury: Ian Whitehouse, Hamish Graham, Lisa Scott, Kimberley Dynes, Adrian Meredith, Lisa Jenkins.
- Zone Committee: John Faulkner and Cynthia Roberts
- Waterway Centre for Freshwater Management: Tara McAllister
- Ravensdown: Kelly Morris
- Amuri Irrigation (AIC): Alastair Rutherford, Andrew Barton, Peter Brown and Gavin Kemble
- Federated Farmers: Lionel Hume
- Community Public Health: Kirsty MacLeod
- Hurunui Water Project (HWP): Christina Robb
- Dairy NZ: Justin Kitto and Hans Eikaas
- Ngāi Tahu Farming Enterprises: Ash-Leigh Campbell
- Jamie McFadden

Background

A Hurunui Science Stakeholder Group has been established. These are the notes from the sixth meeting. The agenda for the meeting was:

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Opportunities to correct any significant errors with the notes of the third meeting.
3. Tara McAllister presentation: *Phormidium* accrual cycles in Canterbury rivers: the relative effects of flow and nutrients
4. Hamish Graham presentation: Hurunui catchment groundwater quality
5. For your information –Next meetings

What was discussed?

Tara McAllister presented her findings on (see notes on the SSG web site in the “Environment Canterbury” folder). All of the Science Stakeholder Group have been sent a copy of Tara’s presentation and her review paper on *Phormidium*.

Key points from Tara’s presentation included:

- The incidence of *Phormidium* blooms and the toxicity of the *Phormidium* varies from river to river and from river reach to reach;
- *Phormidium* mats trap fine sediment and can extract phosphorus from this sediment;
- *Phormidium* growth and accumulation are influenced by river flows and nutrient (N and P) concentrations. There may be other factors as well, such as micro nutrients. Research is still at an early stage with many unanswered questions.
- Need to manage N, P and sediment and ensure flow variability.

There was some discussion following the presentation but no action points to record. The group thanked Tara for her presentation.

Hamish Graham presented on Environment Canterbury's findings from groundwater monitoring (presentation will be placed on the web site).

It was identified that Environment Canterbury did not have community drinking water well data – Kirsty McLeod will provide.

It was also identified that there information regarding changes in irrigation infrastructure over the last 15 years would assist in drawing conclusions regarding groundwater trends and in assessing the "lag" in the groundwater system in the Amuri basin. Peter Brown indicated he could provide that information.

The meeting concluded.

Next meeting

Kimberley Dynes will present on surface water quality in the Hurunui catchment and Ned Norton will present on catchment and tributary agricultural N loads.

4 – 6pm, March 20

Waipara Domain Hall, WAIPARA (NOTE VENUE CHANGE)