Environment Canterbury Regional Council
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

AGENDA|2018

CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday 11 December 2018

Time: 1 pm

Venue: Council Chamber
200 Tuam Street, Christchurch

Canterbury Water Management Strategy
Regional Committee

Membership

Chair	Hugh Logan
Community Representatives	Hugh Canard, Jane Demeter, Cole Groves, Nicky Hyslop, Ross Millichamp and Vicky Southworth
Zone Representatives	Ted Howard (Kaikoura) Michele Hawke (Hurunui-Waiau) Carolyne Latham (Waimakariri) Karaitiana Taiuru (Selwyn-Waihora) Les Wanhalla (Christchurch West-Melton) Fiona Nicol (Banks Peninsula) Ben Curry (Ashburton) Hamish McFarlane (Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora) Sandra Hampstead-Tipene (Upper/Lower Waitaki)
Christchurch City Council	Councillor Sara Templeton
District Council Representatives	Mayor Winton Dalley (North Canterbury) Councillor Nicole Reid (Mid Canterbury) Peter McIlriath (South Canterbury)
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	Rebecca Clements
Ngā Rūnanga	Riki Lewis, David Higgins
Environment Canterbury	Councillors Claire McKay and Peter Scott
Central Government Observer	Murray Doak (MPI), Jo Buckner (MPI) and Nick Vincent (MFE)
Canterbury District Health Board Observer	Dr Alistair Humphrey

Members please note that lunch will be available at 12.30 pm

Canterbury Water Management Strategy
Regional Committee

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Closing Karakia

Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee held in the Council Chamber, Canterbury Regional Council, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch on Tuesday 9 October 2018 at 1.05 pm

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7. Updates from:
   - Ministry for Primary Industries
   - Ministry for the Environment
   - Department of Conservation
8. Zone Committee Updates
9. Facilitators Update
10. General Business
11. Next Meeting

Present

Community Representatives	
Jane Demeter	Ross Millichamp
Vicky Southworth	
Zone Representatives	
Ted Howard	Kaikoura
Michele Hawke	Hurunui-Waiau
Carolyne Latham	Waimakariri
Karaitiana Taiuru	Selwyn-Waihora
Les Wanhalla	Christchurch West-Melton
Fiona Nicol	Banks Peninsula
Ben Curry	Ashburton
Sandra Hampstead-Tipene	Upper/Lower Waitaki
District Council Representatives	
Mayor Winton Dalley	North Canterbury
Cr Nicole Reid	Mid Canterbury
Peter McIlraith	South Canterbury
Christchurch City Council	Cr Sara Templeton
Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu	Rebecca Clements
Ngā Rūnanga	Riki Lewis
Environment Canterbury	Cr Claire McKay & Peter Scott
Canterbury District Health Board Observer	Dr Alistair Humphrey

In attendance

John Benn (Department of Conservation)

Environment Canterbury: Lesley Woudberg (Team Leader Zone Facilitator), Dann Olykan (Team Leader CWMS), Ian Brown (Principal Strategy Advisor – Land), Mel Renganathan (Principal Strategy Advisor – Land), Anita Fulton (Senior Strategy Advisor), Barbara Nicholas (Contractor) and Louise McDonald (Senior Committee Advisor)

Welcome

As Chair Hugh Logan was an apology for the meeting Ross Millichamp agreed to chair the meeting.

Karaitiana Taiuru opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Hugh Logan, Hugh Canard, Murray Doak and Nick Vincent

2 Conflicts of interest

Ross Millichamp circulated the register of interests held for the committee for members to check and update if necessary.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting 14 August 2018

Refer pages 1 to 7 of agenda

The general consensus of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee:

Confirmed the minutes of the Regional Water Management Committee meeting held on 14 August 2018, as a true and correct record.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5 Farm Environment Plans & Audits

Refer pages 8 to 11 of the agenda

Ian Brown presented this item with a PowerPoint presentation and tabled a paper with a selection of stories from the Farm Environment Plan (FEP) audits.

Ian said that the following questions need to continue to be asked of farmers:

- Is the FEP making a difference?

- Is it helping your farming?
- does the FEP work?
- do you have confidence in the FEP?

He noted while FEPs are important they are only part of the package.

In response to a question regarding the difference between consents that require FEPs and permitted activities (that don't require FEPs) the information required for the FEP is that same. However, with permitted activities a FEP does not require an audit.

The people that undertake audits are accredited auditors and are not Environment Canterbury compliance staff, however, if they see non-compliance they are obliged to advise Environment Canterbury.

Commenting on the rate of progress, Ian explained that progress is being made and farmer's perceptions and attitudes are changing. Rules are still needed. Some changes will require significant capital input from farmers, so time frames need to be realistic.

Attached to the agenda was a letter dated 1 October 2018 from the chair of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareroa Water Zone Committee (OTOP) regarding the committee's concern that FEPs and Farm Management Plans (FMPs) may be missing biodiversity.

There was support for the consideration of biodiversity in FEPs. Noting that biodiversity was covered by waterways management and mahinga kia provisions it was agreed to talk to OTOP to clarify if their concern is about existing or new requirements. Also, will discuss with OTOP their intensions about how biodiversity in FEPs fits in with Zone Implementation Programme Addendums (ZIPA), District Plans and regional council responsibilities.

6 Canterbury Water Management Strategy Fit for Future Project

Refer pages 12 to 27 of the agenda

Dann Olykan presented this item and spoke to a PowerPoint presentation. He reminded the Committee that this project was not revisiting the strategic framework but was to develop interim goals and the implementation of those goals. The aim is to have challenging but achievable goals.

The following target and goal issues (pages 14 to 15 of the agenda) were considered and these comments provided:

- The cultural expressions of the targets and goals. Les Wanhalla explained that mahinga kai is about more than just food, it is also about matters including the whole ecosystem and lifestyle/economy of Papatipu Rūnanga. The goals will be discussed at the next Kaitiakitanga Task Group
- Flow regimes:
    - it was suggested that consistency was needed in the use of the various types of flow regimes e.g. 'environmental flows'.
    - should flows be prioritised?
    - the minimum flows should be set to maintain the health of the river as defined by everyone who has an interest in the river – protect the values of the river.
- Urban:
    - recognition that there are a lot of inputs into a complex system
    - targets can be aspirational but need controls to make them achievable

    - noted the impact on rates of actions funded by capital (interest paid now) and operational (all expenditure paid now) budgets of territorial authorities.
    - targets should be at a higher level that individual consents.
    - the problem of zinc from legally installed gutters and other structures.
- Overallocation
    - note that the National Policy Statement on freshwater requires a planning process by 2025
    - the Resource Management Act process does not mesh with the CWMS process so there is a need for care.
    - be able to provide signals so that people can prepare
    - understand the difference between unused allocation and real usage
    - stop transfers in overallocated zones
    - the need to be agile in light of climate change
    - are allocations and minimum flows correct? what should the base levels be?

The meeting adjourned between 3.17 and 3.25 pm
Vicky Southworth and Rebecca Clements left during this time.

The meeting then broke into groups to review the draft goals (attachment 1). This feedback was collected and will be referred to the task groups before being presented to the December meeting.

7 Updates from Wellington

Refer pages 28 to 29 of the agenda

The update from the Department of Conservation was attached to the agenda.

The Minister for the Environment had announced on 7 October the Government's plan for freshwater action for the next two years.

8. Zone Committee Updates

Kaikōura
Ted Howard explained that the Kaikōura focus continues to be on earthquake recovery. Lyall Creek was looking good, but it would be observed during the summer.

Hurunui Waiau
Michele Hawke reported that the Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee had presented its ZIPA to Environment Canterbury at its meeting of 20 September 2018. The recommendations from the Zone Committee included fixing the 10% rule that had unintended consequences for dryland farming.

The BRIDGE project is looking at the Waiau River.

Sandra Hampstead-Tipene left at 4.20pm

Waimakariri
Carolyne Latham advised that the Waimakariri Zone Committee are busy with their ZIPA. They are consulting with the public and the ZIPA is due to be finished mid-November.

The Christchurch West Melton Zone Committee joined them at a meeting where nitrates were discussed.

Christchurch West Melton
Les Wanhalla asked for clarification on committing Immediate Steps funding for long-term projects. The general response from other members was that long-term funding was needed to improve and secure biodiversity gains.

He reported on a successful families' day at Kerrs Reach to promote the Stormwater Superhero campaign.

Banks Peninsula
Fiona Nicol reported on the 5-year action plan for the Banks Peninsula ZIPA. They are looking to formalise the current informal processes between Christchurch City Council and regional council staff so that the committee can have more input into plans and budgets.

Selwyn Waihora
Karaitiana Taiuru reported that the Selwyn Waihora zone committee was building relationships and had been welcomed to Taumutu marae.

Youth representatives are attending the next zone committee meeting and will facilitate a discussion on the environment.

The zone committee have a new group working with the University of Canterbury and Environment Canterbury to improve the Selwyn River.

Ashburton
Ben Curry referred to the Managed Aquifer Recharge Project (ref Ashburton Courier report on page 37 of the agenda) to the South Hinds riverbed.

Upper Waitaki/Lower Waitaki/ Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora
Cr Peter Scott provided updates from these three zone committees:

- Upper Waitaki – work is being done to align the 5 agencies with statutory responsibilities in the Mackenzie Basin. A big issue in the Upper Waitaki is freedom camping.
- The Lower Waitaki zone committee is focusing on biodiversity and a field trip was being planned.
- Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora zone committee are at the final stage of the sub-regional plan. Cr Peter Skelton is going to talk to the committee about Resource Management Act (RMA) process and framework.

Michele Hawke recommended Cr Skelton's RMA talks that are available to view on YouTube.

9. Facilitators Update

Refer pages 30 to 39 of the agenda

Lesley Woudberg presented this report and advised that the Government report released on 8 October 2018 '*Essential Freshwater: Healthy Water, Fairly Allocated'* was available on the Ministry for the Environment website.

Lesley advised the zone committee members refreshes would be before the end of 2018, with Waimakariri and the Regional Committee to be refreshed in late April/May 2019.

The proposed meeting dates for 2019 were noted.

Working Group Updates

Infrastructure Working Group
Ross Millichamp reported on the fish screen review being undertaken by the Environment Canterbury.

Recreation and Amenity Working Group
Ben Curry explained that the literature review of documents has been completed and is being synthesised. It will be used to assist Environment Canterbury planning staff.

Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Braided Rivers
Jane Demeter requested a copy of the Regional Braided River Project presentation.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Next Meeting

Tuesday 11 December 2018

The meeting closed at 4.53 pm, with a karakia from Karaitiana Taiuru

Confirmed

Date _____ Chairperson _____

Agenda Item No: 5	Subject Matter: Water Use Compliance Monitoring
Report to: Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee	**CWMS - Target/s Areas**
Report by: Carly Waddleton Principal Implementation Advisor	**Date of Meeting:** 11 December 2018

Purpose

1. To provide the Regional Committee with the results of the 2017/2018 Water Use Monitoring programme.

2017/18 Water Use Monitoring Programme

2. This year Environment Canterbury graded compliance for 4737 water use consents:

    a. 712 consents were prioritised and allocated for inspection by monitoring officers.

    b. 2809 consents received a system generated compliance grading based on data received, risk rating, and previous compliance history. 499 of these consents were audited to confirm the logic and validate assumptions.

    c. 524 consents did not submit data. These consents will be prioritised for follow-up.

3. The compliance grading for the 2017/2018 water use monitoring programme are:

Grade	Number	Percentage
A	2359	61%
B	94	2%
C	828	22%
D	35	1%
Missing Data	524	14%
Total of consents graded*	3840	100%
*In Progress***	*130*	
*Status Unknown****	*767*	
Total water use consents	*4737*	

Metering & Verifications

4. 94% of all takes over 10L/s are now metered; therefore we have been focussing on ensuring the remaining 6% are metered. There is a zero-tolerance approach for those over 100L/s.

5. Verifications expire after five years and we are now in that expiration phase. The focus is on communicating that the onus is on consent holders to verify water meters. Expired verifications have therefore been prioritised.

Next steps

6. Next report will include a summary of follow-up actions, including enforcement, for identified non-compliance.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6.	SUBJECT MATTER: Canterbury Water Management Strategy Fit for the Future Project
REPORT: Regional Water Management Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 11 December 2018
REPORT BY: Alastair Patrick/Frances Lojkine	

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to:

    - update the Regional Water Management Committee on the progress of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Fit for the Future project; and
    - seek the Committee's views on:
        - the intent of the intermediary goals and examples of the associated work programmes needed to support delivery of the CWMS; and
        - a set of strategic matters that are important to the continued success of the CWMS.

Key points

2. The Fit for the Future project is looking to develop intermediary goals for 2025 and 2030 for the ten target areas in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), and provide complementary advice on what is needed to support delivery of the CWMS. The Regional Water Management Committee will provide advice to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on this.

3. The Committee is supported by a range of groups who have undertaken detailed work on the draft 2025 and 2030 goals and activities needed to support the CWMS. A set of engagements with groups with an interest in the CWMS[1] and the work of Task Groups and the Goals Working group has generated a draft set of goals, discussed work programmes to support delivery of the Strategy, and raised a number of strategic matters.

4. The Regional Committee is at this meeting being asked to comment on the intent of the draft goals, and discuss the major strategic matters. Examples of the types of work programmes that are being developed are also included for the Regional Committee's information.

[1] Ngāi Tahu, territorial authorities, Zone Committees, sector and community groups, district health boards, and central government agencies

5. This paper also sets out the timing for the Regional Committee's future consideration and advice on this project.

Background

6. The Regional Water Management Committee is taking a lead role in developing advice to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on 2025 and 2030 goals for the ten target areas of the CWMS, and complementary advice on what is needed to support delivery of the Strategy.

7. A background to the project and its process of engagement is set out in Appendix 1.

Process of goals development so far

8. All six Task Groups have had two workshops. Material based on the Task Groups' and Goals Working Group discussions has been sent to a range of groups with an interest in the CWMS in two rounds of engagement.

9. All of these groups have carried out considerable detailed work on the draft goals for 2025 and 2030, and the set of work programmes needed to support the CWMS. There is now an opportunity for the Regional Committee to consider the strategic and significant matters that have arisen out of this detailed work.

Draft Goals and Work Programmes

10. Appendix 2 contains a summary by target area and theme of the main intermediary goals and examples of the associated work programmes needed to support delivery of the CWMS. They are the results of the engagement process set out above.

11. The Regional Committee meeting will discuss the main matters of interest in this summary.

Strategic Matters

12. During the course of the engagement there have been a number of strategic matters raised that are germane to helping implement the CWMS. If the CWMS targets and goals can be seen as the Strategy's building blocks, many of the strategic matters help provide the mortar holding the CWMS together.

13. To a large extent many of these recognise that action in the last nine years of the CWMS has largely focused on limits setting and plan development. Future action will need to focus on the wider range of management tools for getting better water outcomes.

14. The following table sets out matters that have arisen in the course of the engagement on the Fit for the Future project, but which do not sit neatly within a particular target area. Some of them identify key barriers or enablers to

implementing the CWMS. For ease of discussion they are identified under broad themes, but can be broken down further. An indication of how they could be addressed is also provided in the table.

Strategic matter	Possible discussion/treatment
Better water use - Instead of a focus on the irrigated land area target, discussion has addressed further improving water use efficiency and, related to this, increasing the reliability of water availability, both for water users and for drinking supply. Reliable water is important for high value production. The role of infrastructure and storage in helping to achieve this has been raised. How regionally significant infrastructure might be developed may need to be addressed regionally as well as in each zone.	A broader work programme is needed that integrates this with sources of and priorities for funding, the implications for other CWMS outcomes, and governance.
Social capital and CWMS outcomes- A strength of the CWMS has been growing social capital between different Canterbury water interests. Social capital needs to be maintained and strengthened. There is a perception that CWMS implementation has downplayed some of the CWMS 1st order priorities. There is concern/lack of trust/scepticism about whether the implementation of the CWMS so far has sufficiently considered cultural, social and environmental systems and that over-allocation is not being addressed fast enough, for example by reviewing and aligning current consents with limits. A particular concern for iwi is that the CWMS is not leading to gains that allow them to carry out traditional mahinga kai cultural practices Another aspect of social capital is the need to maintain the social and economic health of small communities.	Some of this can be addressed through a combination of: • Clear goals that are achievable • Open and transparent reporting on the goals • Addressing planning and implementation shortcomings when monitoring and reporting shows that goals may not be achieved • A clear implementation pathway that includes roles, responsibilities and funding, and involves buy-in by local government, sector groups, Ngāi Tahu and community groups. • A programme of information and education about what is working and what is not. • Ownership by all groups in the Strategy outcomes and related planning process. Addressing over-allocation is harder. It would require re-opening the Land and Water Regional Plan, and possibly sub-regional plans. Reviewing consents in a timely and cost-effective way would require amendment of the RMA.

Strategic matter	Possible discussion/treatment
Governance and accountability – concerns raised include: • ensuring 'ownership' of the CWMS by all parties; • the role of iwi in governance; • whether the Zone Committee structure is working to provide a fair balance of views, and delivers parallel and integrated outcomes (including CWMS 1st priorities); • whether the current settings are right for getting local versus regional decisions right.	Some of these can be addressed through: • A review of Zone Committee structure, appointments, funding etc. • The progression of the local Bill seeking to maintain mana whenua representation on Environment Canterbury.
Capacity and resourcing - these were raised as a concern by all groups, and in a range of contexts. It includes: • resources available to tangata whenua and community groups to engage on water management issues; • the operation of Zone Committees and the high expectations on members, especially during sub-regional planning; • sector groups and land users who need to adjust within a limits framework, but have high debt levels and sunk infrastructure costs; • the ability to fund restoration and other environmental projects, and any regional and local infrastructure that provides water reliability and environmental benefits • councils' capacity, for example in managing 'three waters' expectations.	Resource availability is an important issue – resources should go to highest priorities; recognise the ability of all groups to participate in regional and sub-regional activities; and deliver outcomes that are sought by all. There are legislative restrictions and sharply differing views on the use of particular charging tools to raise resources for CWMS implementation. A project to identify funding sources and means, and engage on a collaborative basis on options, would be possible.
Urban water – while drinking water has received some attention in CWMS implementation, an increased emphasis	There are a number of goals proposed for drinking water.

Strategic matter	Possible discussion/treatment
on stormwater and wastewater is required. Equity of effort will be required by all parties across the region to ensure both urban and rural water quality standards are improved.	This matter will be influenced by the outcome of the Government's 'Three Waters' review.
Cultural 'inclusion' – the major issues raised not covered by other strategic issues have been: • the ability to carry out mahinga kai activities, with concerns expressed over the speed of water quality improvement, and the loss of intergenerational knowledge while water quality is poor. • ensuring sufficient water quality and quantity for marae • the goals should be expressed in a meaningful way for tangata whenua and speak to ki uta ki tai • there are insufficient resources for cultural targets • there is a need to develop an understanding of the Māori economy within the concept of higher value production in Canterbury.	Several of these matters are being addressed in the proposed goals and work programmes: • Marae drinking water • Further goals on mahinga kai • Ki uta ki tai is a focus in the CWMS 2020 Kaitiakitanga goal - integrated ki uta ki tai environmental management philosophies into zonal and regional management planning. A draft goal for braided rivers incorporates ki uta ki tai.
Monitoring, knowledge, reporting and communication Monitoring needs to improve. New measurement systems must fully integrate Mātauranga Māori and scientific methodologies and understandings. This also includes the incorporation of Tikanga Māori in monitoring systems. There are a number of areas where further information will be needed to measure proposed goals. There needs to be a direct link between monitoring and taking action, including compliance action.	Some of the additional monitoring required is addressed in the draft goals and work programmes. Some of the goals will require further information and data collection and analysis. There are proposed goals in the Kaitiakitanga target area dealing with Mātauranga Māori reporting. Communication will be a key work programme area in the future. Communication and education should be part of an overall strategy designed to achieve behaviour change in water management.

Strategic matter	Possible discussion/treatment
There is a need to communicate better on various aspects of the CWMS. This includes a need to inform the public in a better way about the efforts being made and the successes that exist, as well as the areas where progress is not being made (and why).	

15. The Committee is invited to discuss these issues as a first step towards developing its advice on them to the Mayoral Forum.

2040 Targets feedback

16. There have been some suggestions for additions to or modifications of the 2040 targets. These were contained in the paper the Committee considered on 9 October 2018. Change to the 2040 targets goes beyond the scope of the Fit for the Future project agreed by the Mayoral Forum (based on Regional Committee advice), which was to 'fill the gaps' by arriving at 2025 and 2030 goals, and complementary advice on what is needed to support delivery of the Strategy. No further work is proposed on these suggestions.

Future Process

17. Attached as Appendix 3 is a diagram setting out the key workshops and meetings that will occur as the Fit for the Future project is finalised. There will be two further opportunities for the Regional Committee to consider this before the Mayoral Forum approves the outcome in May 2019. The second of these, the Committee's meeting of 9 April 2019, will need to approve the final advice for the Mayoral Forum.

Appendices

1. Summary of Mayoral Forum Approach and Engagement
2. Goals Summary
3. Key Workshops and Meetings in the Fit for the Future Project

Appendix 1

Summary of Mayoral Forum Approach and Engagement

The Mayoral Forum set out the proposed approach including:

- While the CWMS framework is considered basically sound, the success statements that help provide context for the Strategy's target areas and goals could be refreshed
- The establishment of six Task Groups to focus on the ten target areas
- A Goals Working Group to consider how the draft goals work together, and to provide coordinated advice to the Committee, including on mechanisms required to support delivery of the goals
- Advice being coordinated by the Regional Water Management Committee
- Working with Ngāi Tahu, territorial authorities, zone committees, community and sector groups, central government departments and ministries, and district health boards on the draft goals and supporting actions
- Reflecting the collaborative ethos of the CWMS through bringing together a range of interests and perspectives to develop the draft goals and supporting actions.

Engagement on Goals Development and Implementation

All six Task Groups have had two workshops. The Task Group for the Regional and National Economic Indicators target area has met twice but their second workshop was very recent and the results of that have not yet been incorporated. Material based on the Task Groups, Goals Working Group and Regional Committee discussions has been sent to a range of groups with an interest in the CWMS during two rounds of engagement. This material comprised a set of draft intermediary goals for 2025 and 2030, and possible themes of the activities that will support delivery of the goals.

Meetings with community and sector groups have been lively and positive, but there was less engagement by zone committees in the first engagement round (some are pre-occupied by their sub-regional planning). Forest and Bird, and Fish and Game have remained disengaged from the project. Ngā Rūnanga have engaged in the project through the Task Groups and Goals Working Group.

Appendix 2: Goals Summary

Note: gold highlighted cells in the table represent notable changes as a result of the FFF project

Target area (CWMS)	Theme (Targets report)	Goal themes (Goals)	Intermediary goals	Examples of work programmes
Environmental limits	Environmental flows and catchment limits	Set and met environmental flows	One of the 2040 goals is that environmental flow and catchment load limits are achieved in all catchments. To help achieve that the intermediary goals provide for environmental flows and catchment load limits to be reviewed in response to: • changing monitoring information • new understanding and technologies, and • if requested by regional and zone committees, The intermediary goals also seek that all planning process consider how the limits will be achieved.	Planning processes to include consideration of how flows and loads will be achieved by a mix of regulatory and non-regulatory methods Promotion of GMP by industry and irrigation schemes Timetabling and development of urban water quality limits
Ecosystems health and biodiversity	Freshwater species and their habitat	Salmonid species	Intermediary goals recommended seeking to increase the number and area of protected salmon spawning sites	Programme to monitor the number and area of sites
		Native fish	Intermediary goals recommended seeking an increase in abundance of all threatened/at-risk indigenous species	Definition of the Canterbury understanding of 'at-risk' Fish screen and fish exclusion devices assessment and effectiveness review
	Wetlands		Intermediary goals recommended seeking the restoration of former or new wetlands and continuation of goals from 2015 and 2020 for existing wetlands	Identify and prioritise former wetlands for restoration Identify existing wetlands and physically protect
	Drylands		Intermediary goals recommended seeking to manage the effects of water use on indigenous ecosystems, including drylands	Alignment with the biodiversity and biosecurity work programmes

Target area (CWMS)	Theme (Targets report)	Goal themes (Goals)	Intermediary goals	Examples of work programmes
				Identification of funding for dryland protection and restoration programmes
	Hapua, lagoons, estuaries		Intermediary goals recommended seeking improvement in key ecosystem health indicators for all hapua, lagoons and estuaries	Protection and restoration programmes for each area Management of areas to recognise the likely effects of climate change
	Lowland streams and lakes		Intermediary goals recommended to continue incremental increase in percentage of lowland lakes and streams where condition and water quality is improved	Establish catchment groups Identify and prioritise lowland streams for protection, enhancement and the setting of limits
	High country foothill streams and lakes		Intermediary goals recommended to maintain or improve condition and water quality	Prioritise streams and lakes that require focus, including focus on maintaining those still in good condition
	Understanding emergent contaminant risks		Intermediary goals recommended to understand emerging contaminants risks and set limits where required	Annual identification programme Development of contaminants watchlist programme
Braided rivers	Braided river character	Natural ecosystems and landscapes Floodplains River mouths No new damming	The 2010 goal sets out the basic management approach for braided rivers, which it is appropriate to maintain over the next 10-15 years, with a new goal in 2030 of braided rivers having a typical, dynamic braided nature	Management of gravel extraction Inclusion into Farm Environment Mgmt Plans
	Ecosystems, habitats and species	Environmental flows	The 2015 goal was to identify where flows do not include the characteristics necessary for braided river health. With that identified, new 2025 and 2030 goals focus on making progress towards achieving those flows	Reviewing flows in light of e.g. changing technology Seeking funding from major water abstractors

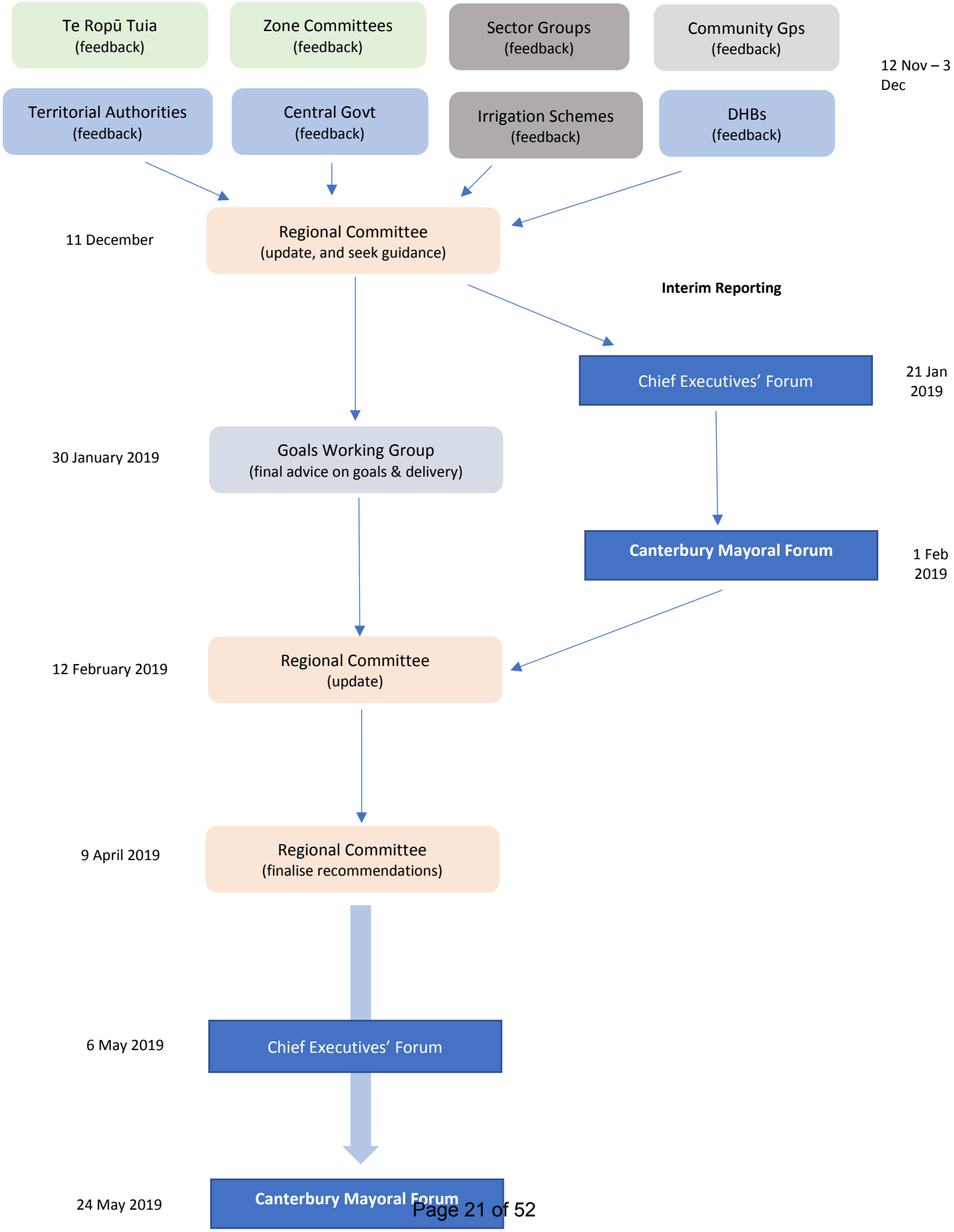
Target area (CWMS)	Theme (Targets report)	Goal themes (Goals)	Intermediary goals	Examples of work programmes
	Riparian wetlands, springs and lagoons	Species	New interim goals have been defined to address threats to uncommon bird species	Integration of ECan, DOC, LINZ, river care group work programmes Inclusion into Farm Environment Mgmt Plans
		Habitats	2025 goals repeat the 2020 goals re protecting significant braided river habitat and protecting and enhancing associated habitats, but a new 2030 goal is proposed seeking a resulting measurable change in the abundance and health of braided river dependent species	Definition of braid plains and key habitats to focus on Inclusion into Farm Environment Mgmt Plans
Kaitiakitanga	Marae drinking water supply		Intermediary goals recommended seeking to maintain high quality drinking water for marae and associated papakāinga	Evaluation of existing supplies Programmes to improve supplies where required
	Working together in partnership		Integration of Ki Uta Ki Tai into water management throughout the region is recommended, as well as support for succession planning and building institutional capacity	Reporting in accordance with mātauranga Maori Funding and implementation of Ki Uta Ki Tai strategic plan
	Wāhi taonga and mahinga kai		Only one goal was set for 2040, to protect wāhi taonga and mahinga kai waterways. A series of intermediary goals are therefore recommended, including the use of Council owned land to foster the restoration and protection of Ngāi Tahu values, identification and protection of at risk freshwater taonga species, and restoration of flows to Fenton Reserves	Development and implementation of protection zones for freshwater taonga species Mahinga kai management plan
Drinking water	Source water quality	Untreated supplies and treatment	There were no 2020 and 2040 goals. The recommended 2025 and 2030 goals focus on ensuring that untreated community supply drinking water supplies do not require treatment , and that there is no increase in drinking water supplied requiring treatment.	Complete policies and rule for protection zones and enforce their management. Communicate obligations – enforce management of activities and consents in protection zones.

Target area (CWMS)	Theme (Targets report)	Goal themes (Goals)	Intermediary goals	Examples of work programmes
		Emerging contaminant risk	The intermediary goals are consistent with the wording of the 2020 and 2040 goals.	International research and modelling to develop monitoring programme. Develop communication programme for the community.
		Water volumes	There was no goal for 2020 or 2040. The intermediary goals assert priority for drinking water availability over other water uses.	Align regional and district plans to support the CWMS.
	Catchment nutrient load		Existing 2020 and 2040 goals relate to the setting of catchment load limits and increasing nutrient use efficiency. Intermediary goals recommended for 2025 and 2030 provide ongoing support for this approach	Development of implementation programmes Establishment and implement of good management practices
Recreation and amenity opportunities	Water based recreational opportunities		Recommended support through the 2025 and 2030 goals for a positive trend in the diversity, availability and quality of recreational opportunities in each zone. Intermediary goals also seek to set out steps that will lead to the restoration of major fresh water recreational opportunities in each zone by 2040, and to identify threats to recreational uses	Recreation and Amenity work programmes on diversity and enhancement of recreational opportunities Monitoring programmes to provide alerts of threats
	Freshwater angling		Intermediary goals recommend seeking to improve the health of lowland rivers, streams and lakes and an increase in fishing opportunities	Establishment of flow limits Establishment of catchment groups
	Recreational water flows		Recommended 2025 and 2030 goals provide a continuation of the 2020 goal of progressing environmental flows	See environmental flows work programmes for examples
	Recreational water quality		A 2030 goal is recommended to achieve the NPSFM target of 92% of rivers and 81% of lakes in Canterbury being swimmable New goals are also recommended in relation to managing the risk from cyanobacteria to public health	Implementation of Good Management Practice to reduce effects of land use Managing compliance in high priority areas

Target area (CWMS)	Theme (Targets report)	Goal themes (Goals)	Intermediary goals	Examples of work programmes
Water use efficiency	Best practice and benchmarking		Recommended goals for 2025 and 2030 support the use and implementation of benchmarks, increasing uptake of Good Management Practice and increasing the benefits gained per unit of water	Regional working group to agree benchmarks Agreed key best practice metrics
Irrigated land area	Land area and reliability		Intermediary goals recommended seeking step-wise increases in the percentages of irrigated land provided with sufficient reliability, in order to bridge 2020 and 2040 goals	Scheme by scheme assessment of reliability Work with industry to identify where aggregated water user options would assist to increase reliability
	Infrastructure		Only one intermediary goal is recommended, as the thinking has moved on from the need for physical infrastructure to providing solutions in a number of ways including consent reconfiguration, scheduling and improving the planning and consenting framework across the region	Review the regional infrastructure plan Continue work to overcome funding challenges
Energy security and efficiency	Energy security and efficiency		Intermediary goals recommended to support 2015 and 2020 goals, and improve productivity per unit of energy used	Sectors to establish programmes for measuring productivity Use of case studies
Indicators of Regional and National Economies	Added-value from water		Intermediary goals recommended to set interim measures of increasing added-value and productivity from use of water	Gather information on metrics to use
	Externalities and opportunity costs		*Intermediary goals have not yet been defined*	

Appendix 3: Key workshops and meetings (Nov 2018 – May 2019)

CWMS Fit for the Future project – key workshops/meetings (from Nov 2018 engagement round onwards)



Agenda Item No: 7.	Subject Matter: Update from Working Groups
Report to: Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee	CWMS - Target/s Areas Infrastructure Recreation and Amenity
Report by: Lesley Woudberg, Team Leader, CWMS Facilitator Team	Date of Meeting: 11 December 2018

Purpose

Provide an update from the Infrastructure and Recreation and Amenity Working Groups.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee;

> **Receives the reports from the Infrastructure and Recreation and Amenity working Groups.**

Report

Infrastructure Working Group Update

- **REGION WIDE**
  - Fish Screens. Industry focus assisted by compliance programme and aligned concerns (impact of infrastructure on fisheries) in Otago, Waikato and elsewhere.
  - "Future Food Group" has Provincial Growth Fund application in the queue.
  - Three waters. General theme is the need for "Good Infrastructure Practices". Prioritisation matter for the organisations with the infrastructure to work through with Central Government. CWMS input to all 3 waters coordinated with ECan regulatory and Science groups.
  - Water use efficiency. Ongoing indications that there is a large potential to use water more efficiently in irrigation.

- **HURUNUI-WAIAU/KAIKOURA**

  - Amuri Irrigation Corporation (AIC) considering HWRR Plan Change application for Glenrae (Zone B to Zone C) - on hold until December.
  - Emu Plains Irrigation consent applications to divert, take & discharge are in process (proponents are currently providing additional analysis of water quality effects).

- Hurunui Water Project shareholders have voted unanimously to sell their project consents to Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC). AIC is working through this process. The project's Waipara discharge consent application was heard on 23/24 October; the decision timeframe is unknown.

- **WAIMAKARIRI**

  - Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd: Wrights Road storage – Environment Court completed 19 June 2018. Awaiting decision.

- **SELWYN-WAIHORA**

  - CPW: Sheffield and Stage 2+ schemes are now operational.

  - The Broadacres TSA project: Final habitat enhancements awaiting spring to dry naturally. Mudfish ready for transfer once habitat enhancements are complete.

  - Selwyn/Waikirikiri Near River Recharge project:

    - Stage 1 Off-take construction complete.

    - Phase 2 Engineering costs and additional land purchase funding approved by Council on 8 November. Final land valuation assessment received and accepted on 21 November. Sale and Purchase documentation now being finalised.

    - Te Taumutu Kaitiakitanga Portfolio have approved the proposed native planting concept and contractor.

    - Consenting processes on-going.

    - Linked project to install Southern Hemisphere's first electric fish barrier. Design and contractors confirmed. Consenting processes underway

- **ASHBURTON ZONE**

  - Ashburton-Hinds Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) project
    - Deep soakage system installed at Lagmhor pilot site. Recharge rates have increased, with commissioning on-going to fine tune.
    - 10 of the 16 new small-scale infiltration sites are now operational.
    - South Hinds Near River Recharge (now called Hekeao/Hinds River Project) is now operational.
    - Cumulative take from all sites now reaches the 0.5 m^3/s current allocation. 4 m^3/s total MAR allocation is expected to be required to meet community objectives.
    - Higher than expected nitrate concentrations have been measured in areas not yet influenced by MAR water. New economic analysis for the MAR Business Case has concluded that on-farm and MAR requirements to meet

Plan Change 2 nitrate concentration targets are likely to be more challenging than anticipated.
    - A new funding application to the Provincial Growth Fund is through to the full application round and a new community trust (The Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust) is being set up to lead this project.

- New BCI 1.5M m^3 storage pond at Akarana became operational on 28 October.
- RDRML consents (Klondyke storage, high-flow take, fish screen) have been appealed and are in mediation.

- **SOUTH CANTERBURY**

  - OTOP "New" water: Awaiting outcomes of OTOP ZIP, Rangitata Irrigation Scheme purchase process (expected to conclude early December) and RDRML consent appeals.

  - Kurow-Duntroon Irrigation scheme is expecting to start construction early 2019 on an ~18-month construction programme.

  - Hunter Downs Irrigation scheme not progressing following insufficient investor funding.

  BRAIDED RIVER FLOW REGIMES

  - Water balance model is being developed by ECan science for the Rakaia to give insights into the flow regime resulting from current infrastructure - diversions, abstractions, storage etc. Wide range of stakeholders concerned about both compliance and "outcomes" related to modified flow regimes in Rakaia and other rivers.

Recreation and Amenity Working Group

The Recreation and Amenity steering group has received the final report by Visitor Solutions Ltd. The report is academically focused, and the steering group is getting it peer reviewed to check its robustness and value. In the meantime, the group is continuing to develop a 3-year work programme that will start with consolidating existing data, identifying gaps in GIS data, external data and planning information. A pilot project, focusing on the Waimakariri zone, will be set up in year 1 and include engagement with local user groups. The aim of the work programme is to deliver an easily accessible, forward-thinking, GIS-based dashboard/app containing up-to-date information.

Agenda Item No: 8	Subject Matter: Update from Central Government
Report to: Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee	CWMS - Target/s Areas All
Report by: Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Ministry for the Environment (MFE) Department of Conservation (DOC)	Date of Meeting: 11 December 2018

Purpose

Provide an update on water issues from a central government perspective.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee;

Receive the update from central government.

Report

Ministry of Primary Industries

From Sector Programmes and Partnerships Branch of MPI:

- Remaining Irrigation Acceleration Fund (IAF) projects finish in December – the Hinds Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Pilot being the only one in Canterbury.
- MPI works closely with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF), which is open to receiving funding requests for water storage/distribution and MAR projects, as long as they meet the criteria identified on MBIE website.
- The Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFF Futures) fund has been launched and there is an Expression of Interest form available to put forward project ideas - which could include catchment/community projects, for example. Information and criteria is on MPI website. Before an expressions of interest form is completed and submitted however, MPI welcome discussion with prospective applicants to ensure proposals would be in-scope and suitable of SFF Futures. For initial contact with an adviser email funding@mpi.govt.nz.

There has been a subtle change in the way MfE and MPI deliver water policy advice, that Nick will provide more background on. As well as staff participating in the Water Taskforce along with Treasury, MBIE, Te Puni Kokiri and DOC, MPI has also retained a small capacity at MPI to provide advice on freshwater.

Murray Doak

Agenda Item No: 10	Subject Matter: Regional Committee Annual Report 2018
Report to: Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee	CWMS - Target/s Areas All
Report by: Lesley Woudberg, Team Leader, CWMS Facilitators Team	Date of Meeting: 11 December 2018

Purpose

Provide a draft outline for the Regional Committee's Annual Report and seek feedback on the stories to highlight.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee;

> **Provide feedback on the draft outline of the Regional Committee's 2018 Annual Report and the stories the Committee wishes to highlight.**
>
> **Delegate to the Chair to sign off the final annual report on behalf of the Regional Committee.**

Report

Regional Committee Annual Report 2018

Message from the Chair

Hugh to draft

Reflections from Dr Andy Pearce - Chair Regional Committee to June 2018

Short version of interview with Andy

Key Achievements 2018

- *WaterShed*
- *Fit for Future*
- *Fish Screens compliance programme*

WaterShed Event – April 2018

Fit for Future Project

Recreation & Amenity Target Area

Fish Screens Working Group

Infrastructure

- *Changes since CWMS Target was drafted*
- *Efficiency/Reliability*
- *TSA/MAR pilots*

Biodiversity

- *Regional Braided Rivers project*
  - *River islands*
  - *Predator control*
    - *Rangitata*
    - *Black Backed gull strategy*

Future Challenges

- *Urban water*
- *Faster progress - Measuring outcomes*

Agenda Item No: 11	Subject Matter: Facilitators Report
Report to: Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee	CWMS - Target/s Areas All
Report by: Lesley Woudberg, Team Leader, Environment Canterbury	Date of Meeting: 11 December 2018

Purpose

Provide the Regional Committee with information on;

- Dates for meetings and events
- Information papers
  - Auditor Generals Letter – Local authorities (Member Interest) Act 1968 November 2018 (attached)
  - Omnibus Plan Change
- Progress - Issues raised in previous meetings
- Media (attached)
  - Cawthron Institute – 14 November *"New Zealand's most improved river announced"*
  - Upper Waitaki ZC – *Love your Lakes campaign*
  - Richmond Community News – *December 2018*
  - NZ Farming weekly – 19 November *"Farming by Consent"*
  - NZ Dairy - November 2018 *Plans Change*

Recommendation:

That the Canterbury Water Management Regional Committee;

1. **Notes the Facilitators report**

Report

1. Dates, Meeting and Events

Dates 2019	Meetings and Events
12 February	Regional Cmtt meeting
12 March	Regional Cmtt Working Groups
9 April	Regional Cmtt meeting - Expect final sign off – Fit for Future Project
14 May	Regional Cmtt Working Groups
11 June	Regional Cmtt meeting
9 July	Regional Cmtt Working Groups
13 August	Regional Cmtt meeting
10 September	Regional Cmtt meeting
8 October	Regional Cmtt Working Groups (TBC)
12 October	Local Govt Elections
12 November	Regional Cmtt meeting (TBC)
10 December	Regional Cmtt Working Groups (TBC)

Attachments

1. Auditor Generals Letter – Local Authorities (Member Interest) Act 1968 - November 2018
2. Omnibus Plan Change update
3. Progress - Issues Raised During Previous Meetings
4. Media

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13 November 2018

Steve Lowndes
Chair
Environment Canterbury Regional Council
By email: Governance@ecan.govt.nz

Dear Mr Lowndes

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MEMBERS' INTERESTS) ACT 1968 – APPLICATION FOR DECLARATION FOR REGIONAL AND ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

I refer to your letter dated 23 October 2018.

In 2011 and 2013 the Auditor-General granted declarations in relation to the Canterbury Regional Water Management Committee and the ten Zone Water Management Committees. The declarations enabled all members of those committees to participate in all discussions and decisions relating to the development of implementation programmes to achieve the targets and goals set out in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, despite any pecuniary interests that members may have in those matters.

Section 6(1) of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 states that members of council committees must not participate in decisions in which they have a personal financial interest. Under section 6(4), we can declare that the rule in section 6(1) will not apply to a specified matter or class of matter if we are satisfied that its application would impede the transaction of business, or that it is in the interests of the electors or inhabitants of the area for it not to apply. We granted our previous declarations based on the knowledge that many committee members will have personal financial interests in a range of matters to be discussed by the committees. We concluded that, in the circumstances, both the tests for granting a declaration were met.

The 2013 declaration expired five years from 24 October 2013. You applied for a declaration covering another five years. In a letter dated 25 October 2018, I granted an interim declaration to allow time to consider your application for a five-year declaration.

In your letter, you advised that the committees continue to play an integral role in implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. As foreshadowed in your 2013 correspondence, rolling memberships have been established to enable a third of each committee to be replaced or reappointed each year, and the terms of reference for the committees have been updated accordingly. You noted in your letter that the reasons for a declaration contained in your first application and our previous decisions still apply. These are:

- the Regional and Zone Committees have been deliberately appointed to allow for a balance of all main interest groups' views;
- the committee members represent a range of interest groups made up of conservation organisations, community, agricultural industry, councils, Ngāi Tahu and Rūnanga;
- the Regional and Zone Committees are working collaboratively towards a consensus to develop and implement work programmes to achieve the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and its targets and goals.

In view of the above, I am satisfied that the grounds for the 2013 declaration still apply, and grant the declaration requested. This declaration replaces my interim declaration dated 25 October 2018.

Declaration

I therefore make the following declaration (acting under delegated authority):

The Auditor-General declares, under section 6(4) of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968, that section 6(1) of the Act will not apply to prevent any members of the following committees from discussing or voting on matters related to the development of implementation programmes to achieve the targets and goals set out in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy:

- *Regional Water Management Committee;*
- *Kaikoura Zone Water Management Committee;*
- *Hurunui – Waiau Zone Water Management Committee;*
- *Waimakariri Zone Water Management Committee;*
- *Selwyn – Waihora Zone Water Management Committee;*
- *Christchurch – West Melton Zone Water Management Committee;*
- *Banks Peninsula Zone Water Management Committee;*
- *Ashburton Zone Water Management Committee;*
- *Orari – Opihi – Pareora Zone Water Management Committee;*
- *Lower Waitaki - South Coastal Canterbury Zone Water Management Committee; and*
- *Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee.*

This declaration expires five years from the date of this letter.

I would be grateful if you could provide copies of this letter to relevant staff and to the members of the Committees.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need to discuss any aspect of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Webb
Assistant Auditor-General, Legal

Attachment 2

AGENDA ITEM NO:	SUBJECT MATTER: OMNIBUS PLAN CHANGE 2019
REPORT: CWMS Regional Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 11 December 2018
REPORT BY: Andrea Richardson, Senior Planner – Environment Canterbury	

PURPOSE

1. To update the Zone Committee on progress with the Omnibus 2019 plan change to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (*LWRP*), which will be publicly notified in mid-2019.

BACKGROUND

2. The Omnibus 2019 plan change covers a range of issues to ensure the LWRP responds appropriately to new directives from central government, emerging environmental issues, and changes in matters that are strategic priorities for Environment Canterbury. The region-wide topics include defining and managing braided river environments, indigenous freshwater fish and macroinvertebrates, National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management amendments, better provision for tangata whenua values in rules, and farming land use provisions for commercial vegetable growers. The plan change also includes Hinds Drains Working Party recommendations for the Ashburton sub-region.

3. Key milestones for the Omnibus 2019 plan change include consultation on the draft plan in early April 2019 (i.e. Schedule 1 consultation), public notification of the proposed plan change in mid-2019, a public hearing on submissions on the plan change in the second quarter of 2020 and a decision to be notified by mid-2021.

A NEW TOPIC – MANAGED AQUIFER RECHARGE

4. Council has recently added a new topic, Managed Aquifer Recharge, to the Omnibus 2019 plan change. This topic will assess the environmental benefits of Managed Aquifer Recharge to assist with improvements to water quality and quantity and appropriate plan provisions (such as water filtering through soils and no mixing of waters) to manage the activity.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

5. Research into each plan change topic and development of potential planning solutions is occurring at slightly different paces as each topic is generally distinct from the others (as is the nature of 'omnibus' plan changes). Attachment 1 of this report provides a brief overview of each plan change topic and an update on progress.

6. Environment Canterbury will provide the Zone Committee with another progress update on Omnibus 2019 in the first quarter of 2019.

COUNCILLOR FEEDBACK ON ADDITIONAL TOPICS

7. Earlier this year, we sought feedback from all CWMS Zone Committees, Ngā Runanga, and some key stakeholders on the proposed topics for Omnibus 2019, and whether there were any other regionally significant topics that should be included in this plan change. Based on this feedback, Environment Canterbury's Councillors have evaluated which regionally significant topics should be included in the plan change.

8. Although the Councillors recognised the resource management importance of the additional topics sought, none were added to the Omnibus 2019 work programme. The reasons for this include, some topics are being addressed through more appropriate non-statutory measures; and some topics are recommended for inclusion in a future Environment Canterbury work programme but not in Omnibus 2019 plan change. The additional topics sought and the reasons for their non-inclusion in Omnibus 2019 in outlined in Attachment 2.

Attachment 1: Update on Omnibus 2019 topics

Topic	Progress Update
Braided Rivers Environment Canterbury is working on a project to understand the various values in braided rivers, and to address issues for braided rivers, including uncertainty over the spatial extent of the river bed due to their dynamic nature, and increasing constriction of braided rivers due to activities such as land use intensification and flood control infrastructure. Braided river values include cultural values, terrestrial and aquatic ecology values, landscape values, recreational values and natural character values. In order to ensure braided rivers are appropriately managed we are seeking to: • Provide clarity on the spatial extent of the "river bed" in braided rivers; and • Review and potentially amend the current plan provisions to better manage the adverse effects of activities that may impact on the multiple values in braided rivers.	A detailed progress update on the braided rivers topic is outlined in a separate Zone Committee paper. In brief, Environment Canterbury met with a wide range of people at four river reaches across Canterbury to listen to views on determining the spatial extent of braided rivers and the values needing to be managed. We are now working on mapping the spatial extent of braided rivers and developing options for provisions to ensure the values are appropriately to be managed. Mahaanui Kurataiao (iwi entity) is commissioned to write a report on the cultural values of Canterbury's braided rivers. Reports on terrestrial and aquatic ecology values, recreational values and riverscape/natural character values at four river reaches have also been commissioned.
Improvements to rules to address Tangata Whenua values A number of controlled and restricted discretionary rules in the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) do not include specific recognition of Māori cultural and customary activities and associated values in their matters of control or restricted discretion. The purpose of this topic is to identify which controlled and restricted discretionary rules in the plan inappropriately constrain the ability of decision-makers on resource consent applications to consider the effects on tangata whenua values.	Environment Canterbury has commissioned Mahaanui Kurataiao (iwi entity) to review the proposed rule amendments, to identify the tangata whenua value(s) that cannot be considered but may be affected by the activity covered by the rule, and to advise whether the phrase 'effects on tangata whenua values' as a matter for discretion or control could be further refined to give more guidance to plan users.
Increased protection of indigenous freshwater species and habitats This topic is associated with Environment Canterbury's strategic priority for a step change in indigenous biodiversity to meet community aspirations in managing our environment. The Omnibus 2019 plan change seeks to increase protection of indigenous freshwater	Environment Canterbury is working with Department of Conservation on the development of the technical report to support this topic. We are at the stage of assessing the potential planning mechanisms.

Topic	Progress Update
species and their habitats, including critically endangered species and valuable but declining mahinga kai. In addition, proposed amendments will seek to address the incremental loss of instream habitat quality and quantity that may occur through diversion, re-alignment, piping and reclamation of wetlands and streams.	Environment Canterbury staff have met with Mahaanui Kurataiao (iwi entity) to discuss the commissioning of a cultural report for this topic.
Salmon Spawning Sites This topic assesses the addition of potential new salmon spawning sites in addition to those already listed in Schedule 17 of the LWRP.	Environment Canterbury is working with Fish and Game to identify new salmon spawning sites, along with a technical report to outline the reasoning for their proposed inclusion (or otherwise).
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management updates The LWRP was developed under the 2011 version of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Recent amendments to the NPS-FM in 2014 and 2017 have introduced new requirements for Councils including establishment of freshwater management units and limits to achieve freshwater outcomes in accordance with a National Objectives Framework. The Omnibus 2019 plan change will give effect, as far as practicable, to these amendments.	Technical work is underway by Environment Canterbury's Science team to incorporate these changes into the LWRP. A report on defining Freshwater Management Units at a region-wide scale has been commissioned to inform the scope of any changes.
Commercial Horticultural operations This plan change investigates options to better provide for the management of nutrient discharges from commercial vegetable operations. Crop rotation and lease-hold arrangements are typically undertaken by commercial horticultural growers to avoid soil-borne diseases. Compliance with the LWRP farming rules and access to lease land with sufficient nitrogen load is challenging for growers as the nitrogen loss limit that applies to the land is restricted by the crop type grown (or other land use) during the nitrogen baseline period.	Environment Canterbury is working with HortNZ and a 'commercial horticultural grower' working group to quantify the issue and develop potential planning solutions.

Topic	Progress Update
National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry The National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) came into effect on 1 May 2018 and prevails over LWRP rules except where the NES-PF specifically allows more stringent regional plan rules. The NES-PF objective is to have a single set of regulations that apply to plantation forestry operators.	Environment Canterbury staff have had a workshop with members of the forestry industry to discuss the application of the NES-PF in relation to the Land and Water Regional Plan. Environment Canterbury is engaging with Ministry for Primary Industries on potential amendments to the LWRP provisions to remove duplication/conflict and to ensure the more stringent requirements in the plan (for example suspended sediment discharges) continue to apply to plantation forestry industry activities.
Hinds Drains Working Party Recommendations This plan change will amend provisions in Section 13 (Ashburton) to give effect to the Hinds Drains Working Party's recommendations to manage water quantity in Hinds. The recommendations were provided to Environment Canterbury in 2016, endorsed by the Ashburton Zone Committee. The topics include: - Setting a minimum flow and allocation regime for Eiffelton Irrigation Scheme Drains. - Reducing the Hinds River allocation limit for environmental benefit - Changing well interference criteria to better enable switching to deep groundwater - New provisions for groundwater takes in a defined 'coastal strip' due to difficulties accessing deep groundwater - Applying stock exclusion provisions to Main and Secondary Hinds Drains, regardless of whether there is water in these drains.	Environment Canterbury is engaging with the Hinds Drains Working Party and the Ashburton Zone Committee on this topic. The technical work to support the Hinds Drains Working Party's recommendations is nearing completion. As cultural assessments were undertaken during the development of the recommendations, no additional cultural assessment is sought.
Managed Aquifer Recharge This topic will assess the environmental benefits of Managed Aquifer Recharge to assist with improvements to water quality and quantity.	Environment Canterbury has commissioned a report to assess the current provisions in the Land and Water Plan and provide high-level region-wide planning options. The requirement of further science and planning assessments will be considered when the planning options report is finalised.

Attachment 2: Councillor Feedback on Additional Topics Sought

Stakeholder	Additional topic requested for Omnibus 2019	Councilor Feedback
Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee	Protection of Grey Scrub (small-leaved, highly branched shrubs such as matagouri, mingimingi and olearias)	• Opportunity for Environment Canterbury to raise biodiversity concerns with TAs • Biodiversity project in the Lower Waitaki with focus on protecting grey scrub communities could be expanded to other areas of Canterbury. This is considered a more appropriate mechanism than Omnibus 2019 plan change
Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee	Water Conservation Order for Wainono Lagoon	• An application for a water conservation order must be made to the Minister for the Environment rather than the Regional Council, and therefore cannot be progressed through Omnibus 2019 plan change
Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee	Control of the whitebait fishery to halt declining population	• The functions of regional councils under the Resource Management Act do not include regulation of fisheries resources. However, the LWRP does have provisions in place and in development (through Omnibus 2019) to protect fishery habitat • LWRP currently has policies and rules to protect inanga spawning habitat. • Protection of habitat of other whitebait species (banded kokopu, giant kokopu, shortjaw kokopu and koaro) may be delivered through the Omnibus 2019 topic which seeks to increase habitat protection of indigenous freshwater species.
Ashburton Zone Committee	Region-wide definition of 'good management practice'	• Significant resource, budget, implementation and communications implications make this a medium to long term planning goal, but not suitable for Omnibus 2019 plan change. • There are environmental benefits that could be achieved through supporting stakeholder implementation of the existing framework in Selwyn and Hinds sub-regional sections of LWRP
Kaikoura Zone Committee	Sediment control/management in braided river catchments in Hurunui/Waiau and Kaikōura Zones due to Kaikoura earthquakes	• Environment Canterbury will continue to work with Kaikoura District Council to support recovery efforts. This is a more appropriate mechanism rather than Omnibus 2019 plan change
Kaikoura Zone Committee	Provide increased predator control	• Implementation of the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan is the most effective tool to deliver on this objective

Stakeholder	Additional topic requested for Omnibus 2019	Councilor Feedback
		• Not possible to include in Omnibus 2019 plan change (not legislated by RMA)
Regional Committee	Farm Environment Plans (LWRP Schedule 7) to include the management of indigenous biodiversity, ecosystems and habitats.	• LWRP Schedule 7: Farm Environment Plan already requires landowners to identify sites of "significant indigenous biodiversity" in their FEPs. • Environment Canterbury will continue to work with district councils to identify 'significant indigenous biodiversity' in their district plans and develop appropriate controls to preserve these sites. This is a more appropriate mechanism rather than Omnibus 2019 plan change
Fish & Game (Central South Island and North Canterbury)	Rule 5.62 LWRP (nutrient discharges for irrigation schemes and principal water suppliers) - Notification restrictions and nutrient loss conditions	• Risk that removal of notification restrictions may deter schemes from applying for global discharge consents or may encourage schemes to apply for a higher nutrient load • Risk that amending Rule 5.62 so soon after Plan Change 5 LWRP is settled will distract from its implementation
Fish & Game (Central South Island and North Canterbury)	Identification of 'outstanding freshwater bodies' in LWRP.	• Due to resourcing requirements to undertake this work, it is recommended for inclusion in a future Environment Canterbury work programme but not in Omnibus 2019 plan change.
Canterbury District Health Board	Priority for water permits to take groundwater for community drinking water supplies Adverse effects of district heating and cooling systems on drinking water quality	• Any amendments to LWRP drinking water supply provisions should await the outcome of the Three Waters Review. Therefore, do not include in Omnibus 2019. • Do not include in Omnibus 2019 plan change due to lack of information to support this concern (or otherwise)

Progress - Issues Raised During Previous Meetings

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS		Who	Status
12 Dec 2017	**Willow control – alternatives to chemical sprays Research**	In discussion with research Institutions and Govt Agencies eg. DOC	**Ongoing** Update on regional willow control project November WG
12 Dec 2017	**Braided Rivers**		Proposal in Omnibus plan change eta notification June 2019
13 March 2018	**Engagement with Govt. Ministers**	Updates from Govt agencies at each ZC mtg	**Ongoing**
13 March 2018	**Urban Water** **3 Waters (drinking water, storm water and waste water)**	Govt –3 Waters Review **Progress update - November 2018:** Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta and Health Minister David Clark have announced (November 2018) work to overhaul three waters regulation as part of the Three Waters Review. This is part of an ongoing reform programme to transform drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. The programme is focused on collaborating with the local government sector, the water sector and other stakeholders to meet the three-waters challenges facing it. These include funding pressures, rising environmental standards, climate change, seasonal pressure from tourism, and the recommendations of the Havelock North Inquiry. Direction of the review:	**Eta detailed proposals June 2019**

		• Regulatory arrangements for drinking water and wastewater: the immediate priority for the review is the detailed policy work on the overarching shape and form of regulatory arrangements for drinking water and wastewater. The Ministers of Local Government, Health, and the Environment intend to take detailed proposals on this to Cabinet in June 2019. • Service delivery and economic regulation: this is part of a longer ongoing conversation with local government and the water and infrastructure sectors. Options for further investigation are identified with indications of a preference expected towards the end of 2019. • Engagement: central government, through the cross-agency project team, is working with councils, iwi/Māori and stakeholders with an interest in three waters services to engage on options for the shape and form of the regulatory arrangements, and to inform the ongoing conversation relating to service delivery and economic regulation https://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-waters-review	
14 August	**Water Efficiency Update**	How are we tracking against the targets? Check CWMS 2017 Targets Report	**Need further clarification** – what does the Reg Cmtt want to know that is not reported in the 2017 Targets Report? How will this information contribute to the current priorities of the committee?
14 August	**Auditor General Report**	Auditor General Water Programme https://www.oag.govt.nz/reports/water/ *Monitoring how water is used for irrigation* https://www.oag.govt.nz/2018/irrigation	**Need further clarification** – what does the Reg Cmtt want to know?
14 August	**Responsible Camping**	What is the nature and scale of the issue in Canterbury? What data is there?	**Need further clarification** – what does the Reg Cmtt want to know?

		Is this issue being covered by the Mayoral Forum? Yes - the Mayoral Forum has had a working group on this issue and has been lobbying central govt for funds A Responsible Camping Forum is working at national level https://tia.org.nz/advocacy/tia-projects/responsible-camping/	How will this information contribute to the current priorities of the committee? Need to match the effect of "irresponsible camping" with the delivery of CWMS targets
14 August	**Education and communication**	Request for a standard item	**Need further clarification** – what does the Reg Cmtt want to know? How will this information contribute to the current priorities of the committee?
9 October	**Letter from OTOP - Biodiversity and FEPs**	Consideration of biodiversity in FEPs – OTOP to clarify	
9 October	**Refresh ZC community members**	Refresh process has been completed for 9 zones – confirmation by all councils will be completed by 13 December. New members start January 2018 2019 refresh for the **Regional Cmtt** (6 community members) and **Waimakariri ZC** (4 community members) – **scheduled for completion by June 2019** (to avoid LGovt elections in October)	

2018 Supreme Award winners: ECAN councillor Iaean Cranwell, CCC councillor Pauline Cotter, CCC Park Ranger Arthur Adcock, and ECAN councillor Tom Lambie
14 November 2018

New Zealand's most improved river announced

Canterbury's Ōtukaikino River took out the Supreme Award for Most Improved River at the New Zealand River Awards 2018 in Wellington last night.

Dr Morgan Williams, Chair of Cawthron Foundation and NZ Rivers Trust, says that this year phosphorus was the indicator used to determine the most improved river, with trends in other key indicators also being examined. Ōtukaikino River, located on the outskirts of Christchurch, has very good water quality with its phosphorus levels decreasing by 17.5 percent per annum over the past ten years. Levels of ammoniacal nitrogen, total nitrogen and total oxidised nitrogen, have also decreased.

Biological and chemical indicators are used to provide information about a river's overall health, its ability to provide a habitat for many species of plants and animals and a recreational place for communities. Ideally, these indicators will give an early warning of changes that are affecting a river, enabling them to be addressed.

“The challenge is to effectively combine the health implication of a number of indicators with varying degrees of interaction and ultimate impact,” says Dr Williams. “Science, goodwill, and hard work can help restore river health. I am encouraged as councils, communities and individuals recognise that the cumulative impact of many actions can help river health. However, for collective effort to be even more effective, we require a step change, not only in terms of what we are measuring, but how we are measuring it. There is urgent need for indicator measurement in real time, as current occasional sampling misses many events, such as silting or low oxygen levels, that have big impacts on river health.”

The deep spring-fed Ōtukaikino’s catchment has received long-term attention from two Councils, local businesses, Community Service workers, landowners and community and industry groups. These efforts have resulted in an environment that is now a popular recreation spot.

Sixteen years ago, a planting and fencing programme commenced after a Christchurch City Council (CCC) ranger had conversations with landowners about water quality. These conversations led to farmers fencing off land to prevent stock entering the waterway and within a few years there was a buffer zone of between 20-100 metres. This made way for an extensive planting programme, which has been a key factor in reducing phosphorus.

For much of this time, the regional council – ECAN – has also been actively involved. However, it is the wider community that have been the real champions. The following agencies have provided plants, funding, or participated in planting and weeding days: ECAN, Christchurch City Council, Christchurch West Melton Zone Committee, DOC, QEII Trust, Trees for Canterbury, Z Energy (Aviation), local schools, scout groups, Fish & Game and private landowners like Isaac Conservation Trust and Clearwater.

Weeding and maintenance is also important. Department of Corrections Community Service workers have cleared willow, blackberry, gorse and broom, then planted and mulched banks. Their efforts have been augmented by local scout and school groups, plus an annual Trees for Canterbury Planting day.

Today, nearly the entire length of Ōtukaikino River is fenced – estimated to be around 10km – meaning stock can't access the water. It is estimated that 195,000 native, locally-sourced plants have been put into the ground.

The river shows positive water quality trends for dissolved phosphorus over the past ten years. In addition, total oxidised nitrogen, total nitrogen, and ammoniacal nitrogen show an improvement.

A consistent champion of the Ōtukaikino is CCC Park Ranger, Arthur Adcock.

Arthur says addressing water quality is a priority, and improvement to date can be put down to a team effort. In particular, he wants to acknowledge the support from community service supervisors and landowners.

From: Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee <water@ecan.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 3 December 2018 9:38 AM
To: Lesley Woudberg <Lesley.Woudberg@ecan.govt.nz>
Subject: Win a waste free picnic pack with Love Your Lakes!

Upper Waitaki
Water Zone Committee

Win a Waste Free Picnic Pack!

Be the envy of lakeside picnickers this summer with our amazing waste free picnic pack that's up for grabs!

As part of the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee's Love Your Lakes campaign, you can win this fantastic prize with all the picnic essentials in two beautifully handwoven kete, created especially to help spread the Love Your Lakes message.

To enter to win, visit the Canterbury Water Facebook page and tell us a tip for packing a waste free picnic.

Love Your Lakes this summer

If you're planning a trip to the Upper Waitaki lakes this summer, pack your own picnic to reduce food and drink rubbish when visiting your favourite lakeside spot.

It may take a little more planning but going retro – using plates, a flask and reusable containers – really cuts down on the rubbish that's left when you

pack up your picnic. The difference is surprising; a couple of apple cores versus a bag of rubbish!

Read more about how to pack a waste free picnic and other tips for reducing rubbish near our waterways.

For more information visit ecan.govt.nz/water

The Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is a community led committee supported by councils.

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Richmond Community News – December 2018

Stormwater

Extract by Kevin Brown Christchurch West Melton Zone Committee Member

There is a lot of talk in Christchurch these days about water. There are three distinct water systems: drinking water, waste water (you definitely don't want to drink this) and storm water. Each type of water is treated differently and it pays to be clear exactly what type of water we are discussing at any time. In this article, Kevin Brown of the Christchurch-West Melton Zone Committee talks about stormwater and how it affects our local waterways. He also suggests practical things we can all do to help improve water quality in our rivers and streams.

Some of you may have seen the local water zone committee members and ECan staff at the recent "Meet in the Middle" event at Kerr's Reach. They were promoting their Stormwater Superhero campaign.

Stormwater is water that runs off roofs, driveways, the roads and into our gutters. From the gutters, it usually flows untreated, straight into our local rivers and streams, and then out to sea. When it rains, stormwater washes many pollutants into our local waterways.

Some of these pollutants are not obvious. For instance, brake pads in cars and trucks contain **copper** to conduct the heat away and to stop brakes squeaking. Every time you apply the brakes, a tiny amount of copper is deposited on the road, and this is washed into streams and rivers by rain. Much of this copper ends up in the sediment at the bottom of the rivers and streams. Although small amounts of copper are necessary for life, larger concentrations can be toxic for the aquatic life in the streams.

The most common roofing material in the city is galvanised iron. The galvanising is a **zinc** coating and some of the zinc is washed from the roof when it rains and again ends up in our rivers and streams. Tyres contain zinc as a filler and tyre wear also contributes to zinc in the surface waters. As with copper, larger concentrations of zinc can be toxic to aquatic life.

Water quality also depends on **bacteria** present. Duck, goose and dog poo contribute bacteria which can further degrade water quality. With the high population density in cities, these, and other pollutants can give rise to "Urban Stream Syndrome" where aquatic life in urban streams can become compromised.

How does it look in the Richmond area? Dudley Creek is a spring fed stream that rises in north-western Christchurch and flows through Richmond into the Avon. Since 2008, the Christchurch City Council has been monitoring Dudley Creek every month at a site near Poulton Ave and North Parade. CCC calculates a "Water Quality Index" (WQI), which gathers together a number of parameters and assesses them against guidelines. The WQI ranges from 50 (poor quality) to 100 (excellent quality). Over the last 5 years the WQI of Dudley Creek has varied between 55 (poor) to 75 (fair).

How can you be a Stormwater Superhero and reduce these pollutants and improve the quality of our rivers and streams?

- Pick up your dog's poo and dispose of it properly.
- Avoid feeding the ducks & geese, and feed eels a little raw meat.
- Wash your car on the grass to filter out pollutants.
- Wash paint brushes in the laundry sink; this is connected to the wastewater system.
- Put copper-free brake pads on your car when they need replacing.

- Periodically remove any leaf litter or other organic material from the street channel in front of your property.
- When making improvements around your home and garden, consider things like permeable paving, rain gardens or rain tanks to help reduce stormwater runoff from your property. *You can see an exemplar rain garden at the Richmond Community Garden, behind Avebury House, 9 Evelyn Couzins Avenue.*

The Christchurch-West Melton water zone committee sits between the public and the City and Regional Councils. The zones were set up as part of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy in 2012. They comprise 4–6 community representatives, City Council and ECan representatives, and local rūnanga representatives. The local water zone committee make recommendations on your behalf to maintain and improve surface water and drinking water quality. Monthly meetings are usually held at ECan building, 200 Tuam Street and are open to the public. See the ECan website for agendas and meeting times.

Further information on current river and stream quality can be found at:
www.ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Environment/Water/Monitoring-Reports/2018-reports/Water-Quality-Report-2018-ONLINE.PDF

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Farming by consent

Show time

Neal Wallace
neal.wallace@globalhq.co.nz

THE long-held notion of a right to farm is under threat as the list of farming activities requiring resource consent grows amid warnings it will expand further once the Government releases a new National Policy Statement for Fresh Water.

Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers president Michael Salvesen says while regulation will differ to reflect regional environments, the list of activities requiring consent will only grow.

"I think it's pretty inevitable."

The greater regulation is being driven by Government and community concerns over water quality. In a statement last month Environment Minister David Parker promised new rules by 2020 to control the "excesses of some intensive land use practices. Our remaining wetlands and estuaries will be better protected.

"We will drive good management practices on farms and in urban areas."

Environment Canterbury's chief operating officer Nadiene Dommisse said central Government has adopted the good management practice guidelines her council compiled in conjunction with industry and to which all Canterbury farmers must adhere.

Her council response included requiring 3400 farmers who irrigate, farm in sensitive areas, intensively winter graze livestock above a certain area or have nitrogen losses over a threshold to have land use consent by 2025.

A further 425 might require consent while 5000 farms are deemed permitted activities.

Farmers who are part of an irrigation company are covered by the relevant consents held by the company.

Dommisse said consented farmers must file 10-year farm environment plans that include a calculation of their nitrogen losses using Overseer, which cannot exceed average emissions between 2009 and 2013.

Dairy farmers in the Selwyn-Lake Ellesmere area are required by 2022 to reduce nitrogen losses to 30% below their 2009-2013 average emissions.

Farm plans are independently audited within 12 month then every six months to four years depending on their audit grade.

Those receiving a C or D audit grade would not be compliant and liable to action from ECan.

A statement from ECan said of the 119-farm environment plans audited last year, 39% received an A grade and 55% a B to give a 94% pass rate.

This season it expects 500 plans to be audited.

The council has 22 different farm environment plan templates and Dommisse said plans required by processors or farm suppliers are credited to avoid excessive duplication.

"What has definitely occurred in the last five years is we are starting to be aware of the impact of farming on water quality, landscape and biodiversity and the things farmers and food producers have to manage is more than they have had to manage in the past."

ECan said the quality of 22% of the region's rivers is unacceptable, 36% are at risk and 23% acceptable.

Environment Southland's Vin Smith said its Land and Water Plan addresses issues peculiar to Southland such as controlling soil runoff from cultivated land on slopes over 20 degrees and water run off from intensive winter grazing blocks.

"Fundamentally, we are all trying to achieve the same

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outcome and that is to maintain or improve water quality in our streams, rivers and aquifers."

Regional councils are working through the implications of land use intensification and determining if the stock being farmed exceed the carrying capacity.

Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers president Michael Salvesen said farmers have adopted an it-is-what-it-is approach to Environment Canterbury requiring about half the region's farmers get land use consent.

They realise farmers have to play their part.

The fact ECan has calculated over 90% of those farmers are engaged in the process os an indication farmers accept change is needed, he said.

> *We will drive good management practices on farms and in urban areas.*
>
> **David Parker**
> Environment Minister

November, 2016
NZ Dairy Exporter
Author: Keri Johnston • Section: General News • Page: 39 • Item ID: 1035951850

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BUSINESS
REGIONAL PLANS

Plans change

Each region is developing its own distinctive set of rules on water and its quality. Resource engineer Keri Johnston reports on what's been developed so far.

Regionally, the development and implementation of rules relating to water quantity and quality are moving at different paces and are all at different stages in the process.

In an overview of where some of the larger regions are at, you will note that each region has its own approach to rule setting. Some would argue that this is because each region is unique and has its own issues (and I don't disagree), but perhaps the scale of the disparity we are seeing is not needed.

The Government has indicated it will attempt to come up with high-level guidelines or a framework to try and reduce the large variation that we see, but this does have to be balanced with the need to address issues at a local level. Watch this space.

CANTERBURY

Canterbury is well advanced in the development and implementation of its rule frameworks, and in 2017 Environment Canterbury (ECan) introduced Good Management Practices (GMP) into its Land and Water Plan framework, known as Plan Change 5.

Plan Change 5 also introduced the Waitaki-specific nutrient management rules. The decisions on the plan were appealed by a number of parties, particularly in relation to how the irrigation and fertiliser GMPs were being treated in the Farm Portal (the online tool developed to determine exactly what GMP is at a farm level). The appeals have now all been resolved and it is anticipated Plan Change 5 will be operative early in November 2018.

Plan Change 1, specific to the Selwyn-Te Waihora area; Plan Change 2, the Hinds Plains region; and Plan Change 3, the South Canterbury Coastal Streams area, are all now fully operative. These are known as sub-regional chapters and the rules in these plans override the rules in the main Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.

The next phase of sub-regional plan development is underway with the Waimakariri and Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora zones both in the initial planning stages. The indication is that the sub-regional chapters for these zones will be notified in mid-2019.

ECan has also made a big push in the areas where a consent to farm is required, to encourage those who need one to go through the process. There has been a good response as the process is new to many and requires professional help and a change in mindset for some.

OTAGO

Otago's nutrient management rules are now about 18 months from kicking in (the date is April 1, 2020). Otago Regional Council has encouraged farmers to get their Overseer done. They have also taken the initiative in the more sensitive catchments such as the Kakanui and have provided resources and funding to assist. Otago's rule framework is an attempt at taking a more permissive approach (ie: you do not need consent provided you meet certain conditions). However, one condition is a fixed nitrogen loss rate calculated using Overseer, and since the plan's inception, Overseer has changed many times. For a large number of Otago farmers, this has put them further from the permitted line, and will make compliance with the rules problematic.

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SOUTHLAND

Decisions on Southland's Land and Water Plan were released in April 2018, and it was subsequently appealed. The council is expecting appeals to be resolved at some stage in 2019, so an operative plan is still some way off.

Southland's rule framework split the region into physiographic zones based on water origin, soil type, geology and topography. This meant that each zone was essentially classified by risk to contaminant build up, runoff and leaching potential.

The plan also targeted further land use intensification including dairy conversions, intensive winter grazing and cultivation on steeper land.

HORIZONS

Horizons One Plan struck a major hurdle in early 2017, with the Environment Court deciding the way the council was implementing its plan was not what the plan actually said. This has left the council with a plan that effectively doesn't practically work as it was written and wondering what to do now.

Implementing the plan as written creates a massive cost to farmers and other consent holders and doesn't necessarily achieve the desired water quality outcomes.

In August 2017, the council voted to investigate the possibility of a partial plan change. However, this will not be a quick or easy process as it is both a legal and public process. The aim was to have this plan change notified by the end of 2018. Still nothing yet, and 2018 is disappearing before our eyes.

HAWKE'S BAY

Irrigators in the Tukituki catchment are left high and dry (literally) after the Ruataniwha Dam project was put on the shelf indefinitely. The Tukituki River minimum flow is still going up, and without the dam to augment and flush the river, the increase in minimum flow will mean the possibility of severe restrictions for irrigators in this catchment.

Effectively, the rise in minimum flow was coupled with the dam, but the impacts of de-coupling are now being realised.

There are also the Tutaekuri, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamu (TANK) catchments in the Hawke's Bay, neighbours of the Tukituki catchment. A project on these catchments began in 2012 with the creation of a stakeholder group consisting of 30-plus members. In August 2018, the draft TANK plan was presented to the council's regional planning committee for the first time.

Ironically, the TANK catchments are facing very similar issues to the Tukituki catchment, and as the implications of the failure of the dam come to light, perhaps the council would be wise to look at all of these catchments together and how water might best get to where it is needed.

GISBORNE

Gisborne's Freshwater Plan decision was released in August 2017, and was subsequently appealed. The appeals are still to be worked through and there is no timeframe at this stage on when appeals are likely to be resolved.

Gisborne's Freshwater Plan was actually pretty kind from a nutrient management perspective when compared to Canterbury, for example. There is no requirement for onfarm limits using Overseer, and they have adopted a Farm Environment Plan approach to managing water quality. However, it does have some issues with water quantity.

As horticulture, and kiwifruit in particular, looks set to increase, those looking in the Gisborne area for plots to develop are soon realising there is basically no water available for allocation unless you are prepared to take high-flow water and store it. This is limiting the potential for the region.

WAIKATO

Plan Change 1 to the Waikato Regional Plan for the Waikato and Waipa river catchments hit a snag when it was first notified in 2016 with one of the local runanga claiming it had not been consulted in the manner required by the Resource Management Act 1991.

Variation 1 to Plan Change 1 was notified in April 2018 following the consultation process with iwi. The plan change, and its variation set out to reduce the amount of contaminants entering these rivers with the goal of making the Waikato River swimmable and viable for food gathering along its entire length.

Hearings are due to commence in February 2019.