



Agenda

**Notice is hereby given of
a Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone
Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 20 March 2019

Commencing at 2.00pm

Waihao Forks Hotel
Stony Creek Rd
Waimate

www.waimatedc.govt.nz

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee will be held in the Waihao Forks Hotel, Stony Creek Rd , Waimate, on Wednesday 20 March 2019, commencing at 2.00pm.

Committee Membership

Kate White	Chairperson
Emily Anderson	Community Rep
Suzanne Eddington	Waihao Runanga Rep
Jakki Guilford	Councillor
Sandra Hampstead-Tipene	Arowhenua Runanga Rep
Jeremy Holding	Councillor
Barney Hoskins	Community Rep
Daniel Isbister	Community Rep
Bruce Murphy	Community Rep
Brent Packman	Community Rep
Jared Ross	Community Rep
Peter Scott	Environment Canterbury Councillor
Kieran Whyte	Moeraki Runanga Rep

Quorum – no less than six members

Order Of Business

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Lower Waitaki SCC Zone Committee Meeting March 20th 2019, at 2:00pm Waihao Forks Hotel, Waimate				
	1:00 pm	Zone Committee lunch and Regional Roundup		
	Time	Agenda item Title	Who	Paper/Verbal
1	2:00 pm	Standing items 1 Welcome, Karakia and Introductions 2 Apologies 3 Register of Interests 4 Confirmation of Minutes 5 Matters Arising from the Minutes 6 Correspondence	Kate White	Verbal
2	2:20 pm	Te Reo words for this month: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maunga / Mauka - mountain</i> • <i>Hakataramea - haka: dance; taramea: speargrass</i> 	Suzanne Eddington	Verbal
3	2:30 pm	Overseer and PC5	Leo Fietje	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC5 and Overseer - LWZC 20 March 2019 • FAQs - Overseer and regulatory oversight • media release - Overseer and regulatory oversight
4	3:00 pm	Immediate Steps (IMS) Update	Kennedy Lange	Verbal
5	3:20 pm	Wainono Augmentation discussion	All	Verbal
6	3:35 pm	Zone Committee outcomes	All	Verbal
7	3:50 pm	General Business	Kate White	Verbal
7	3:55 pm	Close meeting & Karakia	Kate White	

	4:00 pm	Braided River (BRIDGE) Project meeting for those who wish to attend.	Ian Whitehouse	
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MINUTES

1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1.1 MINUTES OF THE LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2019
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Author: Karalyn Reid, Committee Secretary and PA to the Mayor

Authoriser: Karalyn Reid, Committee Secretary and PA to the Mayor

Attachments: 1. Minutes of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone
Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2019

PURPOSE

To present the unconfirmed Minutes of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2019 for confirmation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.
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MINUTES

Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee Meeting

13 February 2019

**MINUTES OF LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT THE WAIMATE DISTRICT COUNCIL, 125 QUEEN STREET, WAIMATE ON
WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2019, COMMENCING AT 1.20PM**

PRESENT: Chair Kate White, Suzanne Eddington, Cr Jakki Guilford, Sandra Hampstead-Tipene, Cr Jeremy Holding, Barney Hoskins, Bruce Murphy, Brent Packman, Jared Ross, Cr Peter Scott

APOLOGIES: Daniel Isbister, Ranui Ryan

IN ATTENDANCE: Committee Secretary Karalyn Reid (Waimate District Council)

OPENING

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and Cr Peter Scott performed a karakia.

APOLOGIES

APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2019/

Moved: Suzanne Eddington

Seconded: Sandra Hampstead-Tipene

That the apologies of Daniel Isbister and Ranui Ryan are accepted.

CARRIED

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no additions or modifications to the Declarations of Interest Register.

MINUTES

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**MINUTES OF THE LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2018**

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2019/1/

Moved: Cr Jakki Guilford

Seconded: Sandra Hampstead-Tipene

That the Minutes of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee Meeting held on 12 December 2018 be received, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

CARRIED

TE REO WORDS

TE REO WORDS

Suzanne and Sandy explained the difference between *iwi* and *rūnanga*

Iwi – meaning whole (all tribes)

Hapū – meaning sub-tribe i.e., Arowhenua and Waihao. Four main tribes in South Island became *Ngai Tahu* for the reason of one body negotiating with the crown. Suzanne also explained how the *Ngai Tahu* funding works for *iwi* and for the good of the community.

Rūnanga (North Island) *rūnaka* (South Island) meaning ‘the committee elected by the people of the local marae to represent them’

Waitaki means – wai (water), taki (gripe)

The Committee agreed to email Dave Moore with any te reo words they would like to learn more about at a future meeting.

REPORTS

GENERAL BUSINESS

ELECTION OF CHAIR, DEPUTY CHAIR AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

The Zone Facilitator called for nominations for Chair of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2019/2

Moved: Suzanne Eddington

Seconded: Sandra Hampstead-Tipene

That KATE WHITE be nominated as Chair of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee.

CARRIED

There were no other nominations so KATE WHITE was duly re-elected as Chair. Kate resumed her position as Chair.

Chair Kate White called for nominations for Deputy Chair of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2019/3

Moved: Cr Peter Scott

Seconded: Sandra Hampstead-Tipene

That BRUCE MURPHY be nominated as Deputy Chair of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee.

CARRIED

There were no other nominations so BRUCE MURPHY was duly elected as Deputy Chair.

Chair Kate White called for nominations for Regional Representative for the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2019/4

Moved: Suzanne Eddington

Seconded: Cr Jakki Guilford

That SANDRA HAMPSTEAD-TIPENE is re-elected as Regional Representative until June, with BARNEY HOSKINS to take over from June for the rest of the term.

CARRIED

There were no other nominations so SANDRA HAMPSTEAD-TIPENE and BARNEY HOSKINS were duly elected as Regional Representatives.

5.1 FACILITATORS UPDATE - DAVE MOORE

Ranui Ryan notified the Zone Facilitator verbally that she is resigning as Moeraki representative. ACTION POINT: Dave to send an email to Moeraki Marae and make official enquiries.

A Zone Committee Orientation Day is being held in Timaru, on 20 March 2019.

An email with links to the Zone Map has been sent out, and members were shown the link on the projector.

An overnight Marae (*Noho Marae*) stay on 21-22 March is being planned at the Waihao Marae and is open to Zone Committee members. It was suggested members could meet at the Marae for morning tea and then take a field-drip to Waihao Box, and then up river to Black Hole (lunch at Waihao Forks) and further upstream. This could also involve testing water samples.

A Treaty of Waitangi course may be arranged in Timaru during the winter months if there is enough interest.

The Chair introduced Waimate District Council Chief Executive Stuart Duncan and welcomed him to the meeting.

Cr Peter Scott advised ECan are reorganising the pest committees across Canterbury in an effort to link pest control and re-appropriate assets to where the pests are.

Chris gave the Committee an overview of **inZone** which links outcomes, milestones and projects together, to provide a defined matrix on the (6) outcomes which match with ZIP document. Milestones contribute to the Outcomes and are large chunks of work, and projects are smaller pieces of work (1 month to 1-2 year) which feed into milestones.

Cr Peter Scott gave the Committee an update on ECan's prosecution case. The High Court has overturned the findings of the District Court over ECan's prosecution of Dunsandel dairy farmer for work undertaken in the Selwyn River without appropriate resource consents, as well as the diversion of water in 2016. Future land use across the Canterbury Plains may hinge on the outcome of court action about the width of the region's braided rivers. Environment Canterbury (ECan) had until 4 February to decide whether to appeal a High Court decision with potentially far-reaching consequences for those who farm alongside braided rivers. ECan are taking the stance to stand in court and create case law around river margins. This may mean there is a need for a plan change to reflect what believe river margins are. There are implications also for LINZ and DoC.

The Committee adjourned at 2.45pm for afternoon tea.

The Committee reconvened at 2.55pm.

PLANNING FOR 2019 (WORKSHOP)

A Zone Committee Planning Workshop 2019 paper was tabled and members discussed the focus for the Committee for the year. There was a discussion around the vacant Community Member position.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2019/5

Moved: Barney Hoskins

Seconded: Brent Packman

1. That the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee endorses that Emily Anderson be appointed as an additional community member; and
2. That this be endorsed by the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee Councillor from Waimate District Council, Waitaki District Council, Environment Canterbury Councillor and Arowhenua and Waihao rūnaka representatives; and
3. That Emily be invited to the March meeting.

CARRIED

Suggestions

- A combined Lower, Upper and OTOP Zone Committee meeting with a cultural focus be held at Waihao Marae (May meeting)
- An update on Biosecurity/Biodiversity for June/July meeting
- The Zone Facilitator write to Elizabeth Soal to thank her for her support to the Zone Committee and send congratulations for her new role as CEO of Irrigation NZ.
- Field trips are useful and it is good to see how Immediate Steps money is being spent. A trip to Waihaorunga (March/April), including the Black Hole, would be good.
- Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Minister of Local Government) is expected to visit the Waimate District in April, and Jakki will talk to Mayor Rowley to see if Zone Committee can be involved.
- The Zone Committee could focus on cultivating catchment groups to encourage farmers to take ownership of their own waterways.
- A session to explain the nitrogen cycle would be useful.
- Presentation on testing water quality and nitrates (possibly a field trip)

GRAVEL EXTRATION – CONSENTS AND PROCESSES

Hilary Fraser, Area Engineer Southern, gave the Committee a presentation on Gravel Extraction. Generally, the relationship between ECan and the gravel extractors in South Canterbury is good and useful to all parties.

ACTION POINT: It was suggested that Dave Moore put another layer on his Zone Map to show gravel extraction sites.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Peter Scott highlighted the ECan Council is meeting tomorrow (14 February) will be discussing their draft Annual Plan. Staff have trimmed back proposed high rate rise to a 5.9% general rate increase plus 3% for Public Transport (Christchurch and Timaru residents). Public Transport, Zone Committee's freshwater management, biosecurity and biodiversity are key factors in rate increase.

Members agreed a discussion is needed around the augmentation of the Wainono Lagoon but that it was not the Zone Committee's role to lead this. In two months, the flow in the river has gone from almost flood event to hardly any flow. A discussion needs to be held with interested parties with someone taking leadership. Suzanne suggested possibly (Meridian governance).

Chair Kate White and Jared Ross will visit Waihao Box with Hilary Fraser following the meeting.

MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 4.00pm with Zone Facilitator Dave Moore performing a karakia.

The minutes of this meeting are to be confirmed at the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee Meeting scheduled on 20 March 2019.

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CHAIRPERSON

REPORTS

2.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGISTER

Author: Karalyn Reid, Committee Secretary and PA to the Mayor

Authoriser: Karalyn Reid, Committee Secretary and PA to the Mayor

Attachments: 1. Declarations of Interest Register

PURPOSE

1. To present the Declarations of Interest Register for the information of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee.
2. Members are welcome to update the attached document.

LOWER WAITAKI SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGISTER

MEMBER	DECLARATION
Emily Anderson - Community	
Suzanne Eddington – Waihao Runanga	
Cr Jakki Guilford – Waimate District Council	Waimate District Councillor
Sandra Hampstead-Tipene – Arowhenua Runanga	
Cr Jeremy Holding – Waitaki District Council	Waitaki District Councillor
Barney Hoskins - Community	
Daniel Isbister - Community	Farmer - McKirdy Ventures Ltd Shareholder – Fonterra Shareholder – Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company Councillor – Fish & Game Central South Island Councillor – NZ Fish and Game Council Steering Committee – North Otago Sustainable Land Management (NOSLaM)
Bruce Murphy (Deputy Chair) - Community	Farmer Director – Murphy Farms Ltd Trustee – Waimate Vet Trust Shareholder – Fonterra Shareholder Councillor – LIC Member – Otaio Water Users Group Director – Hunter Downs Irrigation
Brent Packman - Community	
Jared Ross - Community	Farmer Director – Home Creek Holdings Ltd Director – Kurow Duntroon Irrigation Company Federated Farmers North Otago Dairy Chairman Central South Island Beef and Lamb Farmer Council
Cr Peter Scott – Environment Canterbury Councillor	Environment Canterbury Councillor Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora Water Zone Committee member (temporary) Farmer – Dirragh Farm Ltd Ballance Shareholder Ravensdown Shareholder Silver Fern Farms Shareholder
Kate White (Chair) - Community	Shareholder in the Kurow and Duntroon Irrigation Company Ltd (KDIC)
Kieran Whyte – Moeraki Runanga	

2.2 CORRESPONDENCE

Author: Karalyn Reid, Committee Secretary and PA to the Mayor

Authoriser: Karalyn Reid, Committee Secretary and PA to the Mayor

Attachments:

1. Inward: Te Runanga o Moeraki Inc
2. Outward: Elizabeth Soal
3. Outward: Emily Anderson

PURPOSE

For the correspondence to be presented for the information of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the correspondence be accepted.



**Te Rūnanga
o Moeraki Inc.**

Tenby Street, Moeraki

R D 2 Palmerston, 9482

Phone 03 439 4816

Email: moeraki.runanga@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

Thursday, 7 February 2019

Dave Moore

Lower Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee

Re: Te Runanga o Moeraki Representative

Tēnā koe Peter,

It is with regret that we inform you of Ranui Ryan's resignation as a Te Rūnanga o Moeraki representative on the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee.

Te Rūnanga o Moeraki is pleased to advise that our Executive have approved the nomination of Kieran Whyte as our Representative on the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee effective from Thursday 7 February 2019.

Kieran's contact details are

Address

36 Falvey rd rd5

Timaru

Cell – 0275768988

Email - scoot29@outlook.co.nz

Nahaku noa, na

Jennifer Brookes

Office Co-ordinator

Te Runanga o Moeraki Inc

*'Mō tatou, ā mō kā uri ā muri ake nei'
'For us, and our children after us'*



1 March 2019

Elizabeth Soal
Chief Executive Officer
Irrigation New Zealand Incorporated
Lincoln Research Centre
PO Box 69119, Lincoln
CHRISTCHURCH 7640
Email: ESoal@irrigationnz.co.nz

Dear Elizabeth

Re: Your appointment to Chief Executive of Irrigation New Zealand

On behalf of the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee I congratulate you on your recent appointment as Chief Executive of Irrigation New Zealand Inc. I would also like to thank you for the tremendous support you have given me personally and to the committee in your previous role with the Waitaki Irrigators Collective.

We look forward to working with you in your new capacity with Irrigation New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate White", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kate White
Chair and Community Representative
Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee

Brought to you by Environment Canterbury working with



CWMS Lower Waitaki Zone Committee - Message (HTML)

File Message Tell me what you want to do...

Ignore Delete Reply Reply All Forward More To Manager Done Reply & Delete Move Move OnOneNote Mark Unread Categorize Follow Up Translate Find Related Select Zoom

Delete Respond Quick Steps

Hi 15-Mar-19 10:57 AM
Sandra Bowman <Sandy.Bowman@ecan.govt.nz>
CWMS Lower Waitaki Zone Committee

To: sandy@emginsgarden.co.nz
Cc: kate@niritoi

Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

RI30C.PDF 119 KB Form - GENERAL AUTHORITY.DOCX 56 KB

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Emily
I have been advised by Dave Moore that you have been seconded to the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee.

As a consequence, Environment Canterbury will pay your Honoraria and mileage up until December 2020, when the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee comes up for refresh of community members. At that stage you can apply (if you so choose) and go through the normal selection process. If you are successful, payment for Honoraria and mileage is then processed by Waimate District Council.

Please find attached forms in order that you can be placed on our payroll system.

I would also appreciate your phone/cell phone/residential address details for our file.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards Sandy

Sandra Bowman
Zone Committee & Facilitator Support Coordinator
Environment Canterbury

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Facilitating sustainable development in the Canterbury region ecan.govt.nz

2.3 PLAN CHANGE 5 TO THE LWRP AND OVERSEER SOFTWARE

Author: Karalyn Reid, Committee Secretary and PA to the Mayor
Authoriser: Karalyn Reid, Committee Secretary and PA to the Mayor
Attachments: 1. FAQs - Overseer and Regulatory Oversight
2. Media Release - Overseer & Regulatory Oversight

HUI/MEETING: Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 3	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Plan Change 5 to the LWRP and Overseer Software
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Leo Fietje	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 20 March 2019

PURPOSE

1. To update the Zone Committee on the Plan Change 5 to the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) and the Overseer Modelling Software.

Plan Change 5

2. Plan Change 5 (PC5P is now operative, meaning all the rules now have legal effect. PC5 addresses water quality issues both throughout the Canterbury region, and also specifically within the Waitaki catchment:

Part A

- a. Region-wide framework for management of farming activities
- b. Moves farming activities to Good Management Practice
- c. Policies and rules apply outside of Selwyn, Hinds, South Coastal Canterbury
- d. Some provisions apply throughout Canterbury (FEP changes)

Part B

- a. Developed to achieve outcomes in Upper and Lower Waitaki ZIPA
- b. Uses Part A framework
- c. Sets freshwater outcomes, water quality limits, policies and rules to achieve community outcomes

3. The PC5 presentation will cover:
 - i. General Information
 - ii. Update on PC5 status
 - iii. Plan Change 5 Outcomes
 - iv. Good Management Practice & Farm Portal
 - v. Permitted Activities
 - vi. Resource Consents
 - vii. Individual properties

- viii. Irrigation Schemes
- ix. Waitaki catchment
- x. Plan Change 5
 - (i) Part A – Region-wide provisions
 - (ii) Park B – Waitaki catchment

Overseer

- 4. The Overseer Model is jointly owned in equal shares by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), AgResearch Limited and the Fertiliser Association of New Zealand (FANZ).
- 5. The model is based on many years of scientific research and is continually refined and peer reviewed as new science becomes available. It enables farmers and growers to improve nutrient use on farms, delivering better environmental outcomes and better farm profitability.
- 6. The attached media release and FAQ papers from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment provide background reading for this presentation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Water Management Zone Committee receives the presentation and provides feedback.

EMBARGOED until 2pm Wednesday 12 December 2018



Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
Te Kaitiaki Taiao a Te Whare Pāremata

Overseer and regulatory oversight:

Models, uncertainty, and cleaning up our waterways

Frequently Asked Questions

What is this report about?

Overseer is a widely used farm management tool that can be used to model nutrient losses from farms. This report looks at whether Overseer is suitable for use in regulation to maintain and improve the quality of fresh water in New Zealand.

It outlines the steps the Government needs to take if it wants to see this model confidently used and developed further as a regulatory tool.

Why did the Commissioner decide to undertake this investigation?

Water quality is a serious environmental issue in Aotearoa New Zealand, and nutrient losses from farms have an impact on our rivers, lakes and estuaries.

As New Zealand looks to improve the state of its waterways, an important part of the regulatory puzzle is how we measure and place limits on sources of pollution.

Overseer is currently the most commonly used model for calculating nutrient losses in New Zealand. It is used by farmers to improve nutrient use on farms, and more contentiously by regional councils to help inform regulations around water quality.

The Commissioner considered that an independent investigation of this model could help inform the debate around its role in improving water quality, and identify how Overseer can be improved to be better suited for use as a regulatory tool.

What were the report's main findings?

It found there are important gaps and shortcomings in Overseer that undermine confidence in its use as a regulatory tool.

It recommends that if the Government wants to see Overseer confidently used as a regulatory tool, it needs to address these matters, as well as issues concerning its ownership, governance and funding.

Specific recommendations call for:

- the commissioning of a comprehensive evaluation to ensure the Overseer model is independently peer reviewed, and is subject to sensitivity and uncertainty analysis
- greater transparency about how the model works
- aligning Overseer's ownership, governance and funding arrangements with the transparency required for it to be used as a regulatory tool
- setting up a working group to provide guidance on how Overseer can be used by regional councils.

EMBARGOED until 2pm Wednesday 12 December 2018

EMBARGOED until 2pm Wednesday 12 December 2018

More broadly, the report recommends that the Government develops guidance for the development, evaluation and application of models in environmental regulation, as has been done in other countries such as the United States.

In terms of water quality, the report found that Overseer can only go so far in telling us what impact nutrient losses are having on the environment. It recommends that more work needs to be done to understand what happens to nutrients once they leave the farm.

Did the report look at whether Overseer is suitable for measuring agricultural greenhouse gas emissions?

No, this report has focused on Overseer's use as a tool to help regulate water quality. Other groups such as the Biological Emissions Reference Group and the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre have looked at the ability of Overseer to estimate greenhouse gas emissions from farms. However, the recommendations of this report that concern transparency apply to any regulatory use of Overseer.

Is Overseer suitable to be used as a regulatory tool for water quality?

Overseer can be a helpful tool for regional councils as long as they are aware of its limitations and factor this into how it is used. They also need to ensure that they can accommodate any future changes to the model, and respond to any guidance provided by the Government.

The issues raised in this report need to be urgently addressed so both farmers and regulators can rely on Overseer with greater confidence.

Does the report look at Overseer's use as a tool for making decisions on farms?

This report has not looked at Overseer's usefulness to farmers as an on-farm decision support tool. The report has focused on Overseer's suitability for use in regulation with respect to water quality.

Does Overseer generate uncertain results?

All models have assumptions and limitations, which lead to uncertainty. The issue is whether the level of uncertainty is an acceptable one. One of the reasons to conduct an uncertainty analysis and provide greater transparency about how Overseer works is to ensure that farmers and councils can have greater confidence in its results.

One potential source of uncertainty is the limited extent of research trials that have been conducted to enable the model to be calibrated to regional conditions. As an empirical model, Overseer tries to generate results that match real-world conditions, including soil, climate and management systems. Some parts of New Zealand have not been covered by trials, meaning uncertainty in some regions may be greater than in others. A comprehensive range of regionally specific calibration trials would support wider use of the model.

EMBARGOED until 2pm Wednesday 12 December 2018

For more information visit www.pce.parliament.nz

EMBARGOED until 2pm Wednesday 12 December 2018



Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
Te Kaitiaki Taiao a Te Whare Pāremata

Media Release

Transparent Overseer needed to regulate water quality

A report on whether Overseer is suitable for use in regulation to help clean up Aotearoa New Zealand's rivers and lakes has been released today by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Simon Upton.

"It is time to open up Overseer. If the Government wants to see the model being used as a regulatory tool then a large measure of transparency is needed, said Simon Upton today.

Overseer was originally developed as a farm management tool to calculate nutrient loss but is increasingly being used by councils in regulation. Excessive nutrient run-off from farms has an impact on the health of waterways.

"To ensure cleaner water, farmers and regional councils need to be confident that Overseer's outputs are reliable, said Mr Upton.

"To help build confidence there needs to be more transparency around how the model operates. Any model operates with a measure of uncertainty. That's normal. The question is whether the level of uncertainty is an acceptable one.

"Confidence in Overseer can only be improved by opening up its workings to greater scrutiny.

"It will take time to improve Overseer and provide transparency around how it operates. In the meantime, regional councils can continue to use it but they need to be aware of its limitations."

The *Overseer and regulatory oversight* report finds that important elements of the model are not open for review, and some gaps and shortcomings need to be addressed.

The report recommends that if the Government wants to see Overseer used as a regulatory tool, then it needs to address a number of issues. These include:

- commissioning a comprehensive evaluation to ensure the Overseer model is independently peer reviewed, and is subject to sensitivity and uncertainty analysis
- providing greater transparency around how the model works
- aligning Overseer's ownership, governance and funding arrangements with the transparency required for it to be used as a regulatory tool
- providing official guidance on how Overseer should be used by regional councils.

ENDS

For more information please contact Carl Walrond on 022 032 3480.

EMBARGOED until 2pm Wednesday 12 December 2018

MEETING CLOSURES