

8 May 2017— Biodiversity Issues and Options

Relevant Waimakariri Water Zone Committee Outcomes

Outcome 1 Spring fed streams—mahinga kai gathering

Outcome 2 Ashley River/Rakahuri flows support natural coastal processes

Outcome 3 Waimakariri River—outstanding natural landscape and recreation resource

Outcome 5 Indigenous biodiversity is protected and improved

Outcome 7 Optimal water and nutrient management is common practice

Outcome 8 Improved contribution to regional economy

Terrestrial biodiversity Issues in our Zone

Summary from the Community (For full record of feedback visit:

waimakariri-water.nz):

- Loss of shelterbelts
- Riverbeds getting clogged up with gorse/ willow/ broom.
- Weeds and pests
- Rubbish in rivers

From Biodiversity Stakeholder Group (summary):

- 4WD vehicles in river beds
- Lees Valley – protecting the largest peat dome in Canterbury & Mt Pember Fan – the last alluvial fan of its type in Canterbury
- Fragmented nature of biodiversity management
- Need to increase awareness of indigenous biodiversity across the District

From the Technical team:

- Loss of indigenous biodiversity since human settlement
- Greatest rate of loss of indigenous habitat and biodiversity have occurred in lowland and coastal environments.
- Freshwater and coastal wetlands have been drained and reclaimed; remaining wetlands are under threat from land use intensification, grazing, recreational impacts and coastal erosion.
- While most of the past wetland loss was from the low plains, more recent (post 1990) wetland reduction has occurred in the foothills and Lees Valley
- Continuing habitat loss and modification, and the impacts of animal and plant pests remain the principal threats to indigenous biodiversity today
- Sea level rise and impact on Te Akaaka and other low lying coastal areas

Other Tools currently in place

- Regional Biodiversity Strategy
- Immediate Steps Funds, Environment Canterbury Biodiversity Fund plus others
- Restoration programmes/ committees
- Local land owners, schools, special interest and community groups
- Local, regional and national government agencies

Additional Tools (Options) for our Zone...?

From the Community (summary)

- Encourage more planting of tree and vegetation – everywhere (including in new subdivision even)
- Drought resistant/ natives plants
- Create new wetlands
- Help smallholders to fence and with riparian planting
- Habitat development for inanga spawning sites/ Brooklands and Kaiapoi riparian planting – red zone areas –breeding habitats for Whitebait
- Clearing parts of waterways where birds have been identified as preferring for resting and habitat

Recommendations (Options) for our Zone...

From the Biodiversity Stakeholder Group:

- Implement the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy
- Identify (map) and prioritise sites requiring urgent protection
- Focus group concentrating on Kanuka/ dry grassland habitat on Plains
- Provision of administrative support to community groups/ restoration groups
- Provide education and guidance material to public
- Publicity for the positive biodiversity actions and sites

From the Team:

- Working with landowners (including DoC) to protect the biodiversity in Lees Valley
- Support BRAID/Ashley Rivercare Group
- Support Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust
- Support other established biodiversity groups
- Opportunity around Te Akaaka (Ashley Rakahuri Estuary), Saltwater Creek—public land
- Endorsing and action the plans of the Cam River Rehabilitation Committee
- Endorsement of Kaiapoi Rehabilitation Committee recommendations
- Opportunities in the Old Waimakariri -Silverstream loop
- Promotion and education of appropriate wetland and waterway protection and habitat

Regulatory Tools currently in place

Land and Water Regional Plan

Implemented through policies and rules that:

- Support the protection, modification, development and enhancement of wetlands, riparian margins and indigenous biodiversity.
- Support catchment restoration activities such as habitat restoration and removal nuisance aquatic plants and fine sediment from waterways.
- Control activities in the beds and margins of lakes, rivers and wetlands such as preventing further encroachment of activities into the beds and margins of Alpine (braided) rivers and avoiding the introduction of pest plant species.

Waimakariri River Regional Plan

- Highlights catchment-specific landscape, ecosystem, tangata whenua, and amenity values.
- Regulates activities through regional rules including:
 - ⇒ Disturbance of river and lake beds.
 - ⇒ Activities that concern planting and plant habitats.
 - ⇒ Deposition of substances onto river or lake beds.

Waimakariri District Plan

- Maintain and enhance the life-supporting capacity of the land resource in the District.
- The protection of characteristics that contribute to the natural character of the outstanding landscapes and natural features.
- Safeguard indigenous biological diversity and ecosystem integrity, and recognise and provide for the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.
- Maintain, enhance and, where appropriate, restore wetland ecosystems.
- Maintain, enhance and restore where appropriate waterways and roadsides as areas of indigenous vegetation, mahinga kai and habitats of indigenous fauna.

Northern Pegasus bylaw

- Manages the impact of recreation use on the dunes, wildlife and vegetation of the estuaries and lagoons.

Waimakariri Residential Red Zone Recovery Plan

- Enabling opportunities to restore the natural environment to support biodiversity as well as economic prosperity.

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Questions for the Waimakariri Zone Committee

Recommendation (options)	Questions?
Identify (map) and prioritise sites requiring urgent protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee recommend this project in its ZIPA?• Which agency should lead this project?• Once a lead agency is found, should that agency scope the project and bring it back to the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee with a work plan?
Focus group concentrating on Kanuka/ dry grassland habitat on Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee recommend this action in its ZIPA?• Who should engage and sponsor this group?• What is their purpose?
Provision of administrative support to community groups/ restoration groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee recommend this action in its ZIPA?• Which agency should lead this project?• What support is required/ are there any existing tools that can be provided to the groups?
Working with landowners (including DoC) to protect the biodiversity in Lees Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee recommend this action in its ZIPA?• Who should engage and sponsor this engagement?
Support other established biodiversity/ special interest/ community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee recommend this action in its ZIPA?• What biodiversity/ special interest/ community groups are active in the district and what is their purposes?• Can these groups help delivery on your outcomes?
Opportunity around Te Akaaka (Ashley Rakahuri Estuary), Saltwater Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee recommend that Environment Canterbury and others, explore opportunities around Te Akaaka to address the identified issues?
Opportunities in the Old Waimakariri -Silverstream loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee recommend that Environment Canterbury and others, explore opportunities around Silverstream-Old Waimakariri?

Further Reading:

Current State biodiversity assessment for the Waimakariri Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone — Environment Canterbury technical memo September 2016

Waimakariri Alternative Pathways Scenario – Effects of Sea Level Rise on Ashley River/Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary (Te Akaaka) — Environment Canterbury technical memo December 2016

Waimakariri zone alternative pathways technical overview – March 2017

Waimakariri zone current pathways technical overview – November 2016

Waimakariri zone current state technical overview – October 2016