

ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS AND CATCHMENT LOAD LIMITS

The collaborative process is at the heart of the CWMS. It empowers communities to make their own decisions about how best to meet agreed, regionwide and local targets. Through the CWMS, the process of setting environmental limits (including environmental flows, allocation limits and nutrient loads) provides an opportunity for the community to take local ownership of water management, and to work together through complex information, to reach decisions around priority outcomes and values.

Zone Committees and communities are working collaboratively through the Resource Management Act (RMA) plan development timetable. This intensive process transfers the priority outcomes and values into resource management plans, supports Environment Canterbury to meet its statutory responsibilities, achieves sustainable management of the region’s water and land resources and aligns the planning framework to CWMS targets.

Targets

By 2015:

Target 1: Set environmental flows for surface streams, rivers and groundwater that are consistent with the fundamental principles of the CWMS. Set catchment load limits for nutrients for each water management zone that are consistent with the fundamental principles of the CWMS. Established and began to implement a programme to apply environmental flows to existing consents.

By 2020:

Target 2: Review of environmental flows and catchment load limits in response to changing monitoring information, new understanding and technologies, and if requested by Regional and Zone Committees.

Target 3: Established and began to implement a programme to review existing consents where such review is necessary in order to achieve catchment load limits.

By 2040:

Review of environmental flows and catchment load limits in response to changing monitoring information, new understanding and technologies, and if requested by Regional and Zone Committees. Environmental flow and catchment load limits achieved in all water bodies.

Progress to 2020

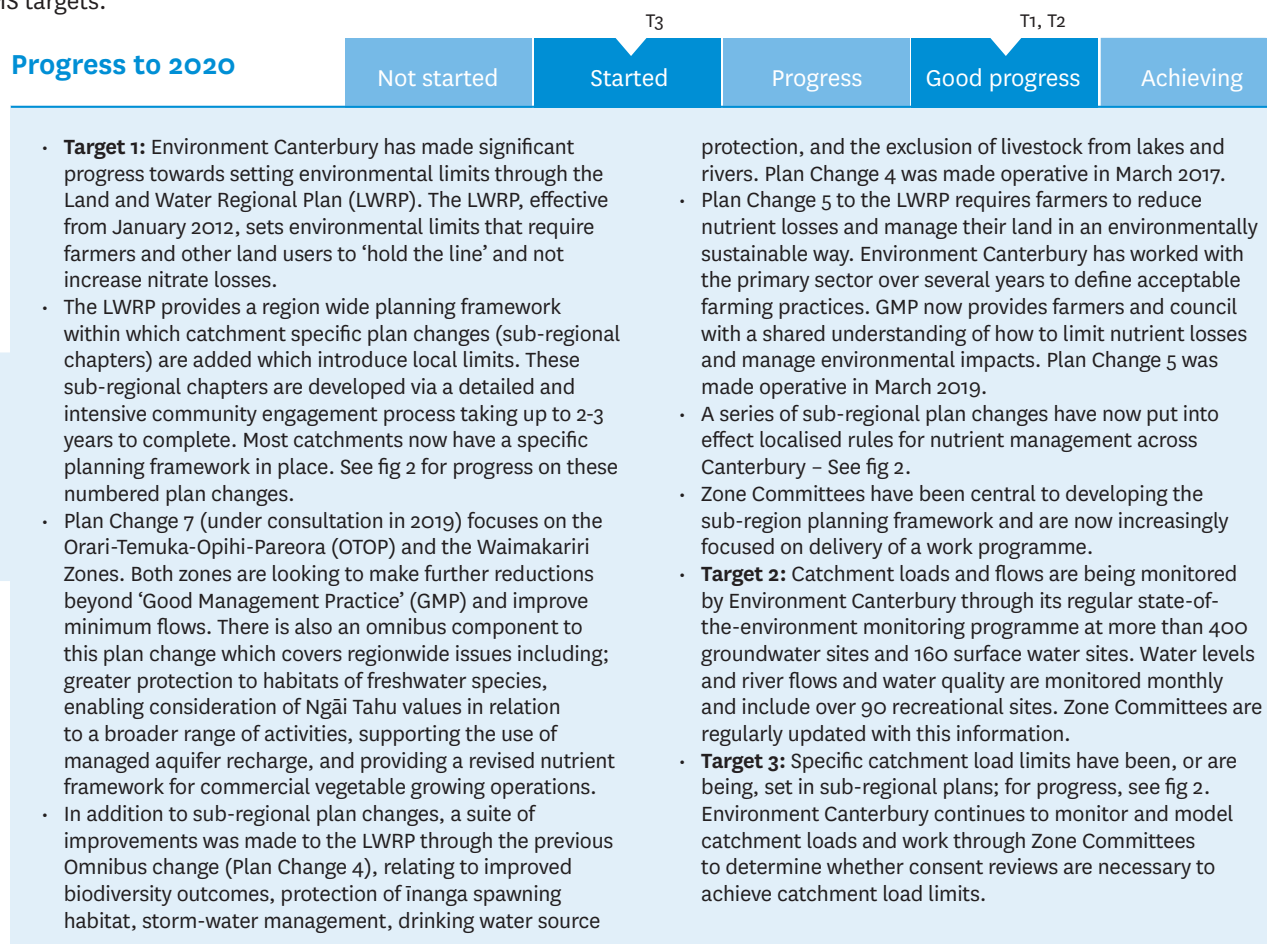


FIG 2: PROGRESS ON CATCHMENT LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL LIMIT SETTING

Hurunui Waiau

- Environmental limits for Hurunui and Waiau Uwha rivers established in 2013 in the Hurunui Waiau Rivers Regional Plan (HWRRP).
- Plan Change 1 is a targeted plan change addressing the cumulative effects of land use on water quality for dryland farmers.

Waimakariri

- Zone Committee completed a solutions package with environmental limits and complementary on-the-ground actions at the end of 2018. The plan change will incorporate part of the Waimakariri River Regional Plan (WRRP) into the LWRP.
- Plan change was notified on 20 July 2019.

Selwyn Waihora/Wairewa (Plan Change 1 and 6)

- Selwyn Te Waihora Plan Change 1 to the LWRP made operative February 2016. Implementation of Selwyn Waihora Plan Change is underway, progressing on-the-ground actions.
- Wairewa Plan Change 6 to the LWRP made operative February 2017. Implementation of Wairewa Plan Change is underway, progressing on-the-ground actions.

Ashburton to Rakaia Catchment

- A consent review on the Hakatere/Ashburton River is being undertaken by the Ashburton Zone Committee.

Hinds Catchment (Plan Change 2)

- Hinds Plan Change 2 to the LWRP made operative from June 2018. Implementation of Hinds Plan Change is underway, progressing on-the-ground actions.

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora

- Zone Committee completed a solutions package with environmental limits and complementary on-the-ground actions at the end of 2018. The plan change will incorporate the Opihi and Pareora catchment plans into the LWRP.
- Plan change was notified on 20 July 2019.

South Coastal Canterbury (Plan Change 3)

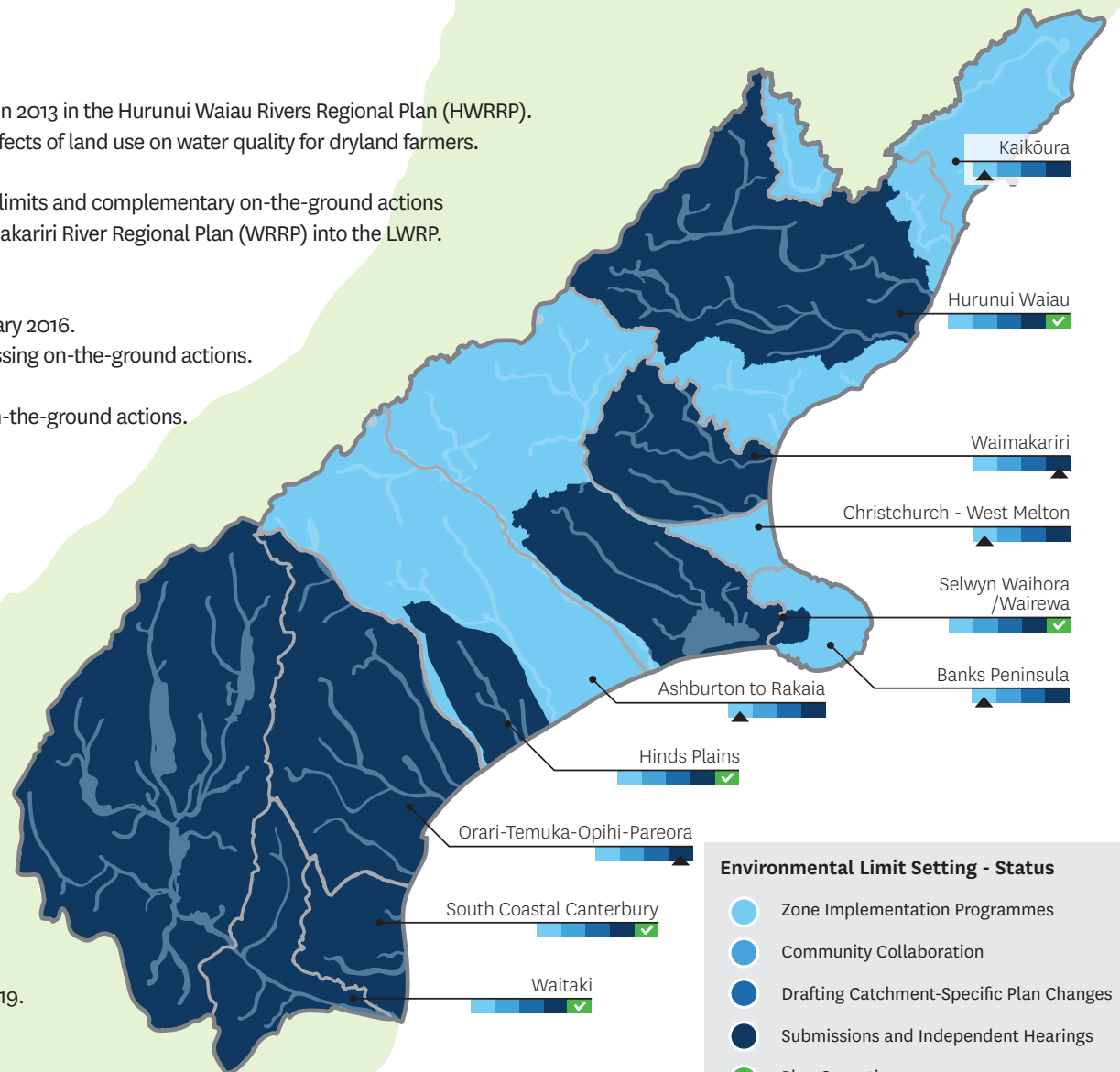
- South Coastal Canterbury Plan Change made operative September 2017. Implementation of South Coastal Canterbury Plan Change is underway, progressing on-the-ground actions.

Waitaki (Plan Change 5, Part B)

- Waitaki Plan Change 5 to the LWRP made operative from February 2019. Implementation of Waitaki Plan Change is underway, progressing on-the-ground actions.

These Zone Committees are working towards recommending a Solutions Package with environmental limits for their zones:

- Christchurch West Melton
- Kaikōura
- Banks Peninsula



Environmental Limit Setting - Status

- Light Blue Circle: Zone Implementation Programmes
- Medium Blue Circle: Community Collaboration
- Dark Blue Circle: Drafting Catchment-Specific Plan Changes
- Black Circle: Submissions and Independent Hearings
- Green Checkmark: Plan Operative