

# HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES



**Meeting** Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee

**Date and Time** 9 December 2019, 5.10pm

**Venue** St Johns Hall, 66 Carters Road, Amberley

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**Agenda** <https://www.hurunui.govt.nz/find/how-the-council-works/meetings>

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**Members Present** Ken Hughey (Acting Chair), Mayor Marie Black, Cr Claire McKay, Cr Lynda Murchison, John Faulkner, Michele Hawke, Julia McLean, John Preece, Makarini Rupene and Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.

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**In Attendance** **Environment Canterbury (ECan)** – Lyn Carmichael (Zone Facilitator), Andrew Arps, Stephen Bragg, Marco Cataloni, Caroline Hart, Zipporah Ploeg.

**Hurunui District Council** – Hamish Dobbie, Judith Batchelor (*minute taker in the absence of the Committee Secretary*)

**Department of Conservation** – John Benn

**Member of the public** – Winton Dalley

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**Recording Device** A recording device was in use for the accuracy of the minutes.

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**Karakia** Ken Hughey opened the meeting with a karakia.

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**Te Reo Māori – Place names in the zone** Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash spoke to the Zone Committee on the importance of supporting each other through the learning of te reo Māori as a second language. He reiterated that for personal development always go back to reciting the five vowels. This will help with fluency and phonetic pronunciation. Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash noted that research on muscle memory retention has shown that when speaking a new language the use of your hands helps to retain 80% more information.

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**Apologies** Members of the committee: Josh Dondertman. Makarini Rupene and John Faulkner for early departure.

Public: David Croft

THAT THE APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED.

Hughey/Hawke

CARRIED

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**Conflict of Interest Declarations** John Faulkner updated his interests for the Interest Register to include that he is a member of the Dairy Environment Leaders Organising Committee.

The updated register of interests from the Environment Canterbury Council and Hurunui District Council to be included once available.

An update from the ECan-run Conflict of Interest and Chair Training Workshop was provided for the information of the Committee. The following was noted:

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- A new interest's register format was discussed at this workshop with the intention that it will be adopted by all Zone Committees. This will be sent around to the Zone Committee members when it is ready. Lyn Carmichael will be available to assist with interests queries.
  - Whilst discussion around pecuniary conflicts were discussed, bias conflicts were also workshopped. It was noted that if there is a perception that there could be a bias, then this should be declared.
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**Urgent Business**

Nil

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**Minutes**

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE HURUNUI-WAIAU ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2019 ARE CONFIRMED, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

- Page 7, Item 2, first bullet point, correct spelling of Cracked **to** Crack.
- Page 7, Item 3, last word on page, correct spelling of trailed **to** trialed.
- Page 8, Item 3, second bullet point, remove the word 'control'.
- Page 8, Item 3, paragraph starting with "ECan has committed...", second sentence, add the word 'actions' so that the sentence reads "There will be more of a focus on non-statutory **actions** with the leading values..."
- Page 8, Item 3, Bullet point 5, correct spelling of Cracked **to** Crack.
- Page 9, Item 5, last bullet point, change sentence to read "...wetland project needed to **be** more encompassing..."
- Page 11, Item 8, bullet point 2, fix spelling of Cawthorn **to** Cawthron.

Hughey/Faulkner

CARRIED

**Action List/Matters Arising:**

Lyn Carmichael gave a verbal update on the status of the action sheet. Further updates were noted:

- The Jed River – Lyn Carmichael and Ken Hughey have worked with John Benn who will forward on the appropriate information to the Jed River Group. The Group is looking at possibly running a future workshop with ECan to supply water quality data.
- Biosecurity Work Program action on pest management of braided rivers (Page 8) – LINZ still to provide further information on this work program as requested by the Committee. The Committee would like LINZ to feed back to it on engagement, a Mountains to the Sea initiative and planned integration of all relevant parties.

It was noted that in the LINZ presentation it was stated that the relationship between LINZ and the local iwi could use some work but on its website, it states that LINZ has a good relationship with iwi. It was asked that this be clarified.

It was agreed that this will be included as a part of the Zone Committee's work program for 2020 and then it will be linked through the agendas as appropriate.

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**1. Public Contribution**

Nil.

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**2. Immediate Steps Funding and Key Projects.**

Zipporah Ploeg,  
Environment  
Canterbury

Zipporah Ploeg spoke to a presentation outlining the history, case studies and the criteria of the Immediate Steps fund. The Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee was asked to consider allocating Immediate Steps Funding to two projects.

The projects considered were fencing of the Beltana Bush II – QEII Covenant, and the fencing of the Mount Guardian Covenant.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- It was queried if the Mount Guardian Covenant could be used as an education resource or a community connection. It was advised that the landowner is passionate about the area and is considering putting a walking track through the covenant. He does currently allow walking groups through the area.
- Mount Guardian Covenant has opted to use deer fencing around the covenant due to the large numbers of feral deer around that area.
- The Committee agreed that both projects add to the corridor of covenants in the area.

THAT THE HURUNUI-WAIAU ZONE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE TWO IMMEDIATE STEPS FUNDING OF:

1. \$43,600 TO THE BELTANA BUSH II FENCING – QEII COVENANT; AND
2. \$89,967 TO THE MOUNT GUARDIAN COVENANT

Hawke/McLean

CARRIED

THAT THE HURUNUI-WAIAU ZONE COMMITTEE AGREES TO ALLOCATE THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21 AND 2021/22 OF THE MOUNT GUARDIAN COVENANT FUNDING IN THE 2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR.

Hawke/McLean

CARRIED

It was agreed that this should be added to the Zone Committees good news stories as it promotes the connectivity around the Conway area. Zipporah Ploeg has spoken with the landowner of the Mount Guardian Covenant and they have indicated that they are happy with publicity being created on what they are doing.

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**3. Meeting Schedule 2020**

The Zone Committee considered the meeting dates, times and venues for the year 2020.

The possibility of meeting in Hanmer Springs was discussed. It was noted that past meetings in Hanmer Springs have not been well attended by members of the public in comparison with meetings held in the other areas of the zone that have been reasonably well attended.

It was discussed that some groundwork has been laid in the Hanmer Springs area due to the wetlands discussions and field trip. The Zone Committee agreed to try to fit a meeting in Hanmer into the work program and to advertise it well as part of the communication strategy.

It was agreed that the venues will be realigned to reflect the topics of the work program.

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THAT THE HURUNUI-WAIAU ZONE COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MEETING DATES AS FOLLOWS WITH A START TIME OF 3PM:

- 17 FEBRUARY
- 16 MARCH
- 20 APRIL
- 18 MAY
- 15 JUNE
- 20 JULY
- 17 AUGUST
- 21 SEPTEMBER
- 19 OCTOBER
- 16 NOVEMBER
- 14 DECEMBER

Hughey/Black

CARRIED

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**4. Update on Delivery work programme**

Marco Cataloni,  
Environment  
Canterbury

The Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee took the report as read. Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- The message about the importance of wetlands is not being widely received by landowners which is increasing the risk of potential wetlands being destroyed.
- It was suggested that context and more information be added to the 'incident response' graphs in the report so that it tells a story. Officers to go back to the communication team to provide more information alongside the snapshots. It was suggested that the report also be linked to key issues for the Zone Committee in terms of engagement.
- It was highlighted that there is a mistake on page 28 of the agenda where black-bill gulls were discussed. ECan Communications team to action.
- The swimming holes article was discussed and it was suggested that the third paragraph on page 29 be reworded to say, "The swimming hole **kicks** off the Hurunui..."
- The recent floods have had no impact on any project work, as the work had not yet started.
- It was noted that the financial year for this is from June to July.

A verbal update on the SCAR project was provided to the Zone Committee. The following was noted:

- The poplar poles have been fully allocated for the next two years.
  - ECan officers are carrying out the land use capability mapping on farms.
  - This project ties in nicely in with discussions around retiring land. There have been some good outcomes out of the close contact with landowners.
  - A report to Ministry for Primary Industries showing the SCAR project milestones will be drafted in early 2020. The Zone Committee requested that this report also be presented to the Zone Committee.
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**5. Update from Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee Wetlands Working Group.**

Josh Dondertman,  
Michele Hawke,  
John Preece, and  
Nukuroa  
Tirikatene-Nash

Lyn Carmichael spoke to the report outlining the Wetlands Working Group's progress.

*John Faulkner left 6.15pm*

The working group has met regularly since the last Zone Committee meeting and attended a wetland field day on 10 October 2019 hosted by the Hurunui Biodiversity Group. John Preece presented at this field day, which was attended by approximately 65 landowners and interested community members including a number of Zone Committee members. Following this day, members of the Zone Committee attended a field day in Hanmer, which involved a tour of the different wetlands and discussion around the planning framework for wetlands in Hurunui.

Following these initiatives the Working group proposed the following actions for Zone Committees approval:

- Follow up with the Hurunui Biodiversity Group on a co-hosted workshop and education day (John Preece/Lyn Carmichael). The Hurunui Biodiversity Group have indicated that they are very keen to support the Zone Committee via their Facebook page, etc., rather than co-hosting. They would like to join in for the day but would prefer that the Zone Committee organise the event.
- Provide information to the committee on progress to date on wetlands through Immediate Steps funding (Zipporah Ploeg).
- Source a FAQ on wetlands for use in engagement and conversations with farmers. The draft document was included in the agenda for the Zone Committees consideration.
- Approach AIC and request a demonstration wetland project (Ken Hughey) – Ken Hughey updated that he has spoken with Andrew Barton about a demonstration wetland project, and he indicated that AIC would be open to an opportunity to rebuild the relationship with the Zone Committee midway through 2020. This would be after the release of the freshwater National Objectives Framework (NOF), the Biodiversity National Policy Statement work and the Biodiversity Strategy.

The Zone Committee considered the following key actions and agreed that the working party move forward with:

- Find the willing and provide information and support to access funding opportunities and next steps (all members).
  - Develop branding for the project to promote engagement and partnering (Julia McLean/Fraser Walker- Pearce). This brand would be something different to the HDC and ECan branding.
  - Key focus of stories using existing projects and celebrating successes.
  - At this stage, the working group has been discussing what level of involvement external stakeholders would have in the working group with the intention to bring it back for discussion at a future Zone Committee meeting.
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- It was discussed that the issue of wetland loss, and the lack of education around it, is a very real issue and one that ECan officers are working on. It is likely that work on this will be released by mid-2020 but is still happening.

It was discussed that the Zone Committees ZIP has an objective around no net loss of wetlands in the zone but it is clear that this is not happening. It is well known that it is not socially, environmentally, economically or culturally acceptable to drain wetlands. It was discussed that other factors such as Industry KPIs and looming government regulation uncertainty might be a part of the issue.

It was agreed that ECan officers draft up communications in line with the Zone Committees expectations as per the ZIP and similar to what was recently publicized in the Waimakariri Zone.

- The Sustainable Farming Fund wetland project provides a funding opportunity for 30 key wetland projects across the Canterbury region and the working party has been active in communicating this opportunity to the Hurunui Biodiversity Group and interested landowners.
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**6. Update from Zone Committee members on other activities and meetings attended that relate to the Committee's outcomes for the Zone.**

Zone Committee members provided the following updates on activities and meetings attended since the September Hurunui-Waiou Zone Committee meeting. The following was noted:

- Ken Hughey met with Andrew Barton for a positive catch up and discussions about what AIC are doing in the wetlands space and the status of the Enhancement Package. AIC indicated that at this stage there will be no further voluntary increases of the minimum flows. This is due to AIC disappointment with the lack of progress around the enhancement package. AIC are, however, keen to work with the Zone Committee on wetland projects mid 2020 after the nature and implications of the upcoming government initiatives have been explored.
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**7. Update from organisations wishing to speak**

There were no updates from organisations present. It was agreed that as this agenda item is similar to 'public contribution' that it will be combined in the future.

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**8. Zone Facilitator's Report**

Lyn Carmichael,  
ECan

The Zone Facilitator's report was taken as read. The following topics were further discussed:

*Consultation for proposed national policy statement for indigenous biodiversity*

Ken Hughey reported that both the NPS and the Biodiversity Strategy decisions are likely to be conjoined and released possibly around late May - early June 2020. This is lining up with the timeline for the Freshwater NOF initiatives as well.

*Youth Rōpū*

The Committee was asked to pass on the information outlined in the agenda to anyone who is interested in the Youth Rōpū.

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*Draft Annual Report*

The timing of the Draft Annual Report was discussed – these normally come out in March/April, which leaves time for any changes. The earlier the better. Ken Hughey to action.

Lyn Carmichael congratulated the Zone Committee on the work they did on Southern Black-Backed gull control, which has now formed part of the Canterbury-wide Southern Black-Backed Gull/Karoro Management Strategy.

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**Urgent Business**

Nil.

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**Meeting concluded**

The meeting concluded at 6.50pm with a whakamoemiti from Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.

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**Next meeting**

Monday 17 February 2020.

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