

# Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee

## Agenda

**Monday 8 June 2020**

**2pm**

**Zoom**

***Members:***

Michael Blackwell (Chair)  
Cameron Henderson (Deputy Chair)  
David Ashby  
Erin Harvie  
Carolyn Latham  
Judith Roper-Lindsay  
Wendy Main  
Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tūāhuriri Rūnanga)  
John Cooke (Te Ngai Tūāhuriri Rūnanga)  
Sandra Stewart (WDC Councillor)  
Megan Hands (ECan Councillor)

Chairperson and Members

**CWMS WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE**

Agenda for the meeting of the **CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE** to be via **ZOOM** on **MONDAY 8 JUNE 2020** commencing at **2PM.**

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as  
Council policy until adopted by the Council

**BUSINESS**

**PAGES**

1. **BUSINESS**

1.1 **KARAKIA**

1.2 **APOLOGIES**

1.3 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

1.4 **REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

Advice of any changes or updates.

4 - 5

2. **Immediate Steps Biodiversity Update – Z Ploeg (Biodiversity Officer – Environment Canterbury)**

6- 21

*RECOMMENDATION*

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- a) **Support** the four immediate Steps Project applications.
- 1.1 Burgess Stream Project \$10,000
  - 1.2 Hammonds wetland project \$10,000
  - 1.3 Springvale wetland project \$14,000
  - 1.4 Auld wetlands project \$26,000

3. **COMMITTEE UPDATES – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECAN)**

*RECOMMENDATION*

22-35

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- a) **Receives** these updates for its information, and with reference to the Committee's 2020 work programme and community engagement priorities.
- b) **Provides** any feedback on the Siena Place Stockwater Race Closure via this meeting, or by June 30 2020.

- 3.1. Proposed closure of Stockwater Race R3K-2A
- 3.2. Fish Habitat Fund call for projects 2020
- 3.3. Groundwater quality reports Q&A

4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 2 March 2020**

36 - 45

*RECOMMENDATION*

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- a) **Confirms** the minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 2 March 2020, as a true and accurate record.

**Matters Arising**

5. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**KARAKIA**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee is scheduled for the 6 July 2020 at 3:30pm.

# WAIMAKARIRI WATER ZONE COMMITTEE

## Register of Interests – at 1 March 2020

Name	Committee Member Interests
<b>David Ashby</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director/shareholder – Pineleigh Farm Limited</li> <li>- Director/shareholder – Dave Ashby Rural Consultants Limited</li> <li>- Shareholder – Waimakariri Irrigation Limited</li> <li>- Member – Cust Main Drain Water User Group</li> </ul>
<b>Michael Blackwell</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director/ Shareholder – Blackwells Limited, Kaiapoi</li> <li>- Treasurer – North Canterbury Clay Target Association</li> <li>- 4Ha property, Tuahiwi</li> </ul>
<b>John Cooke</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Executive Limousines 2015 Limited</li> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Express Hire Limited</li> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Secure Property Management Limited</li> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Testpro Limited</li> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Acropolis Wedding and Event Hire Limited</li> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Pines Beach Store Limited</li> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Coastal Dream 2005 Limited – 4Ha property, Kaiapoi</li> <li>- Interim Trustee – Section 6 Survey Office Plan 465273 Ahu Whenua Trust</li> </ul>
<b>Megan Hands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Landsavvy Limited</li> <li>- Member – NZ Institute of Primary Industry Management</li> <li>- Member – NZ Young Farmers</li> <li>- Member – Institute of Directors NZ</li> <li>- ECan Councillor</li> </ul>
<b>Erin Harvie</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shareholder – Bowden Consultancy Limited, trading as Bowden Environmental</li> <li>- Member – NZ Hydrological Society</li> <li>- Associate member – NZ Institute of Primary Industry Management</li> <li>- Involvement with Cust River Water User Group</li> </ul>
<b>Cameron Henderson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dairy Farmer - Groundwater irrigator</li> <li>- Member – NZ Institute of Primary Industry Management</li> <li>- Member – NZ Dairy Environment Leaders Forum</li> <li>- Chairman – DairyCan - Canterbury Dairy Environment Leaders Forum</li> <li>- Chairman – North Canterbury Federated Farmers</li> </ul>
<b>Carolyn Latham</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmer – Sheep, beef</li> <li>- Director – Latham Ag Ltd Consulting</li> <li>- Shareholder – Silver Fern Farms, Farmlands</li> <li>- Registered Member – New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management</li> </ul>
<b>Wendy Main</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dairy Farmer – Trinity Holdings (2001) Ltd</li> <li>- Registered Nurse</li> <li>- Member Federated Farmers</li> <li>- Consent to Farm and related consents for water and effluent with ECan</li> <li>- Shareholder – Silver Fern Farms, Farmlands, LIC</li> </ul>

<b>Arapata Reuben</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chair – Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga</li> <li>- Trustee – Tuahiwi Marae</li> <li>- Trustee – Tuhono Trust</li> <li>- Trustee – Mana Waitaha Charitable Trust</li> <li>- Member – National Kiwi Recovery Group</li> <li>- Rūnanga Rep – Christchurch/West Melton Water Zone Committee</li> <li>- Rūnanga Rep – Ashburton Water Zone Committee</li> </ul>
<b>Judith Roper-Lindsay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director/ecologist – JR-L Consulting Ltd.</li> <li>- Landowner/small-scale sheep farmer, Ashley downs</li> <li>- Fellow – Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ)</li> </ul>
<b>Sandra Stewart</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Self-employed journalist</li> <li>- Landowner, 4Ha Springbank – sheep &amp; dogs</li> <li>- WDC Councillor</li> </ul>

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO: 2</b>	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Immediate Steps
<b>REPORT TO:</b> Waimakariri Water Zone Committee	<b>MEETING DATE:</b> 8 June 2020
<b>REPORT BY:</b> Zipporah Ploeg, Biodiversity Officer – Environment Canterbury	

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 Four Immediate Steps projects are presented to the Waimakariri Water Management Zone Committee for funding allocation. The projects are outlined below.

### 2. Recommendation

That the Waimakariri Water Management Zone Committee:

Support the four Immediate Steps project applications

1.1 Burgess Stream Project	\$10,000
1.2 Hammonds wetland project	\$10,000
1.3 Springvale wetland project	\$14,000
1.4 Auld wetlands project	\$26,000

### 3. Background

3.1 The Immediate Steps (IMS) funding programme was launched in 2010 as part of implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. Alongside planning and other measures, this funding is used to contribute to halting or reversing the decline in indigenous biodiversity associated with the increasing use of water resources in Canterbury.

3.2 The Waimakariri Zone Committee has \$104,500 of Immediate Steps funding per year to spend on projects to protect and restore biodiversity. The below has already been allocated for this financial year across two Projects:

<b>Allocated</b>	<b>FY19/20</b>
White Rock Mains QEII Covenant Project	\$28,000
Mānuka Swamp Project	\$25,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$53,000 (\$51,500 unallocated)</b>

### 4. Project applications

4.1 There are four projects for consideration totaling \$60,000. Recommend allocating funding to these projects over the next two years.

<b>Proposed allocation</b>	<b>FY19/20</b>	<b>FY20/21</b>
	\$10,000 (Burgess Stream)	
	\$10,000 (Hammonds Wetland)	
	\$14,000 (Springvale Wetland)	
	\$17,000 (Auld Wetlands)	\$8,500 (Auld Wetlands)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$51,500 (\$0 unallocated)</b>	<b>\$8,500 (\$96,000 unallocated)</b>



# Burgess Stream Project

## Project Images





## Project Summary

This project involves planting c0.1ha to create habitat on the Burgess Stream. The project has an ecological score of 9 (23%) and requests \$10,000 of Immediate Steps funding, with a total project cost of \$15,000.

## Project Details

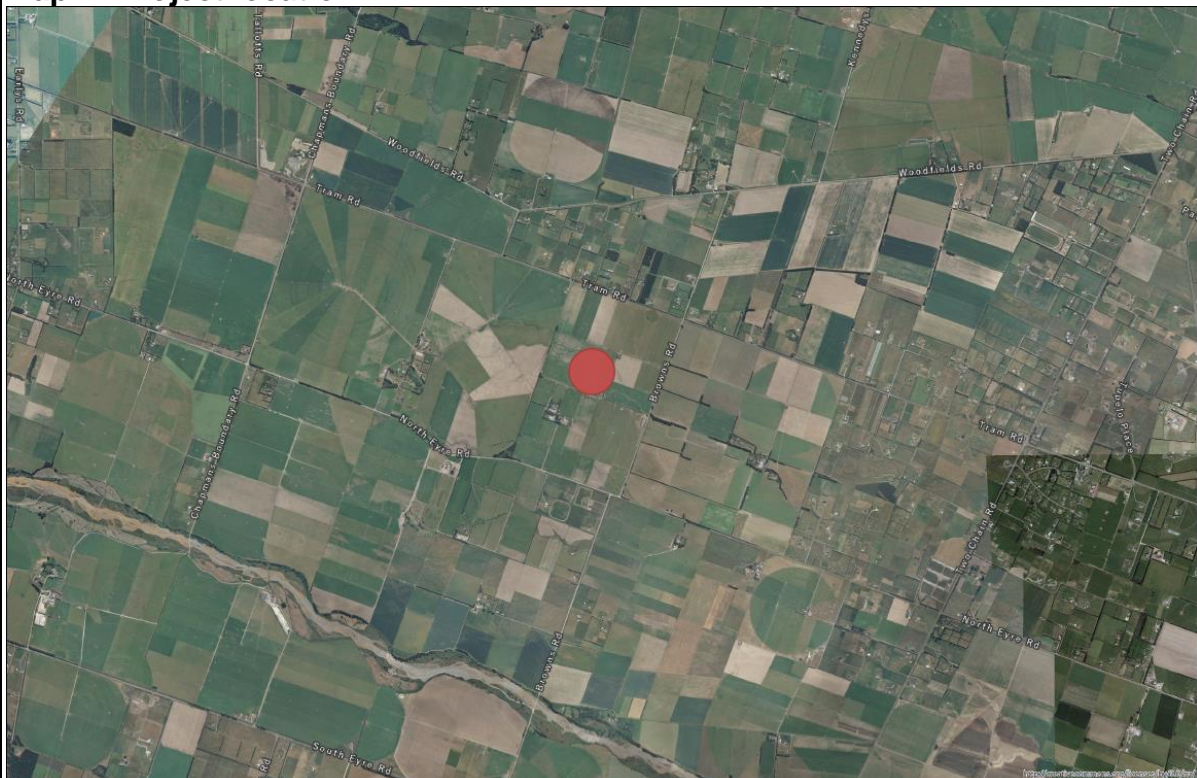
<b>Project CWMS Zone</b>	Waimakariri
<b>Project Location</b>	E1554231, N5199309
<b>Nature of Project</b>	Creation
<b>Habitat Type</b>	Wetlands/Lowland stream
<b>Project Aim (objectives and overall vision)</b>	The improvement of a small wetland and re-vegetation of the riparian margin
<b>Project Outcomes (what the project will achieve)</b>	Native vegetation dominance across planted areas
<b>Actions proposed to achieve outcomes</b>	Planting
<b>Supporting Organisation/ Community Group</b>	Waimakariri Irrigation Limited

## Funding Requested

From ECAN	From Other Sources	Estimated Total (Applicant)
\$10,000	\$5,000	\$15,000

## Project Map

Map 1: Project location





**Map 2: Site Map****Overall Assessment Scores**

Criteria	Score	Comments
Ecological Assessment Score (Existing and Potential) /39	9/39 (23%)	This is a restoration/creation planting project which means it scores low on assessment. This project will hopefully encourage other farmers in the catchment to undertake similar restoration projects.



# Springvale Wetland

## Project Images



## Project Summary

This project involves the control of woody weeds to protect and restore this wetland. Consists of 12.3ha of flaxland dominated by flax/harakeke, with cabbage trees, *Juncus edgariae*, and native sedges (*Carex coriacea*, *C. secta*, and *C. sinclairii*), however crack and grey willows have invaded the site and form a continuous canopy over parts of the wetland. Raupō/bull rush is occasional. A wide variety of indigenous shrub, herb and fern species are present.

This project has received an ecological score of 74% (29/39) and requests \$14,000 of Immediate Steps funding with a total project cost of \$21,000

## Project Details

<b>Project CWMS Zone</b>	Waimakariri
<b>Project Location</b>	E:1546073, N:5210782
<b>Nature of Project</b>	Enhancement, Protection
<b>Habitat Type</b>	Wetlands
<b>Project Aim (objectives and overall vision)</b>	Restoration of the wetlands indigenous flora and fauna
<b>Project Outcomes (what the project will achieve)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Healthy and thriving populations of native fish, birds and invertebrates</li> <li>- Protected, healthy, regenerating areas of native vegetation</li> </ul>
<b>Actions proposed to achieve outcomes</b>	Weed control works throughout the wetland - including removal of grey and crack willows, ash, wild cherry and additional woody weeds.
<b>Supporting Organisation/Community Group</b>	Waimakariri District Council

## Funding Requested

From ECAN	From Other Sources	Estimated Total (Applicant)
\$14,000	\$7,000	\$21,000

## Project Map



**Map 1: Project location****Map 2: Site Map**

## Ecological Assessment

Overall Assessment Scores		
Criteria	Score	Comments
Ecological Assessment Score (Existing and Potential) /39	29	The site comprises one of the largest areas of indigenous wetland vegetation in the High Plains Ecological District. Crack and grey willows and other woody weeds have invaded the site and started to form a continuous canopy that is shading out the indigenous vegetation. By controlling the weeds now, the wetland values will be protected and able to recover.



# Hammonds Wetland Weed control

## Project Images



## Project Summary

The project is a 3.5 wetland that is part of a larger (6ha) wetland complex. It comprises of mostly swamp vegetation dominated by harakeke with scattered cabbage trees, shrubs of mānuka, *Coprosma dumosa* and *C. propinqua*, exotic gorse and an understorey of pūkie (Carex secta and *C. virgata*), rautahi (*Carex geminata*) and swamp kiokio (*Blechnum minus*). Margins of the project area include seasonally wet marsh habitat with scattered pūkie, *Juncus edgariae*, *Carex coriacea* and wet pasture species, and terrestrial habitat with introduced trees and shrubs. Many exotic woody weeds are establishing in both the wetland and terrestrial margins of the site.

The project has received an ecological score of 62% (24/39) and requests \$10,000 of Immediate Steps funding with a total project cost of \$15,000

## Project Details

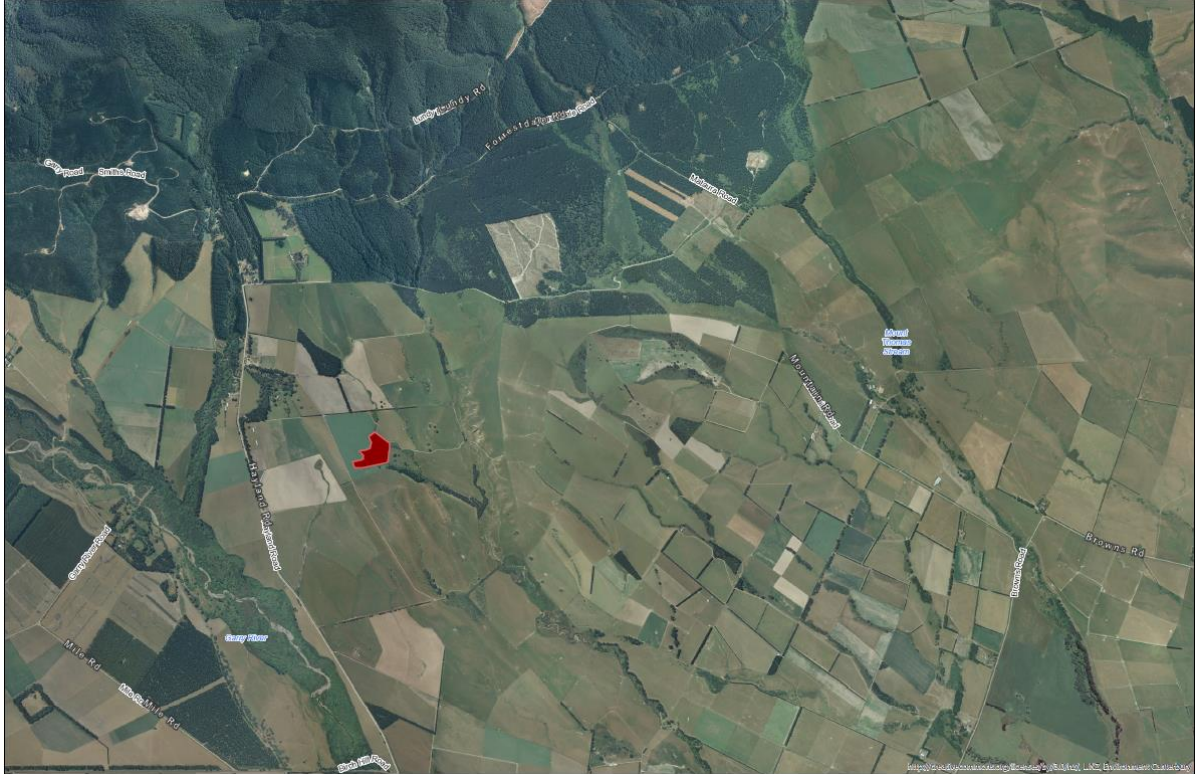
<b>Project CWMS Zone</b>	Waimakariri
<b>Project Location</b>	E:1547108 N: 5216039
<b>Nature of Project</b>	Enhancement, Protection
<b>Habitat Type</b>	Wetlands
<b>Project Aim (objectives and overall vision)</b>	Restoration of the wetlands indigenous flora and fauna
<b>Project Outcomes (what the project will achieve)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Healthy and thriving populations of native fish, birds and invertebrates</li> <li>- Protected, healthy, regenerating areas of native vegetation</li> </ul>
<b>Actions proposed to achieve outcomes</b>	Weed control works throughout the wetland - including removal of: grey and crack willows, ash, wild cherry and additional woody weeds.

## Funding Requested

From ECAN	From Other Sources	Estimated Total (Applicant)
\$10,000	\$5,000	\$15,000

## Project Map

Map 1: Project location



Map 2: Site map



## Ecological Assessment

Overall Assessment Scores		
Criteria	Score	Comments
Ecological Assessment Score (Existing and Potential) /39	24/39 (62%)	3.6ha wetland with high indigenous vegetation values. Currently threatened by woody weeds but by controlling the weeds now, the wetland values will be protected and able to recover.



# Auld Wetlands

## Project Images



**Wetland 1:** Dominated by willows with native understory







**Wetland 2:** Dominated by *Juncus saraphorus* starting to be invaded by willows

### Project Summary

This project involves the control of willows and other garden weeds to protect two wetlands. Wetland 1 consists of 1ha of swamp wetland dominated by willows with mixed native and exotic understory. Wetland 2 consists of 7.5ha of marsh wetland dominated by *Juncus saraphorus* rushland just starting to be invaded by crack and grey willows. By controlling the weeds, the native vegetation will be able to recover to its best potential. The project has received ecological scores of 56% (22/39) for wetland 1 and 62% (24/39) for wetland 2. And requests \$26,000 of Immediate Steps funding, with a total project cost of \$39,000

### Project Details

<b>Project CWMS Zone</b>	Waimakariri
<b>Project Location</b>	E:1573441 N:5199771
<b>Nature of Project</b>	Protection, Restoration
<b>Habitat Type</b>	Wetlands
<b>Project Aim (objectives and overall vision)</b>	Restoration of the wetland's indigenous flora and fauna
<b>Project Outcomes (what the project will achieve)</b>	Healthy, regenerating areas of native vegetation
<b>Actions proposed to achieve outcomes</b>	Weed control works throughout the wetlands - including removal of: crack willows, ivy, stinking iris and additional garden weeds.

### Funding Requested

From ECAN	From Other Sources	Estimated Total (Applicant)
\$26,000	\$13,000	\$39,000



## Project Map

Map 1: Project Location



Map 2: Site Map for wetland 1





**Map 2: Site Map for wetland 2**

Ecological Assessment		
Overall Assessment Scores		
Ecological Assessment Score (Existing and Potential) /39	Score	Comments
Wetland 1	22	This wetland is somewhat degraded but retains a lot of native biodiversity. By controlling the weeds, the native vegetation will be able to recover to its best potential.
Wetland 2	24	This marsh wetland is relatively intact with a simple species composition. It is currently fairly weed free but is being invaded by willows. By controlling the willows now, the wetland will be protected into the future.

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO: 3</b>	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Committee Updates
<b>REPORT TO:</b> Waimakariri Water Zone Committee	<b>MEETING DATE:</b> 8 June 2020
<b>REPORT BY:</b> Murray Griffin, CWMS Facilitator – Waimakariri, ECan	

## PROPOSAL

This agenda item provides information on topics of relevance to this committee, and updates on items from previous committee meetings.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Zone Committee

- **Receives** these updates for its information, and with reference to the committee's 2020 work programme and community engagement priorities.
- **Provides** any feedback on the Siena Place Stockwater Race Closure via this meeting, or by 30 June 2020.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

The following items are tabled for the committee:

### 1. WDC Stockwater Race Closure – Siena Place

The purpose of this memo, **provided as agenda item 3-1**, is to provide information to the parties who have interest in the Waimakariri Stockwater Race Scheme, and associated proposed closures. Feedback is sought on an application from a resident, to close stockwater race R3K-2A, located within the vicinity of Siena Place in Mandeville.

The committee is asked to provide any feedback, either through Council minutes, or by emailing [libica.hurley@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:libica.hurley@wmk.govt.nz) before June 30th, 2020.

### 2. Fish Habitat Fund call for projects 2020

Environment Canterbury has an initiative to identify site specific issues which threaten native fish populations and provide financial support to remediate these issues. Currently \$100,000 per year is available. An overview of the fund is **provided as agenda item 3-2**.

Proposals are requested by Friday 3rd July 2020. For more info, or to request an application form, contact Chloe Armour:

- Email: [chloe.armour@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:chloe.armour@ecan.govt.nz)
- Phone: 027 678 9772

### 3. Proposed Plan Change 7 (Waimakariri)

Proposed Plan Change 7 (of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan) has been developed to respond to emerging resource management issues, to give effect to relevant national direction, to implement recommendations from the Hinds Drains' Working Party, and to implement recommendations in the Waimakariri and Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora (OTOP) Zone Implementation Programme Addenda (ZIPA).

The final submissions count is 558 for PC7 and 28 for PC2 (586 in total). Please refer to the following link to review these submissions:

<https://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2019/proposed-plan-change-7-submissions-published/>

A Summary of Decisions Requested (including further submissions) is now available on the ECan website.

The Section 42A Report is also now available. For further information on the hearing, including Minute 3 that details a delay in the hearing timetable in response to the COVID-19 emergency, please refer to the Independent Hearing Commissioner Documents.

For more information, go to:

<https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-land-and-water-regional-plan/change-7/>

#### **4. Waimakariri Water Zone Committee – Communications**

- **Annual Report 2019**

Chair Michael Blackwell and Deputy Chair Cam Henderson presented the committee's 2019 Annual Report to the Waimakariri District Council on Tuesday 5 May and Environment Canterbury on Thursday 14 May. They were well received by both Councils.

- **Action for Healthy Waterways**

The Ministry for the Environment released information on the Action for Healthy Waterways on 28 May 2020. For more information on Action for Healthy Waterways go to: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/action-for-healthy-waterways>

This site includes information on what the action for healthy waterways package might mean for different community sectors, and what support is available.

Information for the following are available:

- Iwi/Māori
- Regional councils
- Dairy farmers
- Sheep, beef and deer farmers
- Horticultural growers
- Farmers and communities

Other useful Action for Healthy Waterways information sheets provided include:

- Benefits and costs
- About attributes in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
- On modelling that supports the action for healthy waterways package

To view the Environment Canterbury media statement on this 28 May release go to: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2020/freshwater-package-welcomed/>

A revised FAQ relating to Proposed Plan Change 7 is also provided below:

**Does the Government's Freshwater package mean Plan Change 7 needs to be changed?**

The Government has made its decisions in relation to the Action for Healthy Waterways (formally Essential Freshwater) package and has indicated that new regulations and a new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management will be released soon. Once the new regulations and National Policy Statement have been gazetted, the Independent Hearing Panel, appointed by Environment Canterbury to run the hearing, will consider how best to address those documents within the scope of submissions made on Plan Change 7 and Plan Change 2.

**5. Environment Canterbury Groundwater Science**

Recently two Environment Canterbury groundwater reports have been published, and the new LAWA groundwater quality topic has been launched:

<https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/groundwater-quality/>

A link to the LAWA topic and the two reports have been published on these pages:

Link: <https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/canterburys-water/>

Link: <https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/canterburys-water/groundwater/>

**Questions & Answers** for each of these reports is provided as **agenda item 3-3**.

**Key messages** from each Environment Canterbury report are provided below:

**Groundwater survey**

- Our annual survey reports data to 2019, so a little ahead of LAWA
- The focus is on nitrate trends and results, which are particularly important to Cantabrians and all New Zealanders
- We welcome all research into the health impacts of nitrate in waterways
- This survey shows little change from earlier ones, in line with our predictions (little improvement is expected for 15-20 years due to legacy effects, although plans and on-the-ground action are having an impact)
- See <https://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2019/nitrate-in-waterways-whats-the-story/>

**Nitrate risk maps**

- For those with private wells drawing water from shallow aquifers
- Little change since 2017
- Used by Community and Public Health to ensure safe drinking water for private well owners



- For individual zone maps, please refer to this link:  
<https://www.cph.co.nz/your-health/drinking-water/>

### **LAWA groundwater quality topic**

- We welcome the launch of the topic – it's a valuable addition to the water / environmental information now available to the community that LAWA has been building for some time, with support from councils
- It brings ECan data (from last year) into a national framework
- We also welcome the E. coli trends data (something ECan collects but not previously reporting).

## **6. CWMS Regional Committee**

The last CWMS Regional Committee meeting was held on Tuesday 11 February 2020 and it has not met since. The CWMS Regional Committee is aiming to reconvene in July.

The link to the CWMS Regional Committee meeting papers is provided below:  
<https://ecan.govt.nz/data/document-library/?Search=regional+water+management+committee%2C+agenda&documentTypes=-1&pageSize=12&start=1&sortDir=desc>

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****MEMO**

**FILE NO AND TRIM NO:** STW-10-05 / 200217020454

**DATE:** 25 May 2020

**MEMO TO:** Water Race Rural Advisory Group  
Waimakariri Water Zone Committee  
Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga  
Environment Canterbury  
Fire and Emergency NZ

**FROM:** Libica Hurley (Technical Administrator)

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Closure of Stockwater Race R3K-2A

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1. The purpose of this memo is to provide information to the parties who have interest in the Waimakariri Stockwater Race Scheme, and associated proposed closures. Feedback is sought on an application from a resident, to close stockwater race R3K-2A, located within the vicinity of Siena Place in Mandeville.
- 1.2. The reason for the proposed closure is that the supply of stockwater is no longer required to the properties currently serviced by this water race. These properties, though in the rural zone, are mostly significantly smaller than 4 ha in area. Lifestyle blocks set the character of the area, as opposed to rural farming. The closure of this race will reduce ongoing maintenance costs to the scheme and may improve efficiency of delivery of water to the upstream network.
- 1.3. Consultation has been undertaken with affected property owners and 8 of the 15 are in support of the closure. 2 oppose the closure and the balance have not supplied written feedback. Those properties opposing the closure are concerned about flood risks or future maintenance rather than about the supply of stockwater to their properties.
- 1.4. The closure of R3K-2A is not expected to have any impact on drainage capacity during a flood event. This is because the closure intends to only discontinue flow along the race. Sections where the race and drainage channels are combined, the channel will remain for drainage purposes and the water race flows will stop. Sections where the water race channel is separate to the drainage channel, the water race channel can be filled in by the property owner provided there is no localised drainage impact.
- 1.5. Relative to the amount of groundwater recharge likely across the entire scheme based on total length (approximately 831km), the recharge accountable to R3K-2A is likely minimal as the proposed closure is approximately 1.6km long. This equates to only 0.19% of the total stockwater scheme. This is also an area of groundwater resurgence under certain seasonal conditions.
- 1.6. All feedback should be supplied either through Council minutes, or by emailing [libica.hurley@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:libica.hurley@wmk.govt.nz) before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Attachments:

- i. Location of R3K-2A
- ii. Proposed closure, aerial R3K-2A
- iii. Stockwater Race Closure Policy

## **2. Consultation**

- 2.1. This proposed race closure has been consulted with affected properties in accordance with the Waimakariri District Council Stockwater Race Closure Policy. The policy requires the decision making process, in Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002, to be followed when a proposed closure is processed.
- 2.2. In particular, Section 4.2 of the policy requires an assessment of significance in terms of the Council's Significance Policy. This water race closure proposal is not considered significant due to the short length of the proposed closure and therefore consultation with residents using the Special Consultative Procedure is not considered necessary.
- 2.3. Consultation with affected parties has been undertaken in accordance with Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002. This occurred by way of a letter and feedback response form sent to each property located along the race R3K-2A. A one month objection period was given in order to provide those affected with reasonable opportunity to respond.
- 2.4. Of the 15 affected properties identified, 2 have supplied written opposition to the closure. Reasons for opposition based on the comments provided include concerns about maintenance and flood hazard/stormwater management.
- 2.5. 5 of the 15 affected parties did not supply written approval prior to application to Council for the closure via WIL, and also did not respond to the feedback sought through a 1 month objection period. Affected parties were sent feedback forms with return envelopes and an alternative email address.
- 2.6. Lastly, 8 of the 15 affected parties have provided written support for the closure. Two of the affected parties in support of the closure noted in their feedback that they would like to see the channel filled in. Sections where the race and drainage channels are combined, the channel will remain for drainage purposes and the water race flows will stop. Sections where the water race channel is separate to the drainage channel, the water race channel can be filled in by the property owner provided there is no localised drainage impact.

## **3. Waimakariri Irrigation Limited**

- 3.1. Waimakariri Irrigation Limited (WIL) raised no issues with the proposed closure from a network management perspective. Flows will be altered to accommodate the closure if approved.
- 3.2. R3K-2A is a branch of R3K-2, it does not feed into any downstream races therefore it is deemed that effects on downstream users are not a factor.

## **4. Aquifer Recharge and River Flow Augmentation**

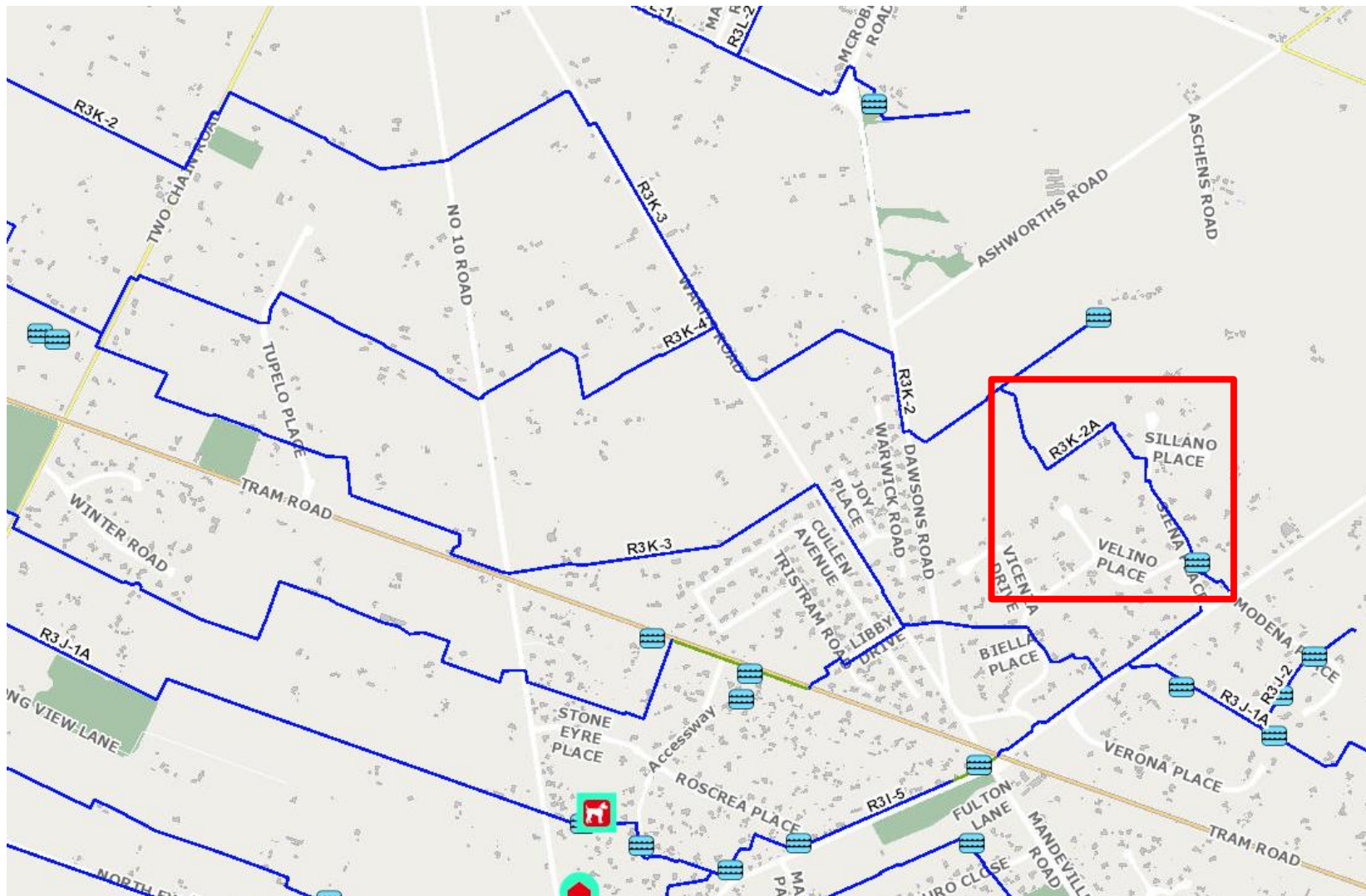
- 4.1. In the past, Environment Canterbury (ECan) have advised that their preference is for no stockwater races to be closed due to the significant benefits of the scheme in terms of diluting nitrates in groundwater and sustaining flows in spring-fed streams.

- 4.2. The race system's function is primarily for irrigation and stockwater supply. The operation and maintenance of the stockwater part of the system is paid for by the stockwater users, via target water race rates. The Council currently has ECan consent (CRC133965) to take surface water from the Waimakariri River at the Browns Rock intake to supply the water race system. Condition 2 of CRC133965 states that water taken shall only be used for stockwater, domestic irrigation, for hydro-electric power generation and for purposes associated with CRC000585. Any other use of the water (e.g.: for managed groundwater recharge purposes) is not covered by this consent.
- 4.3. Relative to the amount of recharge likely across the entire scheme based on total length (approximately 831km), the recharge accountable to R3K-2A is likely minimal as the proposed closure is approximately 1.6km long. This equates to only 0.19% of the total stockwater scheme. It is also noted that this area is prone to groundwater resurgence under certain seasonal conditions.
- 4.4. Included in the feedback supplied by affected parties, two noted that the race is often dry. One noted that there are no stock dependent on it, which suggests that in this Residential 4 area, predominantly consisting of lifestyle blocks, there is no need for the supply of stockwater.

## 5. Drainage

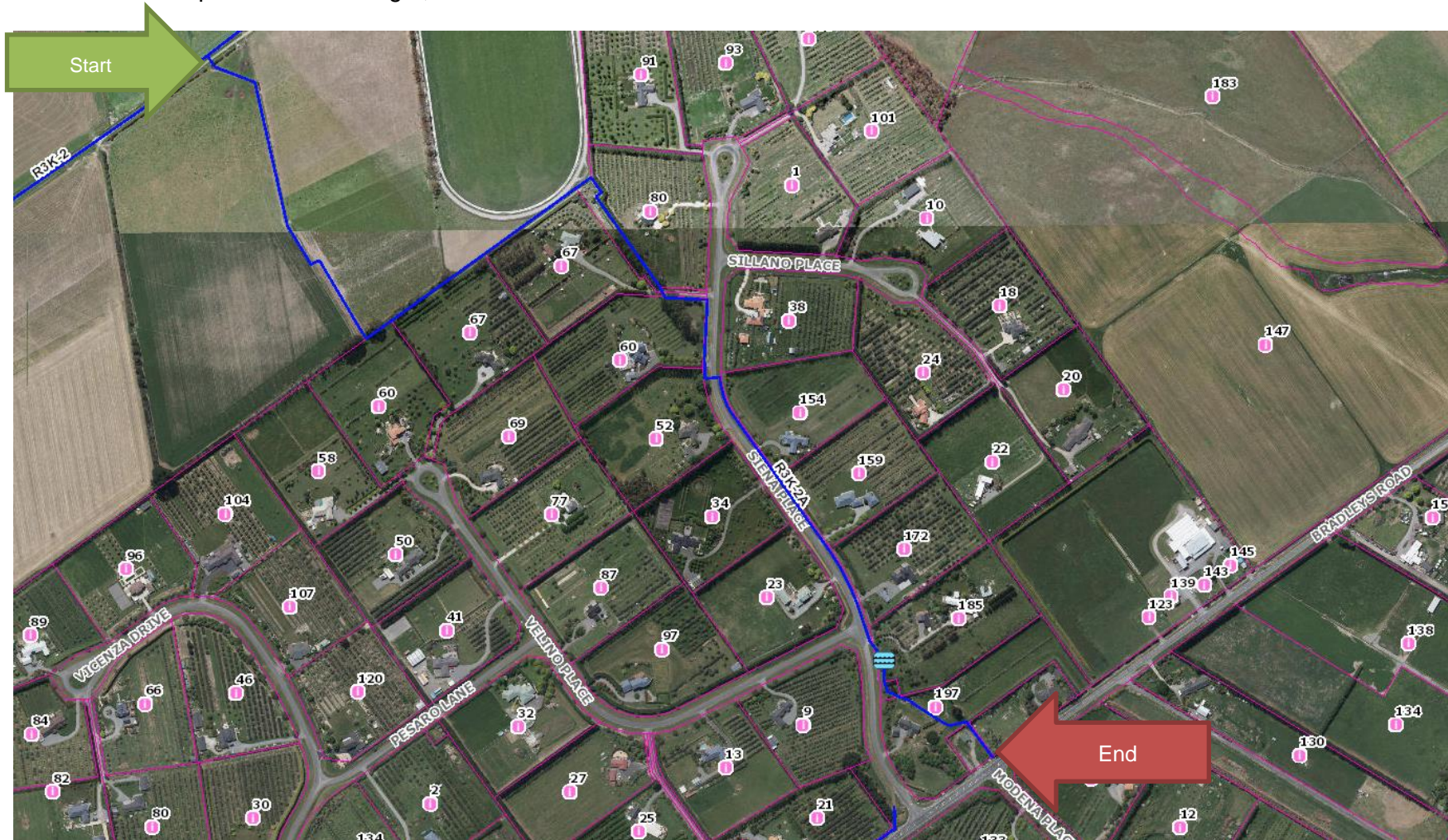
- 5.1. The closure of R3K-2A is not expected to have any impact on drainage capacity during a flood event. This is because the closure intends to only discontinue flow along the race. Sections where the race and drainage channels are combined, the channel will remain for drainage purposes and the water race flows will stop. Sections where the water race channel is separate to the drainage channel, the water race channel can be filled in by the property owner provided there is no localised drainage impact.
- 5.2. If residents want any portion of the closed race filled in, an application is required to Council. At such time, localised drainage would need to be considered by Council staff to assess the effects of the infill during a flood event.

## Attachment i. Location of R3K-2A





Attachment ii. Proposed closure length, aerial R3K-2A



Attachment iii  
Stockwater Race Closure Policy

## POLICY

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### Water

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## STOCKWATER RACE - CLOSURE POLICY

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Stockwater races in the Waimakariri District have supplied water for stock since the system was first introduced in 1896. Since then water has been supplied to livestock on a continuing basis throughout the District. There have been few closures of races over that time however with changes in land use, particularly due to rezoning and encroaching urbanisation there has been the need to close several water races. This policy set outs the procedures to be followed when further applications for closures of water races are received.

### 2 Policy Context

- 2.1 This policy has been designed to follow the steps as set out in legislation in the *Local Government Act 2002* (LGA) on decision making in the context of water race closure.
- 2.2 Generally the Council will not allow race closures where they may affect the viability of the water race network.

### 3 Policy Objective

- 3.1 The objective of this policy is to ensure that all closures are carried out in a systematic fashion and to ensure that effective consultation is carried out.

### 4 Policy Statement

- 4.1 The steps to closing a water race are initiated once a reason for a closure has been established and investigated. This may be due to an external request or as a result of an internal Council staff review. Once a water race has been identified for closure, a decision process is then to be undertaken as set out in the LGA, specifically Part 6 which deals with decision making.
- 4.2 The first step is to determine if the closure is a matter of significance as set out in the Council's Significance Policy (refer to Financial Management section of the Long Term Plan) and based on the following questions:
- a. Would the level of service for the supply and delivery of stockwater be significantly affected if the race were closed?
  - b. Is the race being considered for closure a strategic asset?
  - c. Would closure significantly affect Council's ability to supply water?
  - d. Would closure significantly affect the cost to Council and ratepayer to undertake this activity?
- 4.3 If the answer is yes to any of the above questions then the special consultative procedure as set out in Section 83 of the LGA should be initiated. This should include reporting to the Utilities and



## POLICY

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### Water

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#### STOCKWATER RACE - CLOSURE POLICY

Roading Committee, Water Race Advisory Group and relevant Community Board or Advisory Board on the proposed consultation process and subsequent decision.

- 4.4 If the answer to the questions under Clause 4.2 are no then the decision making process as set out in Sections 77 and 78 of the LGA should be followed.
- 4.5 Whether the process is a Special Consultative Procedure or not, the consultation undertaken may include:
- i. Letters to residents and other affected parties e.g.: developers
  - ii. Consultation with the Heritage New Zealand regarding structures such as culverts, weirs and flumes.
  - iii. Consultation with Environment Canterbury, Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, and the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee.
  - iv. Public notices in papers and/or on the WDC website
  - v. Proposal open for consultation for at least one calendar month
  - vi. Report to affected Community Board or Ward Advisory Board and Water Race Advisory Group
  - vii. Public meeting
  - viii. Closing date for proposal submissions
  - ix. Send acknowledgement letter to submitters
  - x. Complete report based on the submissions and deliberations
  - xi. Report to Management Team
  - xii. Report to Council Committee (U&R) then Council
  - xiii. Letter to residents with Council decision where appropriate

#### 5 Links to other policies and community outcomes

- 5.1 This policy links with the Stockwater Race Bylaw 2019, Stockwater Race Pond Policy and Planting of Trees and Shrubs Alongside Water Races Policy. In addition it is linked to the following Community Outcomes:
- *The demand for water is kept to a sustainable level*
  - *Harm to the environment from the spread of contaminants into ground and surface water is minimised.*

#### 6 Adopted by and date

- 6.1 This policy was adopted by the Council on the 2 April 2019

#### 7 Review

- 7.1 The review of this policy will be aligned with the Stockwater Race Bylaw 2019 review programme by June 2029.

# Canterbury Biodiversity Initiative

## Fish Habitat Fund

### Seeking Project Proposals

Environment Canterbury has an initiative to identify site specific issues which threaten native fish populations and provide financial support to remediate these issues. Currently \$100,000 per year is available.

#### Priorities:

- General fish passage
- Īnanga habitat
- Mudfish conservation
- Longfin tuna/eels
- Non-migratory species

#### Examples of projects:

- Remediating or removing a barrier to fish movement in a catchment where fish are prevented from accessing high quality instream habitat further upstream (including design of remediation solution)
- Areas of importance for mahinga kai rearing or gathering which could benefit from instream restoration
- An area which is known to be of high value for native fish, but they are being put at risk by the incursion of exotic species
- An area which was historically known for spawning or fisheries value, but there is little knowledge of current fish species and habitat
- Improving instream habitat for a particular fish species

**Proposals requested by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020.**

To discuss a project proposal, request an application form or submit a proposal please contact Chloe Armour (027-678-9772, [chloe.armour@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:chloe.armour@ecan.govt.nz)) or your local Environment Canterbury Biodiversity Officer (contact via 0800-324-636).



## Groundwater quality Q&A, April 2020

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### How many wells does Environment Canterbury monitor?

- In 2019 we sampled 328 wells during the spring months of September to December.
- Of those, 125 were also sampled quarterly throughout the year, and those are the wells included in the new LAWA groundwater quality topic.
- The 125 wells that ECan samples quarterly are the shallower wells that are most vulnerable to contamination from the land surface, so their results are biased toward higher contaminant concentrations.
- We sample them quarterly because, being shallower, they are also the wells most likely to show seasonal changes in groundwater quality.

### What type of wells are monitored?

- The wells are a mixture of private domestic wells, irrigation wells, community water supply wells, wells for industrial supply, and purpose-built monitoring wells owned by ECan.

### How are the wells selected?

- The wells are selected based on their locations and depths. The aim is to provide a roughly representative sample of the wells used for water supply in Canterbury.

### How many wells are used for private or community drinking-water supply?

- Annual survey: Of the 328 wells sampled, 155 are used for private domestic supply and 19 are community water supply wells.
- LAWA: Of the 125 wells included, 54 are used for private domestic supply and 4 are community water supply wells.

### Did any private drinking-water supplies have nitrate or *E. coli* above the MAV?

- Annual survey:
  - *E. coli* was detected in 11 private domestic wells and no community water supply wells in the 2019 survey.
  - The nitrate nitrogen concentration exceeded the MAV in the samples from 11 private domestic wells and no community water supply wells in the 2019 survey.
- LAWA:
  - 38 private domestic wells and 2 community water supply wells had at least one *E. coli* detection in the period 2014-2018.
  - 54 private domestic wells and 4 community water supply wells had nitrate nitrogen concentration exceeding the MAV on at least one sample in the period 2014-2018.
- All well owners are notified of any results that exceed drinking water standards.

### Does ECan monitor drinking water?

- No. We monitor raw groundwater before any filters or treatment.

### Who is responsible for testing drinking water?

- Private well owners are responsible for testing their water and ensuring that it is safe to drink. Community water supplies are tested regularly by the supply owner (usually the local council).



### **Why are there differences in the results between LAWA and ECan's Annual Groundwater Quality Survey?**

- The results are broadly similar, but there are some differences because our annual survey is conducted annually, whereas LAWA reports quarterly data.

### **Why are the nitrate risk maps only updated every two years?**

- The maps represent the risk that nitrate concentrations in groundwater could exceed the drinking water standard. This risk changes very slowly, and a two-yearly review is frequent enough to detect any changes.

### **Why is there no data for Banks Peninsula?**

- Groundwater use on Banks Peninsula is very limited, so ECan does not monitor groundwater quality there.

### **Are the results what we expected?**

- Yes, the results are in line with previous surveys and reports. Groundwater quality changes slowly, and we don't expect to see clear improvements for another 15 to 20 years.

### **How many wells had *E. coli* detections?**

- Annual groundwater quality survey: *E. coli* was detected in the samples from 20 out of 328 wells sampled in the spring of 2019.
- LAWA: *E. coli* has been detected in at least one sample over the past five years in 86 out of 125 wells. Note that the 125 wells that we sample quarterly are the shallower wells that are most vulnerable to contamination from the land surface, so their results are biased toward higher contaminant concentrations.

### **How many wells had nitrate nitrogen concentrations above the MAV (11.3 mg/L)?**

- Annual groundwater quality survey: Nitrate-nitrogen exceeded the MAV in the samples from 30 out of 328 wells sampled in the spring of 2019.
- LAWA: Nitrate nitrogen has exceeded the MAV in at least one sample over the past five years in 45 out of 125 wells. Note that the 125 wells that we sample quarterly are the shallower wells that are most vulnerable to contamination from the land surface, so their results are biased toward higher contaminant concentrations.

### **Why do shallower wells show higher contaminant concentrations?**

- In general, at any given location, the highest contaminant concentrations are found in the shallowest wells, near the water table.
- This is the first point where contaminants from the ground surface reach the aquifer, and concentrations have not been diluted by mixing with deeper groundwater.
- Concentration is not solely related to depth. Groundwater source and flow paths are also important, as are proximity to contaminant sources.
- In some locations, we see quite low concentrations at shallow depths, close to the water table, while at other locations, we see high concentrations persisting to considerable depths.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2020 AT 4.00PM.**

**PRESENT**

Michael Blackwell (Chairperson), Cameron Henderson (Deputy Chairperson), Dave Ashby, Erin Harvie, Carolyn Latham, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Wendy Main, Arapata Reuben (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), John Cooke (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), Sandra Stewart (Councillor Waimakariri District Council) and Megan Hands (ECan Councillor).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

B Stokes (Farmer), L Pocock (Oxford Farmers Market) M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident), J Ensor (Mandeville Residents Association), V Pits (West Eyreton Resident), B Pits (West Eyreton Resident) J Barr (Land Information New Zealand), D Cameron (DCLA Ltd), J Benn (Department of Conservation).

G Cleary (WDC Manager Utilities and Roading), S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), G Bennett (WDC Stormwater Engineer), K Steel (WDC Ecologist – Biodiversity) A Arps (ECan), A Meredith (ECan), M Cataloni (ECan), A McLeod (ECan), Z Ploeg (ECan), S Rixecker (ECan), M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan) and T Kunkel (WDC Governance Team Leader).

**1 BUSINESS**

**1.1 Karakia**

A Reuben provided the karakia to open the meeting.

**1.2 Apologies**

Moved: C Henderson Seconded: D Ashby

An apology was received and sustained from S Stewart to leave at 4:45pm.

**CARRIED**

**1.3 Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairperson welcomed all the members present. He requested the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee members introduce themselves to the people present. Officials and members of the public were also given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

**1.4 Register of Interests**

C Latham advised that she completed a Catchment Group course and may in future be involved in running some Catchment Groups, which may be perceived as a conflict of interest.

M Griffin advised that since the printing of the Agenda, he had received Councillor M Hands' information and the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee's Register of Interests would therefore be updated accordingly prior to the next meeting.

## 2. **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

### 2.1 **M Sparrow**

M Sparrow provided a brief overview of the monitoring of Nitrates in the Waimakariri previously. It seemed that the earliest well monitoring available dated from the 1960s, some from 1970s and 1980s 1990s and the 2000s. She also highlighted the 2001/02 review of Nitrates in the ground water in the Waimakariri district and explained the conclusions from the 2006 analysis.

M Sparrow elaborated on the Nitrates monitoring of the following wells:

• Bennets	1988 – 2006 Median 7.15 Maximum 8.7 Trend 2000 – 2019 Median 7.00 Maximum 7.5
• Howsons Road - west of Cust	1999 – 2019 Median 8.0 Maximum 13.6
• Cust	1999 – 2019 Median 9.3 Maximum 12.2
• 1139 Oxford Road, Springbank	1999 – 2019 Median 10.6 Maximum 16.1
• Swannanoa 2000 - 2019	1986 – 2007 Median 3.2 Maximum 6.7 “no trend” 2000 – 2019 Median 3.7 Maximum 7.5

In conclusion, M Sparrow advised that she would be presenting the above-mentioned data as part of her submission on proposed Plan Change 7 to the Land and Water Regional Plan. She stated that it was important to take into consideration the “nitrate legacy” of an area when monitoring and reporting on current nitrate levels. It was also important to maintain the patterns of measurement, and to ensure that various monitoring projects were integrated.

In response to a question from M Bate, M Sparrow confirmed that all the well monitoring data was available on the Environment Canterbury Website.

J Roper-Lindsay enquired if the nitrate levels in the well might be catchment related. M Sparrow held the opinion that the nitrate levels might rather be land use related. It was vital to take into consideration the historical land uses in an area when determining appropriate current nitrate levels for the area.

L Pocock asked if there might be sessional fluctuation in the nitrate levels, to which M Sparrow responded that it was possible as rainfall could have an influence on the nitrate levels in ground water.

### 2.2 **L Pocock**

L Pocock referred to the study done by the Council on Nitrates and other chemicals in 18 private wells in the Cust and Eyreton areas. She stated that, as an Oxford resident, she would be interested in the results of water quality testing on the public supply.

L Pocock suggested that the previous Council study should be extended to include the chemicals previously used in sheep dips. It was estimated that arsenic, organophosphates and organochlorines were used for sheep dipping until the late 1970s. She also suggested that the Council should test for ground water contaminants caused by property uses such as the stacking of old cars.

L Pocock alerted the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee about the synergism effect in toxicology, which referred to the effect caused by exposure to two or more chemicals simultaneously resulting in effects that were greater than the sum of the effects of the individual chemicals.

G Cleary confirmed that all the Council operated water supply schemes complied to the National Drinking-water Standards. Levels of nitrate and other contaminants of



interest were monitored by the Council. The Council had no concerns regarding the water quality from its wells in the Oxford area as all the wells were very deep and thus secure. The two schemes that the Council did have some concerns regarding were the Garrymere and Poyntz Road water supplies. However, contaminants in these schemes were only protozoa and bacteria and these issues were currently being dealt with.

S Rixecker reported that historical aerial imagery and records were used to identify areas in North Canterbury where hazardous and industrial activities previously took place. This included, among others, sheep dips. A list of these sites was available on the ECan Website.

### **2.3 M Bate**

M Bate showed various photos and video taken of the Kaiapoi Lakes and expressed concern regarding the lack of aquatic weeds and the high level of algae found in these lakes. He stated that, in his opinion, the lack of aquatic life in the lakes was caused by the chemicals used to remove the aquatic weeds from the lakes. He added it seems that only one of the six lakes was healthy.

J Roper-Lindsay enquired if there was a Management Plan for the Kaiapoi Lakes. S Allen advised that the Council had a Management Plan for the reserve in which the lakes were situated but not for the lakes themselves.

In response to questions, A Meredith reminded the members that most of the Kaiapoi Lakes were artificial and created in the 1970s when the northern motorway was built. He stated that the increase in algae blooms found in lakes could be due to an increase in nitrates, caused by development encroaching on the lakes. Some of the lakes were in a better state because they were less accessible and deeper. The main lake that was accessed most by the community had toxic algae blooms during previous years. ECan was aware of the problem and was monitoring it. A Meredith also described the natural phenomena in the lakes which was causing the aquatic weeds to die. He stressed that, to his knowledge, no chemicals had been used to control the aquatic weeds in the lakes.

M Bate stated, that to ensure the future health of the Kaiapoi Lakes, the Council and ECan needed to encourage aquatic weed growth in the lakes. He added if the aquatic weeds required management, they should be cut and removed from the lake, rather than being sprayed.

M Bate also showed various photos and video of Pegasus Lake and wetlands. He stated that this used to be a valued whitebait, mahinga kai, area which has been destroyed. There were no aquatic weeds in the waterways, making it impossible for any native species to live on these waterways. He also expressed a concern regarding the toxic algal bloom in the Pegasus Lake.

A Meredith explained the problems of managing artificial lakes, such as Lake Pegasus. He advised that algal growth was a natural phenomenon in any water body. Its growth was driven by nutrient availability. Nutrients enter water from a variety of sources and accumulated in the lakebed sediments. The primary source of nutrients in Lake Pegasus was from groundwater, and recycling of nutrients from the lakebed sediments.

M Blackwell requested S Allen to provide feedback to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee at a subsequent meeting on the nutrient management at the Kaiapoi Lakes.

In response to questions regarding shellfish gathering sites, S Allen reported that ECan and the District Health Board monitored microbial water quality at coastal sites to determine the areas where shellfish are safe for consumption. This monitoring had shown that the water quality at Woodend Beach did not meet the standards for safe shellfish consumption, hence the reason for the warning signs.

## 2.4 J Ensor

J Ensor advised that he had been contacted by local residents regarding the recent vegetation fires along the Ashley/Rakahuri River. A public meeting was held where local residents expressed their concerns about the management of fire risks in the Loburn area.

A Arps reported that ECan was currently conducting a post fire assessment, after which public consultation would be undertaken on a possible way forward for the area.

J Roper-Lindsay asked if the post fire assessment would include the possibility of creating bird habitat in the area, now that the non-indigenous vegetation had been culled by the fires. A Arps explained that the possible development of bird habitat would be investigated at a later stage.

*Councillor S Stewart left the meeting at 4:45pm.*

## 3 LAND AND WATER COMMITTEE UPDATE – S ALLEN (WATER ENVIRONMENT ADVISOR, WDC)

### 3.1 Nitrate Pilot Study for Private Wells in Cust and Eyreton – Update

S Allen provided the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee with a summary of the findings of the Council's pilot private well study. This report was presented to the Council's Land and Water Committee on 13 February 2020. She advised that the Council's pilot private well study was done on 18 wells, nine in Cust and nine in Eyreton. She explained that one of the wells measured 17.9 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen, which is above the Maximum Allowable Value (MAV) set for nitrate in the Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand (11.3 mg/L). The owners of this well would retest the well to make sure it was an accurate reading.

S Allen further advised that the highest nitrate-nitrogen concentration was found in a shallow well (7.6m deep) and increasing well depth was found to have a weak correlation with decreasing nitrate

S Allen noted that it was likely that there were other private wells, which were not sampled during this pilot study, which exceed the nitrate MAV in Cust and Eyreton, however, this proportion had not been estimated in this study. Well owners had been contacted by the Council to communicate test results and advised to contact a water treatment specialist if over the MAV. Well owners with a result over half of the MAV (5.65 mg/L) were advised to repeat water testing in the future at their own expense.

S Allen reported that it was intended to repeat the pilot study in 2020/21, potentially with a wider and more extensive private well sampling programme of 180 wells.

C Henderson stated that current building regulations required owners to provide the Council with water test results that proved that the water on their property measured below the 11.3 mg/L for nitrate-nitrogen. He questioned if this standard would be lowered in future. G Cleary advised that the standard was in line with the Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand and would, therefore, not be lowered in the building consent regulations.

Moved: C Henderson

Seconded: A Reuben

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the report on the Nitrate Pilot Study for Private Wells in Cust and Eyreton for review and their information.

**CARRIED**

**4 BRAIDED RIVER REVIVAL – M GRIFFIN (CWMS FACILITATOR, ECAN) AND A ARPS (NORTHERN ZONE MANAGER, ECAN)**

A Arps updated the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee on the Braided River Revival Programme being developed by ECan. This was an overarching programme for all the braided rivers in Canterbury, with the Ashley/Rakahuri being the first of nine proposed Braided River Programmes over the next 10 years. It was anticipated that the Braided River Programme would engage various role players. The primary purpose of the Braided River Programme was to ensure that all role players worked together for the improvement of the health of Canterbury's braided rivers.

With regard to the Waimakariri District, A Arps advised that ECan and the Council recognised the Ashley/Rakahuri River for its important natural landscape values and braided river characteristics. Some of the current activity on the Ashley/Rakahuri River included the following:

- The management programmes for the three Lees Valley wetlands.
- Development of a programme for the removal of the woody weeds in the Ashley River gorge.
- Post fire assessment of the Loburn area was being conducted.
- Development of a cycle track on the bank of the Ashley/Rakahuri River
- Investigating the possibility of the development of a recreational area to the west of Cones Road, Loburn.
- Sub-catchment Management Plans for the area.
- Drafting of the Engineering Report for the Taranaki Stream.
- Hosting of Mahinga kai talks.

J Roper-Lindsay enquired if the programme money that was earmarked to be spent in the first quarter of 2019/20 financial year had been spent. A Arps could not confirm how much of the funds had been spent on the programme to date. However, there was \$400,000 left in the programme budget for the remainder of this financial year.

C Henderson enquired if the Braided River Revival Programme would become the Catchment Management Plan for the Ashley/Rakahuri River. A Arps confirmed that this may happen.

J Roper-Lindsay questioned when the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee would be presented with strategies and a more co-ordinated plan. A Arps advised that ECan's Principal Biodiversity Advisor Braided Rivers, David Owen, was currently drafting the strategies and an overall five year plan.

Moved: D Ashby

Seconded: J Roper-Lindsay

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receive** this update for its information and with consideration to the committee's catchment engagement in the coastal Ashley/Rakahuri, and work programme priorities in 2020.

**CARRIED**

**5 IMS PROJECT WAIMAKARIRI – Z PLOEG (BIODIVERSITY OFFICER, ECAN)**

In introducing the Mānuka Swamp Project to the committee, Z Ploeg advised that proposed projects of the Immediate Steps (IMS) Funding Programme needed to be supported by the landowners, and needed to be feasible, realistic, and sustainable. She detailed the various requirements that projects had to comply to qualify for Immediate Steps (IMS) Funding

Z Ploeg reported that the aim of the Mānuka Swamp Project was to protect the wetland, adjacent hill slope and section of Okuku Downs Stream, in Lees Valley, and



allow the vegetation to recover to its best potential. The project involved 48 hectares of wetland, regenerating hill scrub and a small section of Okuku Downs Stream. The wetland was a red tussock swamp wetland with intact hydrology and in relatively good condition despite recent cattle grazing. The hill slope had been burnt in the past but was now regenerating, primarily dominated by Mānuka. The project was, therefore, known as the Mānuka Swamp.

Regarding the area's biodiversity, Z Ploeg advised that there seem to be three different eco system types on the site with freshwater mussels, freshwater crayfish, and Canterbury Black Fin found in Okuku Downs Stream. She also listed all the Braided River birds found at the site.

In response to questions, Z Ploeg explained that a new stock-proof deer fencing would be installed to prevent access by livestock and feral deer. Because the owner wanted to bulldoze the fence line and erect approximately 1.4km of fencing, a consent use application needed to be lodged with the Council.

J Roper-Lindsay questioned who would be managing the weed control in the fenced area and whether it was ideal to have the Mānuka take over the red tussock swamp. She further enquired if the onus for weed control could be placed on the owner as part of the Immediate Steps (IMS) Funding agreement.

Z Ploeg reported that usually the owners would be responsible for managing weed control and maintaining the fence. The owner would have the option to graze sheep in this area to manage weeds. However, ECan would be installing photo points within the fenced area to monitor weed growth. She also advised that parts of the red tussock swamp were very wet, so it was unlikely that the Mānuka would take over the whole red tussock swamp.

C Henderson asked when the financial year for the Immediate Steps (IMS) Funding rolled over. Z Ploeg confirmed that this would happen on 1 July 2020.

E Harvie questioned the proposed timeframe for the implementation of the project. Z Ploeg reported that the owner was currently still awaiting the consent use approval. She confirmed it was hoped that the deer fencing could be installed before winter.

D Ashby and C Latham expressed their concern regarding the high consent use cost. C Latham suggested that Councillor S Stewart be required to investigate the possible reduction to the cost. M Blackwell agreed and stated that Councils should be encouraged to make these costs as low as possible to facilitate these projects.

Moved: J Cooke

Seconded: C Henderson

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Support** the Immediate Steps project application for the Mānuka Swamp Project for \$25,000.

**CARRIED**

## **6. COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (CWMS FACILITATOR, ECAN)**

### **6.1 CWMS Regional Committee**

M Griffin advised that the previous Regional Committee meeting was held on Tuesday 11 February 2020. Summary notes from this meeting were provided to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee as agenda. The next CWMS Regional Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 14 April 2020.

In response to a question by J Roper-Lindsay, C Latham advised that no feedback had been received on the proposed CWMS WaterShed Conference. A Arps reported that the details of the event were being finalised and would be circulated soon.

## **6.2 Plan Change 7 (Waimakariri) Update**

M Griffin reported that a summary of Decisions Requested (including further submissions) was now available on the ECan website. It was anticipated that the hearings would be held in May 2020.

## **6.3 Waimakariri Water Zone Committee – Communications**

- **2019 Annual Report**

M Griffin confirmed that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee's 2019 Annual Report had been amended to include all the member's comments and was now ready for sign-off. The amended 2019 Annual Report was included in the Agenda.

- **Mahinga Kai Shed Talks**

The first Mahinga Kai shed talks were held on 28 February 2020 at the Waikuku Beach Hall. The talk was led by Makarini Rupene (Pou Matai Ko, ECan) and was well supported by the public.

## **6.4 Kaiapoi River salinity monitoring**

M Griffin advised that report on this matter will be presented to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee in April 2020 to enable A Meredith to retrieve, collate and present the data from the data loggers currently in the Kaiapoi River.

## **6.5 Silverstream nitrate monitoring**

M Griffin presented the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee with the findings of ECan's Senior Groundwater Scientist, Amber Kreleger, on the nitrate levels at Harpers Road in Silverstream.

ECan's Surface Water Field Team manually sampled the water quality at this site monthly and would submit future findings to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee

D Ashby advised that he attend the Farming Landscaping Research Centre Conference, where the use of denitrification walls was discussed and it may be possible to use denitrification walls on individual farms.

## **6.6 Ashley/Rakahuri River Algal Blooms outbreaks**

A Meredith reported that health warnings had been issued for the Ashley/Rakahuri River at SH1 and Pegasus Lake. Algal blooms had also been found in the eastern lake of the Kaiapoi Lakes, and from February 2020, toxic algae was also present in the length of Ashley/Rakahuri River from Okuku River confluence to Ashley SH1. People should avoid these areas and animals, particularly dogs, should not be allowed near the water until the health warnings had been lifted.

A Meredith advised that the organism found in the Ashley/Rakahuri River was cyanobacteria that produced toxin. These were a primitive organism that could grow rapidly in any conditions and was exceedingly difficult to control. It was found that the cyanobacteria tend to grow in reaches, like those in the Ashley/Rakahuri River, where groundwater upwells and flows back into the river. It would, therefore, seem that enriched groundwater encouraged the growth of cyanobacteria. However, research on the causes of cyanobacteria was continuing in a bid to find ways of controlling the spread of cyanobacteria.

C Henderson enquired if cyanobacteria were indigenous to New Zealand. A Meredith stated that cyanobacteria had always been present in New Zealand but have only become a problem over the last 20 to 25 years.

#### **6.7 Camwell Park Wetland Ponds diversion from No. 7 Drain**

M Cataloni provided a short update on the Camwell Park wetland ponds. He advised that he was working closely with the Council and the Camwell Park subdivision residents to resolve the matter. The water flow was a diversion from the No. 7 drain on Flaxton Rd had not been cut-off but was being managed from the weir in the diversion channel. The flow would however be kept at a minimum to maintain the ponds.

In response to questions, A Meredith reminded the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee that the Camwell Park wetland ponds were a highly modified environment, with most of the water flowing through into the Lineside Drain area.

#### **6.8 Spraying around margins of Courtenay Lake and Kaiapoi River**

Regarding a concern raised at a previous meeting by M Bate, G Clearly confirmed that the Council had never sprayed pesticides to control the vegetation on the banks of the Kaiapoi River and Courtenay Lake. G Clearly was currently waiting for ECan to advise if they had previously sprayed pesticides in this area.

#### **6.9 Waimakariri and Environment Canterbury 2020/21 Annual Plans**

M Griffin advised that ECan's draft Annual Plan 2020/21 was available on its website. The ECan draft Annual Plan engagement schedule would open until 25 March. The WDC's draft Annual Plan and Consultation Document would be available on the Council's website from 6 March 2020 to 6 April 2020.

#### **6.10 Coastal Rakahuri Sub-catchment – Zone Committee Engagement**

M Griffin advised that C Latham has provided an update in the meeting papers on the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee 2019 engagement with local community representatives and groups to seek their views on the Coastal Rakahuri Sub-catchment.

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay

Seconded: A Reuben

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** these updates for its information, and with reference to the Committee's 2020 Work Programme and community engagement priorities.
- (b) **Approves** the 2020/21 Annual Report as contained in the Agenda

**CARRIED**

### **7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

#### **7.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 3 February 2020**

J Roper-Lindsay requested that paragraph 8 on page 3 be amended to read as follows:

*"J Roper-Lindsay stated that she understood that ECan was undertaking a review of Immediate Steps Funding criteria. Generally, the Waimakariri Zone had few sites that complied with the existing criteria and a review may assist..."*

D Ashby requested that paragraph 9 on page 9 be amended to read as follows:



*“D Ashby advised that the unconsented was contributing to the flow in the Cust Main Drain. The Cust Main Drain was also over allocated by approximately 114l/s. He held the opinion that this unconsented diversion set a dangerous precedent.”*

Moved: D Ashby

Seconded: J Cooke

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) Confirms the amended Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 3 February 2020, as a true and accurate record.

## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 8.1 Jamie McFadden’s submission on the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

C Latham enquired if J McFadden’s submission on National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity would be circulated to CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee members. She advised that J McFadden had requested an opportunity to address the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee on this matter. C Henderson stated that if J McFadden’s request were granted, he would suggest that Council’s also be provided with time to summarise their submissions to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee on this matter.

C Henderson and J Roper-Lindsay requested that the Council and ECan’s submissions on the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity be circulated to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee members once they have been finalised.

### 8.2 Catchment Management work on Taranaki Stream

C Henderson reminded the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee that the implementation of the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee’s catchment management work in the Taranaki Stream was discussed during the briefing prior to the meeting. Subsequent to discussion it was resolved as follows:

Moved: J Cooke

Seconded: W Main

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Requests** Environmental Canterbury and the Waimakariri District Council to gather and summarise information and to provide advice and consultation on the implementation of the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee’s catchment management work in the Taranaki Stream.’

## **KARAKIA**

A Reuben provided the karakia to close the meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee was scheduled for the 6 April 2020 at 3:30pm.

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Chairperson

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Date

DRAFT