

ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

A **Meeting** of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee will be held as follows:

DATE: Tuesday 23 June 2020

TIME: 1:00 pm

VENUE: Council Chamber
137 Havelock Street
Ashburton

MEETING CALLED BY: Hamish Riach, Chief Executive, Ashburton District Council
Stefanie Rixecker, Acting Chief Executive, Environment Canterbury

ATTENDEES: Mr Chris Allen
Mrs Angela Cushnie
Ms Genevieve de Spa
Mr Cargill Henderson
Mr Bill Thomas
Mr John Waugh
Mr Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)
Mr Karl Russell (Te Runanga o Arowhenua)
Mr Les Wanhalla (Te Taumutu Runanga)
Mr Brad Waldon-Gibbons (Tangata Whenua Facilitator)
Councillor Stuart Wilson (Ashburton District Council)
Councillor Ian Mackenzie (Environment Canterbury)
Mayor Neil Brown (Ashburton District Council)

Zone Facilitator

Dave Moore

Tel: 027 604 3908

dave.moore@ecan.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury

Committee Advisor

Carol McAtamney

Tel: 307 9645

carol.mcatamney@adc.govt.nz

Ashburton District Council

Tangata Whenua Facilitator

Brad Waldon-Gibbons

Tel: 027 313 4786

brad.waldon-gibbons@ecan.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury



4 Register of Interests

Representative's Name and Interest	
Chris Allen	Farm owner of sheep, beef, lambs, crop Water resource consents to take water from tributary of Ashburton River and shallow wells National board member Federated Farmers of New Zealand with responsibility for RMA, water and biodiversity Member of Ashburton River Liaison Group
Neil Brown	Mayor Acton Irrigation Limited - Director Irrigo Centre Limited - Director Acton Farmers Irrigation Co-operative Limited - Director Browns Farm Limited – Director and Shareholder
Angela Cushnie	Owner of Country Copy, a communication and promotion business based in Mid Canterbury Operates a very small lifestyle block in Eiffelton On the Communication Committee for Advance Ashburton Community Foundation Co-author of 'Water, Farming and Families' Freelance writer for Latitude Magazine Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust - Trustee Rakaia Environmental Enhancement Trust (Deputy Representative) NZ Landcare Trust 'Managing Westlands as Farm Assets's project' – Farmer Engagement Hinds Reserve Board Committee member
Genevieve de Spa	Owner of Kakariki Camps focusing on 'Head, Hands, Heart' approach to biodiversity education Employee and member of Stavely Campsite Committee Recipient of Immediate Steps Funding Member Mt Somers Walkway Society and Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Group (ADBAG) Active member and organiser of 'Extinction Rebellion'
Cargill Henderson	Environmental Manager – ANZCO Foods Ltd
Ian MacKenzie	Environment Canterbury Councillor
Karl Russell	Arowhenua Marae Trustee
Arapata Reuben	Trustee – Tuahiwi Marae Trustee – Tuhono Trust Trustee – Mana Waitaha Charitable Trust Member - National Kiwi Recovery Group Rūnanga Rep and Chair – Christchurch – West Melton Water Zone Committee
Bill Thomas	Farm owner of Longbeach Estate Ltd (sheep, beef, lambs, arable, dairy) Member of Eiffelton Irrigation Scheme Hekeao/Hinds Water Enhancement Trust - Trustee
Les Wanhalla	Returning good health and mauri O Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Kaitiakitanga, Whakapapa Rugby league, life member, honorary south Kiwi
Stuart Wilson	Ashburton District Councillor and Chair of Service Delivery Committee A son who is a Director of Mayfield Hinds Irrigation Co and Chair of RDR
John Waugh	Member of the Ashburton Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Member of Hydrological Society Rakaia Environmental Enhancement Trust (Representative)

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Unconfirmed Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 26 May 2020, commencing at 1:15 pm via Zoom.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Councillor Ian MacKenzie, Councillor Stuart Wilson, Bill Thomas (Chair), Chris Allen, Angela Cushnie, Genevieve de Spa, Cargill Henderson, Karl Russell, Les Wanhalla and John Waugh.

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Dave Moore (Facilitator), Ashburton District Council: Carol McAtamney (minutes)

1 Welcome

Karl Russell opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

That apologies for absence be received on behalf of Arapata Reuben.

Thomas/Russell

Carried

3 Extraordinary Business

None.

The Chair advised that he had presented the Annual Report to the Ashburton District Council at their meeting held 14 May 2020. The Mayor and Councillors expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Zone Committee for their ongoing efforts.

Councillor MacKenzie and Facilitator Dave Moore presented the Annual Report to the Environment Canterbury board on 14 May 2020.

4 Register of Interests

None.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 25 February 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

de Spa/Cushnie

Carried

6.1 Matters Arising

Nil.

6 Correspondence

Outward/Inward:

Nil.

7 Public Contributions

None.

8 Election of Regional Committee Representative for 2020

That Angela Cushnie be nominated as the Regional Committee Representative for 2020.

Wilson/Russell

Confirmed

9 Immediate Steps Project

Resolved:

That funding for the following Immediate Steps Projects be approved:

1. Alford Forest River Terrace Sycamore Control - \$16,000
2. Oakdale Stream Harris Planting - \$11,480

Henderson/de Spa

Confirmed

10 Ashburton Consent Reviews

Bianca Sullivan provided a verbal update (2.18pm to 2.30pm)

The Ashburton Consent Reviews are still progressing. 10 consent reviews were granted late last year and the remaining 72 are on hold until September 2020. Current consent holders have been advised to make contact with E-Can should they need extended time frames to provide the information required due to the current Covid-19 restrictions.

Dave Ashby, a farm consultant, has been engaged to assist with determining the effects of the plan minimum flows on the viability of consents. He will also provide guidance to consent holders on the types of information they are required to provide to E-Can and will review the information once submitted.

The committee also enquired as to whether there was any mental health support for consent holders who may be under pressure. Ecan are to follow up on this query.

11 Carters Creek Water Quality and Stream Walk Report

Adrian Meredith and Lachie Ashton (1.26pm to 2.16pm)

Carters Creek has been identified as a potential candidate for community input towards stream rehabilitation. Water quality issues have been identified as:

- faecal contamination (livestock, avian and human)
- direct stock access
- bank erosion
- sedimentation
- low aquatic habitat diversity

Investigations are continuing as to the potential source(s).

The results of three sampling occasions, from the Grove Farm Road and Boundary Road sites were included in the report. A request was made for a copy of the results for the past six month period, including the Lake Hood results to be provided to the Committee members.

Willy Leferink addressed the meeting

In 2008, Carters Creek was one of the three most polluted waterways in Canterbury, the other two being the Heathcoat and Avon rivers. He expressed his concerns regarding inadequate fencing which allows stock access to the creek. The Canterbury Water Management Strategy specifically addresses fencing which does not seem to be being enforced. It was explained that in a number of these cases these are smaller farms which do not have access to any other water.

Actions

The Zone Committee agreed to an action plan for the creek to be firmed up by Ecan that included:

- Working with landowners on stock access issues
- Continuing to identifying contamination sources
- Continuing to liaise with ADC to address concerns around the possibility of infrastructure leading and contaminating
- Working with community groups/individuals/landowners in enhancement projects, including battering the banks, fencing creek margins, controlling weeds, establish and maintain new native and indigenous plantings and to confirm biodiversity objectives
- Identifying and seeking funding sources to enable work to be undertaken and to support community engagement
- Timelines for each of the actions to be established

12 Other Business

ECan Youth Ropu Programme

There are two tertiary students participating in the Youth Ropu programme. An invitation is to be extended to the students to attend a Zone Committee meeting to provide an update on the programme.

Zone Committee Terms of Reference

Regional Council is currently undertaking a review of the terms of reference for Zone Committees with a view to focus on the implementation of plans rather than the development of plans to work towards community engagement and monitoring progress.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held in the Ashburton District Council Chamber at 1:00pm on Tuesday 23 June 2020.

There will be an option to join the meeting via Zoom for anybody not comfortable to appear in person.

The meeting closed at 2.38pm with a Karakia by Karl Russell.

Dated this 23th day of June 2020 _____ (Chair)

C/o 7 Somerset Grove
Ashburton, 7700
email: smith.ashburton@gmail.com

Ashburton Community Conservation Trust (Inc)

May 29, 2020

The Chairman
Bill Thomas
Ashburton Zone Committee Biodiversity Committee
Ashburton District Council.

Dear Bill,

Funding

The Trustees wish to thank the Zone Committee for the Immediate Steps grant to be used for management at the Harris Scientific Reserve over the next 5 years.

This financial support gives us confidence and the ability to meet the cost of the annual management carried out by our caretaker over the foreseeable future and eliminates the need to apply for annual funding.

In providing the funding, the Trustees appreciate the Zone Committee acknowledging the significance of the projects intention to restore an example of Mid Canterbury's natural biodiversity.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Smith
Secretary

ACCT is a registered charity in terms of the Charities Act 2005. Registered No. CC37859

Secretary:

Tele. 0211 106 148 (M) 308 4440 (H)

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 23 June 2020
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Peter Lowe and Dr Brett Painter
Subject Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Updates

8 Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Updates

Purpose

To update the Committee on Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) projects year four achievements (concluded 31 May) and the project's plans for the next two years.

- Regional Committee Representative

Recommendation

The Zone Committee receive the update and provides feedback.

Update

A copy of the presentation will be circulated prior to the Zone Committee meeting.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 23 June 2020
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Donna Lill
Subject Immediate Steps Projects

9 Immediate Steps Projects

Purpose

To provide the committee with a summary for the projects that have been supported with the Immediate Steps for Biodiversity funding in the 2019-20 financial year.

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee receives this written update. Donna Lill will be at the Zone Committee meeting if there are any questions.

Background

That the Zone Committee receives this written update. Donna Lill will be at the Zone Committee meeting if there are any questions.

The Immediate Steps is a programme to protect and restore freshwater biodiversity and water-use affected biodiversity in Canterbury. Each year the Ashburton Zone has approximately \$100,000 to grant to biodiversity projects. The Ashburton Zone has chosen two priority areas in which to focus their Immediate Steps funding:

1. Foothills and lowland forest streams and all wetlands along the inland margin of the plains.
2. Coastal wetlands, dongas, hapua and streams from Wakanui Creek to Rangitata River mouth, but not the Rangitata River mouth.

Summary of Projects Funded 2019-20

Project Name	Project type	Funding allocated	Notes
Staveley Forest Restoration 3	Weed Control	\$18,200	Year 3 of 3yrs of funding
Upper Rangitata River Predator Control	Trapping	\$13,333	Year 3 of 4yrs of funding Funding contribution also made by with Regional & OTOP ZCs
Upper Rakaia Predator control	Trapping	\$13,333	Year 3 of 6yrs of funding Funding contribution also made by Regional Committee
Eiffelton Biodiversity Water Supplementation	Water Supplementation	\$10,000	Year 3 of 3yrs of funding
Green Skies Dairies	Planting	\$9,894	

Sommerville	Planting	\$2,817	
Staveley Stream - Morrows - Stage 2	Planting	\$4,819	
Forest and Bird Kanuka Reserve	Reserve upkeep	\$4,000	Year 1 of 5yrs of funding
Alford River Terrace Sycamore Control	Weed Control	\$8,000	Year 1 of 2yrs of funding
Oakdale Stream	Planting	\$11,480	
Flynns Road Wetland Planting	Planting	\$3,600	
The Glen Wetland Planting	Planting	\$4,992	
	TOTAL FUNDING	\$104,500	

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 23 June 2020
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Lachie Ashton – Land Management Advisor
Subject Carters Creek Community Project – Follow Up Report

10 Carters Creek Community Project – Follow Up Report

Purpose

An overview of the Carters Creek project was given at the 26 May Zone Committee meeting. This report answers questions raised and provides an update on progress.

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee receive this written update. Lachie Ashton will be at the Zone Committee meeting if there are any questions.

Update

Stock Exclusion

The Committee asked whether landowners are required to fence the creek to stop stock access. Carters Creek is classified as a “Spring Fed Plains River”. Under the Land Water Regional Plan Stock Exclusion rule 5.71.4 applies.

The use and disturbance of the bed (including the banks) of a lake or river by any farmed cattle, farmed deer or farmed pigs and any associated discharge to water is a prohibited activity in the following areas:

- In the bed (including the banks) of a spring-fed plains river, as shown on Environment Canterbury’s Planning Maps

There are no rules around fencing, but clearly to keep stock out of the creek there has to be some sort of fencing or electronic barrier. Therefore, a landowner could use temporary electric fencing, providing it was keeping the stock out of the creek and off the banks.

Project Planning

We are moving ahead in making Carters Creek a community project led by Willy Leferink and Angela Cushnie who are currently seeking approval from the Hinds Plains Lions and the Kanuka Trust to support the project with the assistance of Environment Canterbury staff and Ashburton District Council’s backing

Willy has approached local businesses for support and feedback is positive for the project. We are not asking for funds at this stage while the community recovers from Covid-19.

Willy and Angela will put together a funding application made available by Central Government to assist in the recovery from Covid-19 through the creation of jobs. This has a very short time frame to get applications in and grants will be made via the Provincial Growth Fund.

Criteria for the funding includes the following but is not a complete list:

1. Funding is for fencing of waterways, riparian planting and other works necessary for the fencing to work, such as causeways, culverts and stock water reticulation – not slip or erosion management.
2. Must provide work for local people, especially those displaced by COVID-19 – not volunteers and must be able to pay the living wage.
3. Must be ready to start immediately, or at least part of the project (within 2 weeks of receiving funding).

Co-funding – around 20% as a minimum for private sector and possibly up to 100% grant funding in some cases (iwi / NGO organisations).

We have set a time frame of 5 years to complete the Carters Creek Community Project.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 23 June 2020
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Brad Waldon-Gibbons
Subject Mahinga Kai and Fit for Future sub section goals

11 Mahinga Kai and Fit for Future Sub Section Goals

Purpose

Further inform Zone committee of what mahinga kai encompasses and its relevance to the CWMS Fit for future Targets & goals review that was completed in 2019.

Value Propositions

1. To better assist how zone committees may support the implementation of Mahinga kai 2020-2040 targets in their work programmes.
2. Engaging with Mana whenua to achieve collaborative outcomes.

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee:

1. Take the paper as read
2. Receive a verbal presentation from the tangata whenua facilitator

Background

Water plays a unique role in the traditional economy and culture of Ngāi Tahu. The most direct physical relationship that Ngāi Tahu have with water involves the protection, harvesting, and management of mahinga kai. The term 'mahinga kai' refers to a holistic approach to natural resources and the area in which they are found, Ki Uta Ki Tai (from the mountains to the sea). Mahinga kai has always been, and continues to be, at the heart of Ngāi Tahu culture and identity. It encompasses social and educational elements as well as the process of food. This includes the way resources are gathered, the places they are gathered from, and the resources themselves.

In the past, mahinga kai would have included seals, tītī (mutton birds), kererū, kaimoana (shellfish), tuna (eels) inaka (whitebait), trees for carving and waka, materials such as harakeke, and paru (mud), which are used for dyes. These resources are considered taonga (particular treasures for food and cultural identity) because they sustained life and an industry for the area and those who resided there. Thus, cultural use (traditionally and today) continues within a sustainable use framework. For Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga today, participation in mahinga kai customs is an important expression of cultural identity. This participation is reliant on Ngāi Tahu people having sufficient access to mahinga kai sites, resources and a healthy environment.

Attachments

Attachment 1: FFF targets & goals 2020-2040 (Kaitiakitanga section)

	2020	2025	2030	2040
Wāhi Taonga & Mahinga Kai	A mahinga kai food gathering standard is confirmed and implemented as a water quality monitoring tool	Identified customary uses are mapped for all catchments in Canterbury	Mahinga kai is available that is of a high quality	
	Increase the abundance of, access to and use of mahinga kai	5 sites in each papatipu rūnanga area (including freshwater mātaimai and Fenton reserves) are being restored or protected in recognition of them as wāhi taonga and/or to support and be accessible to papatipu rūnanga for mahinga kai and resource gathering purposes	10 sites in each papatipu rūnanga area (including freshwater mātaimai and Fenton reserves) are being restored or protected in recognition of them as wāhi taonga and/or to support and be accessible to papatipu rūnanga for mahinga kai and resource gathering.	Protection in accordance with Ngai Tahu values and practices, of wāhi taonga and mahinga kai waterways.
		At risk freshwater taonga species (e.g. kekewai, kakahi, long finned and short finned tuna) are identified and protection zones are identified and put in place.	At risk species are increasing in abundance and the number of at-risk species is declining.	
		Environmental flows provided for through regional planning processes afford protection to instream values identified in Ngai Tahu policies.	An increase in the number of papatipu rūnanga whanau who are learning and carrying forward intergenerational cultural knowledge and practice.	
		No further loss of intergenerational cultural knowledge and practice		

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 23 June 2020
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Dave Moore
Subject Facilitators Update

12 Facilitators Update

Purpose

To update the Committee actions from previous meeting, relevant information and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee receive the update.

Update

1. Zone Committee Review

Attached for your information are:

1. CWMS Zone Committee Review Update
2. Zone Committee Survey Analysis Report

The next stage in the process is Regional Council and Ashburton District Councillors working together with Rūnanga Representatives, ZC Chair/Deputy, Facilitator and senior staff from each Council to:

- Discuss, enhance and agree on the proposed changes including the TOR and proposed action plans and selection process changes
- establish priorities for the letter of Shared Priorities for individual zones

This work is anticipated to be advanced in July, with careful consideration of TA's and Zone Committees capacity to focus on this while also addressing the range of contingencies they are currently facing as a result of Covid-19 and/or the Government's Freshwater package.

Once confirmed, Environment Canterbury and TA Councils will formally endorse the revised TOR and confirm their Letters of Shared Priorities. The aim to have this in place by the end of July, subject to the Covid-19 contingencies Councils are facing.

2. Freshwater Package Announcement

The Government announced the Action for Healthy Waterways – Ngā mahi mō te whakaora wai – policy reform package on 28 May. Notes on the package are in the attached document, including initial comments from Environment Canterbury staff.

Please note that many of the implications for Canterbury will be clearer once the actual draft instruments are made available so this advice to Zone Committees is a summary of recent accountments, not an evaluation of implications for Canterbury. A deeper analysis will be provided once the package has been fully analysed.

CWMS Zone Committee Review – JUNE 2020 UPDATE

Background

As part of the recent Fit for Future project (that added 2025 and 2030 targets to the CWMS), the Mayoral Forum have asked Environment Canterbury to lead some advice on how to help zone committees focus on implementation of the CWMS.

This advice:

- Takes into account the ten years of evolution of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) and all the work by zone committees, now completed, to develop implementation programmes (ZIPs and ZIPAs) tailored to each unique zone and community.
- Sits alongside several other reviews of differing types in Hurunui Waiau, Selwyn Waihora and the development of the Regional Work Programme on behalf of the Mayoral Forum. The latter outlines what initiatives are recommended to deliver on the 2025 CWMS targets.

Where are we at:

Over the last few months, Environment Canterbury staff have developed a series of suggestions for improvements and changes to the role and function of zone committees. These have been discussed with Environment Canterbury's Councillors, and are now ready for discussion and further work with Territorial Authorities, Rūnanga Reps, and Zone Committee representatives.

The draft advice was based on councillor advice, the reviews, in-person conversations with CWMS rūnanga reps and two zone committees, and the results of the on-line survey sent to all committee members in May.

In a nutshell the draft advice includes:

- Some suggested changes to the Terms of Reference (including zone committee role) and selection process
- A Letter of Shared Priorities sent to the zone committee every 3 years by the Territorial Authority and Environment Canterbury. The Letter of Shared Priorities will outline the Regional and individual Territorial priorities for each Zone Committee
- A requirement for Zone Committees to develop their own three-yearly Action Plan that will be owned, monitored and reported on by the committee.

What's next

Regional and TA Councillors will work together with Rūnanga reps, ZC Chair/Deputy, Facilitators and senior staff from each Council to:

- Discuss, enhance and agree on the proposed changes including the TOR and proposed action plans and selection process changes
- establish priorities for the letter of Shared Priorities for individual zones

This work is anticipated to be advanced in July, with careful consideration of TA's and Zone Committees capacity to focus on this while also addressing the range of contingencies they are currently facing as a result of Covid-19 and/or the Government's Freshwater package.

Once confirmed, Environment Canterbury and TA Councils will formally endorse the revised TOR and confirm their Letters of Shared Priorities. The aim to have this in place by the end of July, subject to the Covid-19 contingencies Councils are facing.

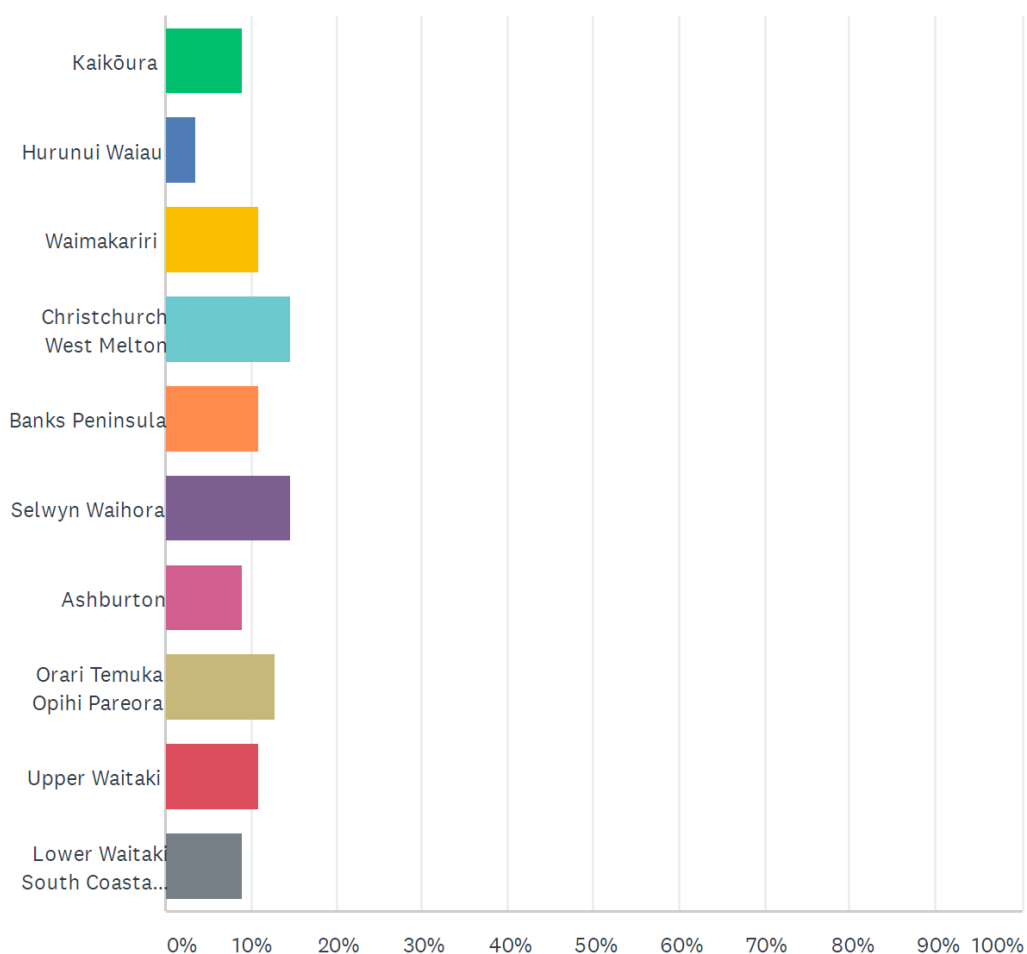
A further update on how this review is progressing will be provided in July.

Zone Committee Survey Analysis Report

Feedback from zone committees was sought through a web-based survey and responses have been summarised below. 55 zone committee members answered the on-line survey, 47% of those requested. Several committee members have articulated a desire for further input to the review process. Chairs/Deputy Chairs of zone committees are invited to discuss this feedback with their committees and to contribute to the zone level engagement to confirm the terms of reference and council priorities for zone committee focus.

Question 1 Please indicate the zone committee(s) you are currently on:

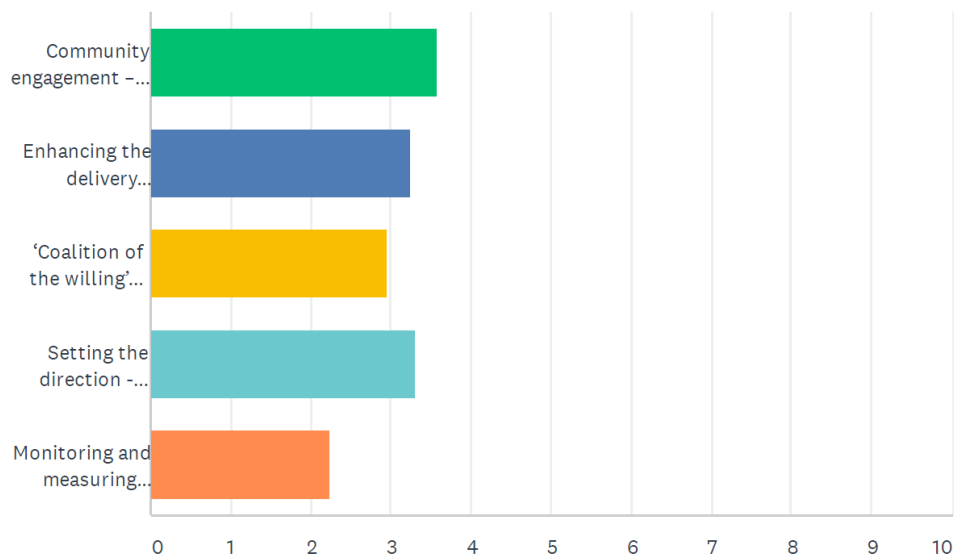
- 55 respondents (47%) of those requested from across all zones



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Kaikōura	9.09%	5
Hurunui Waiau	3.64%	2
Waimakariri	10.91%	6
Christchurch West Melton	14.55%	8
Banks Peninsula	10.91%	6
Selwyn Waihora	14.55%	8
Ashburton	9.09%	5
Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora	12.73%	7
Upper Waitaki	10.91%	6
Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury	9.09%	5
Total Respondents: 55		

Question 2 Please rank these from 1-5, with 1 being the role you think most important for zone committees in the future and 5 being the role you think least important.

- 55 responded and ranked possible future roles for zone committees. Results showed strong support for (from highest ranked to lowest) community engagement, enhancing the delivery approach, setting the direction, and coalition of the willing. Monitoring and measuring progress was ranked last overall.



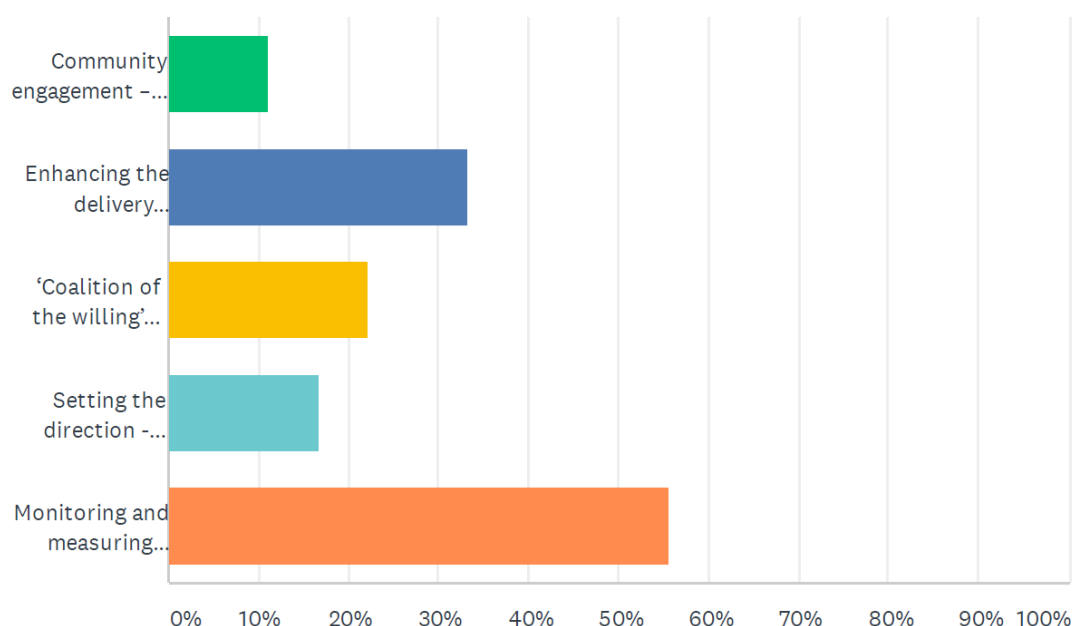
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Community engagement – continuing an active programme of engaging with communities on freshwater management matters and facilitating the provision of advice through to and from councils and others engaged in freshwater management	30.77% 16	25.00% 13	23.08% 12	13.46% 7	7.69% 4	52	3.58
Enhancing the delivery approach - CWMS Implementation – making the boat go faster – the role of committees in working with stakeholders to extend the resources available, bring in other parties, leveraging and additional investment	26.92% 14	21.15% 11	19.23% 10	15.38% 8	17.31% 9	52	3.25
'Coalition of the willing' - the zone committee role in supporting and encouraging those who are doing good work, for example – bringing people together and making connections e.g. supporting catchment-based initiatives in the future	13.73% 7	27.45% 14	13.73% 7	29.41% 15	15.69% 8	51	2.94
Setting the direction - consideration of the zone committee role in priority setting at the zone level and associated zone committee role	30.77% 16	17.31% 9	23.08% 12	9.62% 5	19.23% 10	52	3.31
Monitoring and measuring progress monitoring and reporting annually on progress towards delivery of the zone-specific priorities and CWMS target areas identified in each zone	3.70% 2	14.81% 8	18.52% 10	27.78% 15	35.19% 19	54	2.24

Question 3 Please comment with any other function you feel should be included as a future role for zone committees and explain your reasoning.

- 32 of 55 responded. Other suggested roles for committees included engagement with and understanding of rūnanga perspectives and giving life to the treaty of Waitangi (5 respondents), education of the community and raising profile of issues, input into operational budget decision making, physical labour for projects, leadership development, spending Immediate Steps money and holding Environment Canterbury to account to enforce and police current consents/activities. Numerous respondents articulated why community and agency engagement and generating consensus is important.

Question 4 Please review the list of possible future aspects of zone committees role below again and select any you think should NOT be included as a zone committee function.

- Only 18 people indicated possible future roles for zone committees that should **not** be included. Monitoring and measuring progress got the most votes for a role that should not be for the committees (10 votes, with the most common reason being that this is a council function). Enhancing the delivery approach ranked second (6 votes). A small number voted for committees not having the role of coalition of the willing, community engagement and setting the direction.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Community engagement – continuing an active programme of engaging with communities on freshwater management matters and facilitating the provision of advice through to and from councils and others engaged in freshwater management	11.11%	2
Enhancing the delivery approach - CWMS Implementation – making the boat go faster – the role of committees in working with stakeholders to extend the resources available, bring in other parties, leveraging and additional investment	33.33%	6
'Coalition of the willing' - the zone committee role in supporting and encouraging those who are doing good work, for example – bringing people together and making connections e.g. supporting catchment-based initiatives in the future	22.22%	4
Setting the direction - consideration of the zone committee role in priority setting at the zone level and associated zone committee role	16.67%	3
Monitoring and measuring progress monitoring and reporting annually on progress towards delivery of the zone-specific priorities and CWMS target areas identified in each zone	55.56%	10
Total Respondents: 18		

Question 5 For any of the roles selected as NOT a future zone committee function above, please explain your reasoning.

- 23 answered this question. There was tension between members looking for clear direction from councils within which to work – “without such direction ZCs are rudderless” to members seeing their role as facilitating and setting the direction within their zone. A general feeling was expressed that monitoring/reporting on progress is a joint council responsibility and Zone Committees can only be expected to monitor and report on what it has control over with Zone Committees not being responsible for all actions within the zone. There is a call for greater emphasis of mana whenua values and mahinga kai.

Question 6 Please comment on any aspects of your role as a zone committee member you find challenging or difficult to deliver.

- 46 responded with overall consensus that it is slow progress making things happen and difficult to see real outcomes, The complexity, ambiguity, uncertainty is

challenging and there is a desire to know whether a difference is being made. Zone Committee dynamics and logistics also bring challenges specifically related to clarity of role, conflict of interest and the meeting purpose and structure. Additional aspects considered difficult include a lack of power to enact changes, social engagement, and focusing on implementation rather than “endlessly reprioritising”. There is some call for feedback to know that ECan has been listening.

Question 7 Please comment on any aspects of your role as a zone committee member you feel requires more support.

- 42 responded with a range of ideas from how to work better as a group such as role clarity, timely information and spreadsheets to see issues we’re dealing with across the year. Other suggestions included upskilling on how to influence others, more support for regular revisit of the CWMS purpose and focus, and staff support for monitoring. A need for more support with technical information and coming up to speed at the start was also expressed including understanding and actioning mana whenua values and mahinga kai.

Question 8 If your zone committee role was to change, please comment on how councils (both Environment Canterbury and District Councils) could best support committees to understand and fulfil their new role.

- 49 responded that clarity is needed on what changes and why with clear expectations and goals. A desire for more communication, for example WaterShed, training and induction would be useful with deeper grounding on Maori perspectives. A call for greater trust from councils was also made.

Question 9 In considering the current processes used for setting zone committee priorities please comment on aspects you wish to retain and why?

- 48 responded with views describing the real struggle and complexity of setting priorities within a committee of different interests to try and take into account communities views within a context of uncertain and/or complex science. The ZIPAs, ZIPs and CWMS targets are recognised as reference points but committee respondents are looking for “bigger strategic picture” to assess priorities against, and a reference to concentrate on achievable priorities and projects such as IMS. Some respondents suggested a continued focus on consensus and support for action plans.

Question 10 In considering the processes used for setting zone committee priorities please comment on any improvements that could be made, and how these improvements would better support committees in the implementation of the CWMS.

- 45 responded to the Zone committee prioritisation process and improvements to better support them for CWMS implementation. Overall there is strong support for Zone Committees setting clear and concise priorities. Suggested improvements include closing gaps in knowledge of CWMS and strategies to help with alignment and a call for more direction, education and context setting and improving processes for interaction with rūnanga members and training for committees in meeting procedures and effective chairing strategies.

Question 11 Zone Committee Action Plans have been suggested to provide for a detailed forward work programme to prioritise CWMS and zone-specific target areas for each zone. Please comment on the potential use of Zone Committee Action Plans to support committees in the setting and progressing of priorities.

- 47 responded to the Zone Committee Action Plans providing a forward work programme and their potential use to support committees in priority setting and progression. A very high proportion strongly support targeted SMART Zone Committee Action Plans to improve purpose and direction towards implementation. Some voiced caveats to ensure they are valid, well-managed and aligned to direction including ZIPAs and Environment Canterbury and Territorial Authority outcomes. A small percentage voiced concerns that time wouldn't be allowed to set Action Plans and they may be an unnecessary process particularly with ZIPAs in place.

Question 12 In considering support for zone committee rūnanga representatives please comment on any improvements that could be made and how these improvements would better support committees in the implementation of the CWMS.

- 44 responded with rūnanga representative related improvements. There was overall support of the value Zone committees gain from their insights and an overall desire for more involvement to increase Committees knowledge and consideration of cultural values. Several responses include a call for more youth involvement to bring the next generation through.

Question 13 In considering zone committee membership, recruitment, training and support, please comment on any improvements that could be made and how these improvements would better support.

- 48 respondents completed this section. Many responses sought support for new members to gain an understanding of the CWMS, the statutory framework for freshwater, the ZIP and ZIPAs, and the successes and focus of their particular committee. This was generally considered as important background for new members to become conversant with the work of the committees and therefore effective. Many responses also highlighted the need for members to understand what is expected of committees and their work from councils. Formal training and on-going capacity building were widely sought, especially in relation to governance training and the Treaty and its relationship to Ngai Tahu iwi. In respect of recruitment of new members many respondents noted the importance of selecting people who had strong connections to the zone and who were able to work collaboratively and strategically. Some respondents also noted the importance of diversity in the committees and in selecting for differing strengths, backgrounds and relationships. Further comment was made on avoiding members with specific agendas and a call for committees to have specific budgets to administer, similar to Community Boards.

Question 14 In considering zone committee meetings and workshops, including aspects such as timing, frequency, duration, formality and attendance, please comment on any improvements that could be made and how these improvements would better support committees in the implementation of the CWMS.

- 49 respondents completed this section. Much of the feedback related to the importance of public involvement and of maintaining a frequency of meetings and therefore opportunities for this public involvement. Generally, there was little support for a reduction in the number of meetings from those held currently. While many expressed a preference for less formal meetings and more workshops (a format of workshop followed by meeting was preferred by many) there were also responses that sought more formality. A number of respondents stressed the importance of time keeping, manageable agendas and remaining focussed on a clearly articulated purpose. There were a number of responses that picked up on the developing opportunities for online meetings and sought a mixed format, with online discussions and meetings continuing to be enabled where appropriate.

Freshwater Package Announcement 28 May 2020

The Government announced the Action for Healthy Waterways – Ngā mahi mō te whakaora wai – policy reform package last Thursday. The package consisted of a 10-page summary, links to decision documents and FAQs, and an information sheet with high-level overview of the requirements for regional councils. Note: Final versions of NPS-FM and NES were not provided; they are still being worked on.

Key Points

- NPS-FM compliant plans must be notified by 2024.
 - This is an extension of 1 year from the original proposal.
- Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) and Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus (DRP) have not been included as ecosystem health attributes in the NPS-FM.
 - Councils still need to maintain or improve DIN at current levels during this period.
 - Nitrate (the major part of DIN) toxicity national bottom line has been raised (i.e. moved from 6.8 mg/L to 2.4 mg/L).
- 3m setback distance for stock from rivers and streams (>1m wide).
 - The original proposal was for an average of 5m.
- New cap on synthetic fertiliser application for pastoral farms (190kg/ha/yr). Dairy farms required to report application rates annually. Application rates to be reviewed by 2023.
- Final versions of NPS-FM and NES are to be released later this year. Detailed guidance is being developed in consultation with regional council representatives and will be provided as the new regulations are gazetted, expected in mid-2020.

Background

- In 2019, central government released its 'Action for Healthy Waterways' discussion document which forms part of central government's broader 'Essential Freshwater' programme. The discussion document set out proposals to halt further degradation of New Zealand's freshwater resources and to restore them to a health state. It included:
 - proposed changes to the NPS-FM,
 - a new NES for fresh water, and
 - new stock exclusion Regulations.
- Environment Canterbury supported the intent in its submission on the proposals but identified key areas that would be challenging to implement and where further work was requested including new attributes (DIN, DRP, turbidity), timeframes for planning, and clarification on FEP auditing.
- More than 17,500 submissions were received. In the light of COVID-19, the Government has made changes to what was proposed. Detailed guidance is being developed in consultation with regional council representatives and is expected in mid-2020.
- Also, due to COVID -19, Environment Canterbury, as part of the Mayoral Forum, sent a letter to Ministers Parker and O'Connor stressing that while some aspects of the proposals could be progressed relatively easily (NES, stock exclusion regulations), aspects of the proposed NPS-FM could hamper the ability for the agricultural sector to lead the regional and national economic recovery. It was requested that these aspects be reconsidered and/or delayed.

Summary of Announced Package

The following bullets are drawn from the summary document including the information provided for regional councils. Further analysis on the implications for Environment Canterbury's key functions will be provided to council at upcoming meetings. The key parts of the package are:

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

- Te Mana o te Wai is maintained as a fundamental principle of the NPS-FM framework.
- NPS-FM plans are to be notified by 2024. This is an extension of 1 year from the original proposal. Councils must notify plans by 31 December 2024 and make final decisions within two years of notification.
- The nitrate toxicity attribute has been tightened from protection of 80% to 95% of species (2.4mg/L, was 6.8 mg/L).
 - This will require changes to some Canterbury plans
- Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) – A 12-month delay in including DIN as an attribute to allow for further consideration of the national bottom line by the Science and Technical Advisory Group (STAG).
 - Councils still need to maintain or improve DIN at current levels during this period.
- As with DIN, there is no Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus (DRP) national bottom line but requirement to maintain at current levels while further work is undertaken.
- Freshwater hearing panels will be used to oversee freshwater plan development.

Stock Exclusion

- There is no need to move existing fences where they are already in place.
- 3m setback distance for stock from rivers and streams (>1m wide).
 - The original proposal was for an average of 5m.
- Some stock exclusion requirements are to be managed through farm plans rather than through the regulations.

National Environment Standard for Freshwater

- Interim intensification restrictions apply until 2024 or until councils have NPS-FM compliant plans.
 - Consents required for change to dairying, increase in irrigated area, change from forestry to pastoral farms
 - Unclear as to whether this would apply to Canterbury. Draft NES provided an exemption for councils with plans developed under current NPS-FM.
- New cap on synthetic fertiliser application for pastoral farms (190kg/ha/yr). Dairy farms required to report application rates annually. Application rates to be reviewed by 2023.
 - Councils are expected to set up systems to receive and monitor levels of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser use reported by dairy farms (by 2020/21), and assess consent applications for fertiliser use above a new cap of 190 kg N/ha/year.
 - Canterbury rules on Good Management Practice are that only enough fertiliser is used to meet plant growth needs. We have not analysed the new cap, but general feeling is that there would be very few pastoral farms applying more than 190 kg N/ha/yr.

Farm Plans

- Changes to RMA will be introduced such that farm plans will be mandatory and enforceable (pastoral and arable farms >20ha, horticultural >5ha).
 - For Environment Canterbury, based on proposed thresholds, this will capture more farmers than under the LWRP as it is not dependent on irrigation and/or winter grazing but simply property size. This will have implications for compliance. We believe we are still well placed in this area.

Winter Grazing of forage crops

- From 1 May 2021, resource consents are required for intensive winter grazing that does not meet the permitted activity standards related to separation from rivers and contaminant losses.
 - Environment Canterbury currently uses winter grazing as trigger for Farming Land Use Consents. The above provisions would likely require a separate consent however we may be able to link this requirement with the current audited FEP approach to management.

Water measurement and reporting

- All consent holders over 5L/s will be required to have digital flow meters and telemetry systems in place so that real time data on water abstraction are available to Council. These new requirements will be phased in over 6 years with abstractions over 20L/s first to meet the new requirements in 2022.
 - Majority of Canterbury water users already have this in place; new rule will make it easier to change “laggards”

Order of Business

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 23 June 2020

Timetable		
Time	Item	
1:00 pm	Meeting Commences	

1	Welcome, Karakia	
2	Apologies	
3	Extraordinary Business	
4	Register of Interests.....	1
5	Confirmation of Minutes Unconfirmed Minutes	2
6	Correspondence	
6.1	Outward	
	Nil	
6.2	Inward	
	Ashburton Community Conservation Trust.....	5
7	Public Contribution	
8	Managed Aquafer Recharge Project Updates	6
9	Immediate Steps Projects.....	7
10	Carters Creek Community Project – Follow Up Report.....	9
11	Mahinga Kai and Fit for Future Sub Section Goals.....	11
12	Facilitators Update.....	13
	CWMS Zone Committee Review – June 2020 Update	15
	Freshwater Package Announcement – 28 May 2020	23