

ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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

DATE: Tuesday 25 August 2020

TIME: 1:00 pm

VENUE: Council Chamber
137 Havelock Street
Ashburton

MEETING CALLED BY: Hamish Riach, Chief Executive, Ashburton District Council
Stefanie Rixecker, 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 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 Canterbury Water Management Regional Committee
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 Director of Longbeach Estate & Longbeach Dairies
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 28 July 2020, commencing at 1:00 pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Councillor Ian MacKenzie, Councillor Stuart Wilson, Bill Thomas (Chair), Chris Allen, Genevieve de Spa and Cargill Henderson

In attendance

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

Andy Guthrie: Assets Manager and Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner)

8 members of the public in attendance (Crs Lovett and Rawlinson)

1 Welcome

Genevieve de Spa opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

That an apology for absence be received on behalf of Angela Cushnie, Araparta Reuben, Karl Russell, Les Wanhalla and John Waugh

Thomas/Allen

Carried

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

Nil.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 23 June 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

Wilson/de Spa

Carried

6.1 Matters Arising

Nil.

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil.

Outward:

Nil.

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Upper Rangitata Trapping and Outcome Monitoring

9 Upper Rakaia Trapping and Outcome Monitoring

Damien Bromwich presented the Trapping and Outcome Monitoring reports for both the Upper Rangitata and the Upper Rakaia. The reports covered the methodology and results of predator

control/trappings and outcome (wrybill and black-fronted tern) monitoring for the 2019/20 season.

10 Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpū – Charlotte Muir

Charlotte Muir joined the meeting to update the members on the Youth Rōpū. Charlotte is a student at the University of Canterbury and is one of the Mid Canterbury representatives on the Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpu. The aim of the Youth Rōpū is to give youth in the Canterbury region an opportunity to promote environmental issues from their point of view.

One initiative the Youth Rōpū are currently investigating is the possibility of the Zone Committee having a representative of the youth sector as part of their committee. They would like to see the Zone Committee engaging with youth to give them the opportunity to speak about what is important to them such as biodiversity and protection of native birds, water preservation and the Hakatere Beach erosion.

A request was made for the Youth Rōpū group to provide the Zone Committee with suggestions on how to best engage/encourage youth to be part of the Committee.

11 Work Programme Progress Update for Quarters 3 and 4 (Jan-Jun) FY 2019/20

Sarah Heddell

Presented a six monthly report as due to Covid the Zone Committee's June meeting was cancelled.

Community Trends are currently behind schedule. ADC are in the process of recruiting an agricultural portfolio advisor.

12 Ashburton River Mouth Strategy – Implementation Update/Ashburton Update

Donna Field/Bert Hofmans

Ashburton Beach/Hakatere River Project

- Biodiversity – Birds, Braided River and shorebird habitat is significant
- 72 species of birds found there including the largest shag colony in NZ
- Bird habitat is what is being protected
- Spring which hosts 11 species of fish
- Management strategy has been developed
 - River mouth is not a lone entity
 - Trapping regimes and temporary fencing of colonies
 - Manage vehicle access and use of the area, signs, fencing education
 - Enhance values through planting and weed control
 - Spring system
 - Monitoring of bird populations
 - Enhance for walkers

Ashton Beach Enhancement Project

- A Health and Safety risk has been identified on an unfenced portion of lower Beach Road where motorcyclists and 4WD enthusiasts have been riding on the donga which provides a risk to Council
- Council supports further work and consultation to enable the establishment of an alternative area for recreational motorbike riding and 4WD driving on Council owned land within the Ashton Beach area

- Tussock and a lizard habitat have been discovered both of which need protection from vehicles
- An Ashton Beach project stakeholders group is to be established including all interested parties – Crs Braam and Lovett have been appointed as the Council representatives
- Next steps
 - Fencing of area
 - Further consultation
 - Council decision
 - Wildlife permit
 - Resource consent
 - Funding application

13 Zone Committee Review Update – Terms of Reference and Letter of Shared Priorities

The Mayoral Forum have requested Environment Canterbury to lead advice on how to assist Zone Committees transition from a focus on planning to one of implementation.

A workshop was held earlier in the day to provide an update on the process and proposed changes to the Terms of Reference and establishment of a Letter of Shared Priorities and to receive feedback from Zone Committees, Territorial Authorities and Rūnanga.

14 Facilitators Update

Dave Moore worked through his report

- Regenerative Agriculture

This is a very diverse topic with very strong opinions on both sides of the debate and the zone Committee wishes to remain neutral. It was advised that there are two farm in the district that are currently undertaking regenerative agriculture.

- Ashburton Consent Reviews

An update on consent reviews progress was tabled. An invitation is to be extended to Bianca Sullivan to attend the August meeting to provide a further update.

- Wakanui Beach Restoration Project Group

Representatives have requested to give a short presentation on the latest progress at Wakanui Beach to the Zone Committee at the September 2020 meeting.

15 Consent Data

It was advised that E-can have engaged a subcontractor to assist with clearing the backlog of consents.

16 Other Business

- Economic Data

There are a lot of discussions around the need for balancing environment and economics. There is a lot of information/reports available on environment but not as much around economics.

It was advised that Council receives quarterly reports from Infometrics which provides economic data for the Ashburton district. A copy of the March report is to be forward to Committee members. An updated report is expected in August.

It was also noted that there is a farming statistics report produced by the accounting sector which provided farm expenditure details such as spend on fertilizer, power, supplies, etc.

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 25 August 2020.

The meeting closed at 2.49pm with a Karakia by Genevieve de Spa.

Dated this 25th day of August 2020 _____ (Chair)

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 25 August 2020
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Henry Winchester, Gillian Ensor and Bianca Sullivan
Subject Hakatere Ashburton River Consents Reviews Update

11 Hakatere Ashburton River Consents Review Update

Purpose

To update the Committee on Hakatere/Ashburton river consents review process

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee receives the update.

Report

The consent reviews are progressing well with regular correspondence between project staff and the consent holders for many of the consents that are being reviewed. There was good attendance by consent holders at two recent drop-in sessions and project staff found the discussions with consent holders very helpful for understanding the impact of the reviews on their consented activities. We have also been assisting the consent holders through group and individual meetings, site visits, regular emails, and phone conversations.

The key matters of concern for consent holders are:

- The costs of managing the reduction in water availability resulting from the proposed new minimum flows. In some instances, significant water delivery and irrigation infrastructure upgrades will be required, as well as changes to farming and land use practices.
- Whether the reduction in water availability will result in the consented activity no longer being viable.
- Whether alternative sources of water are available, such as deep groundwater or scheme water, and the associated resource consent requirements, and costs and time to access that water.
- For groundwater consents, the information required, cost and time to prepare information to demonstrate that a bore is not hydraulically connected to a surface waterway and should therefore not be subject to a minimum flow.
- The narrow range of matters that can be considered through the review process.

Eighteen consent reviews have been granted so far, with the remaining 70 on hold until mid-September 2020. Consent holders are currently considering the impacts of the proposed new minimum flows before formally responding to Environment Canterbury on the reviews in September. Table 1 below provides a summary of the consent reviews and the expected pathway for the 70 consents that remain on hold.

Some consent holders have requested timeframe extensions as we draw closer to September, with six so far being granted extensions until March 2021. We expect that more will request extensions,

with some having experienced delays drilling new bores and others requiring additional time to evaluate options.

While decisions to extend timeframes will be made case-by-case, extensions are only being granted to those consent holders who have been actively working to assess the impact of the proposed new minimum flows on their consent over the last 12 months but need more time to complete this work, or who can demonstrate they have a clear plan to assess the impact of the proposed new minimum flow during the additional time requested.

The project team are aware that the consent reviews, in combination with other factors including COVID-19 and *Microplasma bovis*, may be affecting some consent holders' wellbeing. We are monitoring this situation and have processes in place to identify and obtain assistance for these consent holders. These matters are also being considered in the decision to approve extensions to timeframes.

The next steps involve continuing to provide technical and procedural advice to consent holders while the consents are on hold (until September 2020 and later if extensions are granted) and progressing consent reviews to a decision.

Table 1: Summary of the consent reviews

Likely way forward	Number of consents	Comment
Few issues, easy path to decision	28	These consent holders are either only mildly affected by the review or are accepting or managing the reduction in water availability. Some already have LWRP minimum flows and the review is largely administrative changes to conditions. Others are 'swapping' to deep groundwater.
Consent holder actively working on providing information to ECan	29	These consent holders are more significantly affected, and most are investigating alternative options to address the reduction in water availability (e.g. storage, irrigation scheme shares or deep groundwater). Many of these may remain on hold post-September and some may propose alternative minimum flow conditions.
Way forward unclear	10	Despite our efforts, these consent holders have chosen not to engage with us regarding their consent review.
Likely to be withdrawn	3	Various reasons, including possible lack of connection to surface water. More may end up in this category.
TOTAL	70	
Consents Currently Decided	18	

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 25 August 2020
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Dave Moore
Subject Facilitators Update

12 Facilitators Update

Purpose

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

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee receives the update.

Zone Committee Review

A productive workshop on the Zone Committee Review Terms of Reference (TOR) and Letters of Shared Priority was held on 28 July 2020.

Suggested amendments to the TOR have been reported back to the project team for consideration alongside feedback from other Zone Committees. All feedback on the Terms of Reference will be completed by the end of August.

There was good discussion regarding the Letter of Shared Priorities, however, Ashburton District Council have not had the opportunity to discuss this and formulate their views yet.

Once we have the Letters of Shared priorities the next step is for the Zone Committee to prepare its Action Plan for the next 2-3 years. This would be best done as a workshop and may take more than one session to complete.

22nd September Zone Committee Field Trip Options

A field trip has been scheduled for 22 September and there are two options which I would like to discuss with the committee.

1. Wakanui/Whakanui Beach

On 29 June, the Wakanui Beach Restoration Project group members Val Clemens and Selwyn Price asked to give a short presentation on the latest progress at Wakanui Beach to the Ashburton Zone Committee in September.

Their intention is to update zone committee members on the flora and fauna found there, in the context of human habitation, and the current state of the lagoon fed by Wakanui Creek.

Given that ADC has a current biodiversity project at Ashton Beach and ECan has a project at the Hakatere River mouth, they thought that this would give some useful insight to existing biodiversity

sites on our coastline. The lagoon has also been a matter of interest for the zone committee because of its past and potential future use as a mahinga kai site.

The committee visited Wakanui Beach around three years ago but has at least one new member since then. Rather than receiving a presentation in during a meeting it may be beneficial for the committee to visit the area again and hear from the Wakanui Beach Restoration Project group there.

An alternative to this field trip could be to hold a hui to discuss whether it is possible to increase the reliability of water to the hāpua and if so how that might be achieved.

2. Wetland Visits

Mid Canterbury NZ Landcare Trust wetlands

NZLT are working with Ecan and others as part of a Sustainable Farming Fund project 'Managing Wetlands as Farm Assets' with Ian Mackenzie is chairman of the Steering Group.

Late last month they gained approval for two sites in Mid Canterbury:

- **Angus McKenzie** - Lowcliffe coastal *hāpua*/lagoon/wetland which is fed by Boundary Drain. It has various aspects of significance, including historical cultural significance as it was originally the mouth of the Hinds River.
- **Ian Thornton** – QEII braided river wetland on the northern banks of the Rangitata River beside State Highway One.

Alice Shanks, from QEII Trust has also been keen to show the committee some wetlands. Alice is not available in September but has recommended we visit:

- **Thornton wetland**
- **Harris Wetland** at Coldstream

Both of these projects have received funding grants via the Zone Committee.

Therefore, potentially we could visit three wetland sites within reasonable proximity to each other. We will of course need to confirm with the landowners as soon as possible.

Action List

Date of meeting	Action	Who	Status
28 July	Following presentation from Youth Rōpū Representative, the ZC agreed to it would be good to have a youth representative on the committee	Dave	Requested information on the process from the Youth Engagement section of ECan. Ideas for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially having observer status so not too much pressure while gaining confidence. • 2 youth members to provide support and backup • Current ZC member(s) act as mentors • How can we make the meeting less intimidating? Wait for the final Terms of Reference
	MHV Water - Melanie Brooks (CEO) and Justin Legg (Senior Hydrogeologist) - would like to present to the Zone Committee about their ground/surface water programme in the Hekeao Hinds area on 25 August.	Dave	Complete
28 July	Committee would like to gain a better understanding of the economics of the Zone. Suggested sources of information included: ADC receives Infometrics' "State of the Nation" report. The last was in March, next report due in July. ADC's Long Term Plan (current and future) would have some economic information. Brophy Knight provide advice on farm cost breakdowns.	Dave	Emailed to ZC 12 Aug. 20 Requested from Carol Discussed with Brophy Knight. They do have benchmarks but only for arable farming. Exploring the option of someone from Brophy Knight presenting an overview of farming economics to the committee.

			Facilitator met with ADC's Economic Development Advisor and Farming Portfolio Manager – look to coming to a ZC meeting later in the year. Gen de spa emailed to the Zone Committee Lincoln University's report yesterday from the Agribusiness & Economics Research Unit.
23 June	Regenerative Agriculture. Request for a sub committee to produce a balanced report to the Zone Committee for consideration. With organisations such as Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research and Quorum Sense undertaking research in this area the committee might consider if it would be better to invite such organisations to present to the community. Note, the Quorum Sense farming network has been awarded \$1.8m for three years of extension funding from MPI's Productive & Sustainable Land Use - Extension Services fund. This funding will help Quorum Sense increase the reach and impact of the network. There is provision within the funding agreement for Quorum Sense to work with MPI on science programme that could sit alongside the extension project	Bill Thomas, Chris Allen, Dave Moore, Janine Holland	On 14 July ZC members attended Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research and Quorum Sense webinar outlining current research and pilot studies.
23 June	Invitation for Rosemary Clucas, Pou Matai Ko, ECan, to attend next meeting.	Dave	Rosemary not available on 28 July. Rescheduling for 25 August.
	Update of Ashburton Consent Review	ECan	Schedule for August meeting
25 Feb 2020	Keep ZC updated on Cracroft Stock Water Intake effect on MAR water take.	Andrew Guthrie	Ongoing

25 Feb 2020	Bill would like a summary of Draft NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity. Could be an information paper or a planner to discuss where ECan sits on this. 7 Aug. Focus on short term – 2 components NPS next six to twelve months NES next 5 years	Dave	Dave to discuss internally at Environment Canterbury Advice likely late September
25 Feb 2020	The ZC do not wish to wait for the refresh later in the year. Would like to either have another community member or co-opt one until the refresh.	Dave	Zone Committee Review includes changes to refresh process.
25 Feb 2020	Question: does a co-opted member have voting rights and count for quorum?		Co-opted members will not have voting rights
	Wakanui Beach Restoration Project group, Val Clemens and Selwyn Price asked to give a short presentation on the latest progress at Wakanui Beach to the Ashburton Zone Committee in September.	Dave to discuss with Adrian Meredith	22 September looking likely. Emailed Selwyn and Adrian to see if we could make this a field trip. May combine with Alice Shanks (below)
	Alice Shanks QEII – would like to show ZC spring fed wetlands. Send her dates once planned with ZC.	Dave	10 Aug. Emailed Alice to see if we can combine field trips.
	Wakanui stream flows and mahinga kai. Focus on Wakanui Hāpua -biodiversity, Mahinga Kai, reliability of water (interested parties include Forest and Bird, ADC, Rūnanga, ECan, Wakanui community, land owners, Wakanui School). ➤ John Waugh - Val Clemence. Information about the bird life at the Wakanui hapua. Val would be happy to do a presentation. While it's a very small stream and	Dave discuss with Adrian and Kimberly where this sits in terms of work priorities	

	<p>catchment ecologically significant with some rare birds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ ECan and Runanga were looking at it as a Mahinga Kai site. Donna Field, in conjunction with ADC and Karl and Arapata. Huge archaeological history. White bait and overall bird habitat. The one thing really lacking is the permanent flow. Ensure Les Wanhalla is consulted too.➤ F&B weed removal and put in a track, car parking.➤ ADC have done a lot of work – draft development plans for the creek. Check with Andrew Guthrie and Burt.		
--	--	--	--

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 25 August 2020

Timetable	
Time	Item
1:00 pm	Meeting Commences

Order of Business

- 1 Welcome, Karakia
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Extraordinary Business
- 4 Register of Interest 1
- 5 Confirmation of Minutes 2
- 6 Correspondence
 - Outward – Nil
 - Inward – Nil
- 7 Public Contribution
- 8 MHV Water Ground/Surface Water Programme In Hekeoa Hinds area Verbal
- 9 Ecan Staff Introductions Verbal
- 10 Fish Screen Update Verbal
- 11 Hakatere Ashburton Rivers Consents Review Update 6
- 12 Facilitators Update 8
- 13 Other Business
- 14 Close Meeting and Karakia