

Orari River Protection Group (ORPG).

Point 2: History of the Orari River Catchment Management Strategy. Drew Brown.

- The 2003 proposal by Rangitata South Ltd to dam the Orari River led to the formation of the Orari River Protection Group and a series of community meetings that addressed concerns.
- ECan recognised that communities needed to be part of a discussion on the future of the river and consequently hosted a series of meetings for the community (thirty presentations and six practical onsite workshops) that included a wide range of documented research highlighting hydrology (surface and aquifer), geomorphology, ecology (flora & fauna), economic, recreational and educational use and benefits.
- ECan also co-ordinated a series of workshops to create a draft plan, and in 2005 asked all interested parties to elect a Steering Group to fine tune a management strategy as well as set timelimits and priorities.
- Members of the Steering Group included representatives from Tanga Whenua, ORPG, Rangitata South Ltd, recreationalists, farmers, industry, educationalists and concerned community members. All meetings were open to the public and were organised and co-ordinated by Ecan (Julia Crossman) bimonthly.
- The resulting Mission Statement of the ICMS is: “To sustainably manage the Orari River Catchment, integrating its ecological, social, economic and cultural values”.
- The ICMS has three goals:
 - Goal 1: (Focus: Pests & Weeds). “To sustain and protect and enhance the natural character and ecological values of the Orari River Catchment for present and future generations”.
 - Goal 2: (Focus: Education, recreation and Access). “To provide for safe and appropriate/balanced recreational, educational, cultural and historic opportunities”.
 - Goal 3: (Focus Economic use and development). “Efficient resource use to provide for economic sustainability”.
- For each Goal there were Objectives, each of which in turn had a matrix of “Action”, “Responsibility”, “Priority”, and “Time-line”.
- The Steering Group also created an “Orari River Code of Behaviour” for all users.
- The non-stutory Orari River Integrated Management Strategy (ICMS) was presented to the community in March 2008 and was formally accepted at a very well attended community meeting.
- The Orari-Opihi-Temuka-Pareora River Implementation Addendum was born from the ICMS
- Part B of the 2012 Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP), its vision and recommendations within the compass of its six main considerations, were taken from the ICMS.
- ORPG’s contribution to that final result was considerable.