



ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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

DATE: Tuesday 24 November 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.waldongibbons@ecan.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury



4 Register of Interests

Representative's N	ame 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 Advantage Limited Biosetra
	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 – Tuhono Trust Trustee – Mana Waitaha Charitable Trust Member - National Kiwi Recovery Group Rūnanga Rep – 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 – Settler 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)

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 27 October 2020, commencing at 1:00 pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Councillor Ian MacKenzie, Councillor Stuart Wilson, Chris Allen (Acting Chair), Angela Cushnie, Genevieve de Spa, Arapata Rueben, Karl Russell, Les Wanhalla (2.15pm) and John Waugh

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Dave Moore (Facilitator), Ashburton District Council: Andy Guthrie (Assets Manager), Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner) and Carol McAtamney (minutes)

10 members of the public in attendance

1 Welcome

Araparta Rueben opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

That an apology for absence be received on behalf of Bill Thomas and Cargill Henderson

de Spa/Waugh

Carried

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

Arapata Reuben

- No longer Chair of Christchurch West Melton Zone Committee but remains on Committee
- No longer a Trustee of Tuahiwi Marae Trust

5 Confirmation of Minutes

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

Allen/Wilson

Carried

Regenerative Farming

The topic of regenerative farming and the Zone Committee's role is this area was discussed.

It was advised that there is a lot of work/research currently being undertaken on this issue within the industry – MPI and Beef + Lamb have commissioned reports and it was recommended that the Committee give these time to be established and their results reviewed prior to any further reports being commissioned.

Ngāi Tahu has set aside 300 acres on a farm for regenerative farming and the option of undertaking a site visit is to be investigated.

This topic is to be included on the agenda for the November workshop where the Zone Committee's priorities for the future will be established.

6.1 Matters Arising

Nil

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Carters Creek Enhancement Project.

Outward:

Response to Carters Creek Enhancement Project.

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Wakanui Restoration Project Update

Selwyn Price and Val Clemens (1.23pm – 2.15pm)

Provided an update on the Wakanui Beach Restoration project group's progress at Wakanui Beach including the flora and fauna found at the beach, the current state of the lagoon (fed by Wakanui Creek) and insights into existing biodiversity sites on the coastline.

It was advised that Wakanui Creek is one of the three main priorities outline by the Ashburton District Council. This topic will be included on the agenda for the November workshop.

A suggestion was made that an approach be made to Environment Canterbury to request their Scientists to prepare a report on the hydrology and erosion rates of the area.

Les Wanhalla joined the meeting at 2.15pm

9 Facilitators Update

Dave Moore verbally worked through his report.

Meeting Dates for 2021

The meeting dates for the 2021 year were set for:

- 26 January
- 20 Sandary27 April
- 27 July
- 26 October
- 23 February
- 25 May
- 24 August
- ober 23 November
- 23 March
- 22 June
- 28 September

Zone Committee Refresh Process

It was advised that the refresh process is now scheduled for March/April 2021.

Three community members, Chris Allen, Angela Cushine and Cargill Henderson, are scheduled to complete their term as of 31 December 2021. It was agreed that a formal request will be send to each of the members inviting them to continue on as Committee members until the formal review process is complete.

Committee members John Waugh and Karl Russell announced their intentions to retire at the review process time. It was also noted that there is a vacant position following the departure of Ben Curry as of 25 June 2019.

November Meeting

It was agreed that the November meeting would be scheduled from 1.00pm – 3.00pm with a workshop to follow from 3.00pm – 5.00pm.

10 Ashburton/Hakatere River Consent Review Update

Dave Moore gave an update and fielded questions from the committee

11 Zone Committee Review

Proposed Draft of Letter of Shared Priorities

A request is to be made to the Ashburton District Council to define the expectations/actions they envisage from the Zone Committee on the priorities they have outlined:

- Ashburton Lakes water quality and future preservation
- Carters Creek enhancement project
- Wakanui hapua project

The intentions of these projects to be discussed at the November workshop.

12 Carters Creek Enhancement Project

As noted this project has been identified by the Council as a priority project. It was recommended that the Zone Committee incorporate the long-term issues of flood mitigation and contaminants into its action plan for Carters Creek and the November workshop be used to formulate an action plan.

Meeting adjourned from 3.10pm - 3.17pm

13 Essential Freshwater Package Update

Sarah Heddell - 3.15pm-3.43pm

An update was given on the Government's Essential freshwater package. Objectives:

- Te Mana o Te Wai vital importance of water
- Stop further degradation reverse past damage
- High-risk farming practices carefully managed
- Protect and enhance native fish populations

14 Other Business

Rakaia River Environmental Enhancement Trust

John Waugh, Zone Committee representative on the RREET provided a report from the meeting held 24 September 2020. Four projects were considered and approved for funding:

- Boat Creek project. A spring fed creek approx. 800m long which flows into a lagoon connected to the Rakaia River. The project involves planting and restoration work plus pest control over 3-5 years.
- SDC/E-Can Rakaia Gorge project, Biodiversity Protection and Weed Control. This project uses the Rakaia Gorge weed strategy and was seeking \$200,000 over four years. The Rakia Trust approved \$30,000 per year and asked the proposers to approach LINZ
- Dorie Walking Track/Bike Track. This project is located in the SE corner of the Rakaia Riverbed leading down to the South Rakaia huts. A total of \$70,000 was allocated.
- Fantail Trust Rakaia Gorge project. The project aims to establish a native bird and native plant sanctuary in Rakaia Gorge on the 'true left side along the existing walkway'. The main

activity is trapping predators using 50 to 80 traps along 5km of track and planting natives. \$5,000 was allocated.

As previously advised John has signalled his intention to retire from the Zone Committee at the end of the year and as such a replacement Committee representative on the RREET is required to be appointed.

Genevieve de Spa was appointed the replacement Committee representative on the Rakaia River Environment Enhancement Trust with Les Wanhalla as the alternative representative.

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 24 November 2020, followed by a workshop.

Chris Allen and Genevieve de Spa will be apologies

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with a Karakia by Araparta Reuben

Dated this 24th day of November 2020 _____ (Chair)

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 24 November 20202

Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee

From Donna Lill and Donna Field

Subject Immediate Steps Fund – New projects for decision

8 Immediate Steps Fund – New project for decision

Purpose

To present Immediate Steps projects for consideration.

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee supports funding The Glen Wetland Planting – Stage 2.

That the Zone Committee supports Immediate Steps Funding being reserved for Mt Harding Creek catchment with individual project proposals being assessed and approved via existing Immediate Steps processes.

Projects for Consideration

One project is presented for approval for funding at this meeting, The Glens Wetland Planting – Stage 2. The funding requested is for a contribution of \$19,740 - \$9,870 from 2020-21; \$9,870 from 2021-22. The details are provided on the following pages.

One catchment project is being presented as a request that funding is reserved, Mt Harding Creek Catchment project. The funding requested is for a contribution of \$50,000 - \$30,000 from 2020-21; \$20,000 from 2021-22. This project is currently being developed by Environment Canterbury staff in association with Fonterra 50 Catchments funding. The details are provided below.

The project for consideration is listed in the table below:

Project name	Ecological score	Funds
	(out of 39)*	recommended
The Glens Wetland Planting – Stage 2	13*	\$19,740
Mt Harding Creek	tbc	\$50,000
Total		\$69,740

^{*}Ecological score being peer reviewed at time of writing.

Restoration of Mt Harding Stream (Methven)



Project Summary

- In July 2017 Fonterra announced its goal to help restore 50 catchments throughout New Zealand. Conversations were held with regional councils and other stakeholders to determine these catchments. The South Canterbury agreement signed between Fonterra and Environment Canterbury in 2019 supports long term community environmental aspirations in the south's four zones (Ashburton, OTOP, Lower Waitaki and Upper Waitaki). In Ashburton Zone, three catchments were identified; the Ashburton Hakatere River, Hinds Drains and Mt Harding Stream catchment.
- Mt Harding Stream runs through approx. 20 properties and directly through the Methven township. The stream is visible to the public and has recreation and amenity values. A project to support landowners to undertake riparian planting would enhance biodiversity values, improve instream habitat and help intercept silt and nutrients in overland runoff. The enhancement project would have excellent public visibility and be a great opportunity for rural and urban communities to work collaboratively.
- The Ashburton Zone Committee Immediate Steps Funding has supported a number of individual riparian projects, but no overall management plan has been developed for the stream.
- During December 2020 & January 2021 Environment Canterbury Staff are walking the catchment, engaging with landowners, and developing a prioritised work plan.
- Once on the ground works have been identified and prioritised, any appropriate projects will be assessed and approved for Immediate Steps funding via the normal processes.

Project Details			
Project CWMS Zone	Ashburton		
Project Location	Mt Harding Creek (Methven)		
Nature of Project	Enhancement		
Habitat Type	Lowland Streams		
Project Aim (objectives and overall vision)	Improving the ecological health of Mt Harding Stream, which historically supported koura (freshwater crayfish) and fish species.		
Project Outcomes (what the project will achieve)	 Rural and urban landowners and communities within the catchment are working collaboratively providing them will sense of ownership and pride in the stream that runs through their community. Increased mahinga kai, biodiversity and amenity values. Explore scope for access improvements. 		
Actions proposed to achieve outcomes	Possible actions are still being scoped but are likely to include: - Riparian plantings - Fish passage barrier remediation - Instream habitat enhancement		

Funding Requested		
From ECAN	From Other Sources	Estimated Total
1 ' '	\$25,000 – Fonterra \$25,000 – Landowners/Community	\$100,000

The Glen Wetland Planting - Stage 2

Project Images



Part of site – a portion of the Stage 1 plantings completed in Spring 2020 can be seen on right. The Stage 2 grant will extend the plantings across the whole site.



Project site – blue colouring shows riparian and wetland planting areas; red shading shows dry woodland planting areas.

Project Summary

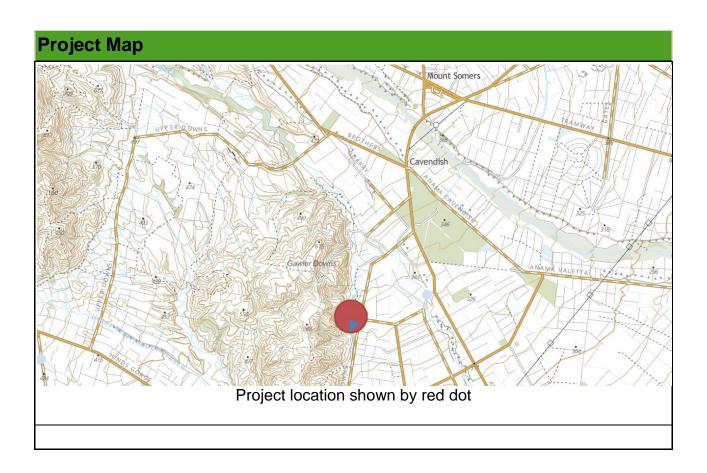
The area proposed for planting is on the Rushton's property on Lower Downs Road. It contains two streams that flow off the lower slopes of Surrey Hills as well as several seepages and wetland areas. These waterways are part of the Silverstream catchment, a tributary of the North Branch of the Hinds River. Approximately 1100 native plants have been recently planted at the site to begin the restoration project. The remainder of the area is currently in pasture grasses, with a few willows and stumps of Carex secta still present. The site is poorly drained with much of the area boggy underfoot even in dry conditions.

The 2.2ha is permanently fenced. 1 ha being riparian and wetland areas which are boggy year-round with some temporary flooding. The remaining 1.2ha being boggy to dry soils outside areas of temporary flooding. This grant will complete the plantings of the site in native eco-sourced species.

Project Details			
Project CWMS Zone	Ashburton		
Project Location	Project location: Cnr Lower Downs and Hennans Road		
Nature of Project	Wetland planting		
Habitat Type	Hill Country Catchments		
Project Aim (objectives and overall vision)	To create an area of native biodiversity with native wetland and kanuka woodland also providing for improved water quality at the head of the Silverstream catchment.		
Project Outcomes (what the project will achieve)	Increased extent and density of native vegetation within site by September 2023. Native vegetation is the dominate vegetation cover over the entire 2.2ha site by September 2026.		
Actions proposed to achieve outcomes	Establishment of a further 4,200 eco-sourced native plants.		

Funding Requested		
From ECAN	From Other Sources	Estimated Total (Applicant)
\$19,704	\$23,900	\$43,640

Funding Detail						
Task / Resource	Туре	Paid for by	Units	Unit Type	Cost Per Unit *	Total Costs *
	Eco-sourced native plants	Immediate Steps	4200	Plant	\$3.30	\$13,860
	Plant Guards	Immediate Steps	4200	Each	\$1.40	\$5,880
	Site preparation	Landowner	42	Hour	\$25.00	\$1,050
	Planting and guards	Landowner	350	Hour	\$25.00	\$8,750
	Maintenance	Landowner	504	Hour	\$25.00	\$12,600
	Chemical	Landowner	1	Each	\$1,500.00	\$1,500
* All costs exclude GST					Council Contribution	\$19,740
				(All Other Contributions	\$23,900
					Total Project Funding	\$43,640



Eco	Ecological Assessment					
Fund	amental Project Criteria					
1. Re	Reflects the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy's Guiding Principles					
	Focuses on protecting and maintaining what remains					
Υ	Focuses on restoring what has been lost					
2. Co	ntributes to the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy's Goals (1-6)					
Υ	Protects or maintains the health of significant habitats and ecosystems					
Υ	Restores the natural character of degraded indigenous habitats and ecosystems					
Υ	Increases the integration and sustainable use of indigenous species in modified environments (e.g. farm, urban, lifestyle blocks).					
Υ	Enhances the public's awareness, understanding and support of biodiversity					
Υ	Encourages, celebrates and supports action by landowners and communities to protect, maintain and restore biodiversity					
	Improves the range and quality of knowledge and information about Canterbury's biodiversity for its sustainable management					
3. Pro	oject Viability					
Υ	Project is feasible, cost-effective and an efficient use of funds.					
Υ	Project will realistically achieve outcomes/gains it is aiming to.					
Υ	Project is sustainable (e.g. any ongoing or future management requirements are identified and affordable).					
Υ	No other potential costs (e.g. consent costs) that may make the project less viable and/or affordable					
4. La	ndowner Support					
Υ	Project has landowner support					
5. Ec	o-sourced Plants					
Υ	Eco-sourced plants being used					
	Not applicable					
6. Is s	some or all of the work required under the Regional Pest Management Strategy?					
	RPMS					
7. Is s	7. Is some or all of the work required under a District/Regional Council Plan?					
	District/Regional Council Plan					
8. Pro	8. Proportion of cost					
0	Protection					
100	Restoration					
0	Creation					
0	Monitoring					

Existing Ecological Values			
Criteria	Score (0-3)	Comments	
Representativeness	0	Vegetation of the site is highly modified dominated by pasture species which have recently been joined by some native plantings undertaken as stage 1 of the project. A few stumps of Carex secta plants are evidence of the area once having native wetland vegetation. The two main streams of the site are syphoned under the RDR from their upper catchments and so their hydrology is unmodified (apart from the syphon). The hydrology of the overall site is modified by the RDR main race above the site likely being the source of the other seepages now present. The bed of the stream channels are heavily sedimented and damaged by stock.	
Diversity and Pattern	1	The site contains a diversity of ecosystem types in sequence - instream, riparian and wetland. Planting of the area will help to improve the condition and function of this area.	
Ecological Context	1	Stream entering the site at the southern end of the project area originates in a gully above on Surrey Hills that still contains in native vegetation. The stream is permanently flowing and another restoration project has planted a native corridor along the stream at the bottom of the catchment.	
Project Protects a Threatened Environment	1	Project restores an area where <10% of native vegetation cover remains.	
Project Protects a Wetland or Coastal Dunes	1	Project protects and restores an area of wetland	
Sub-total	4		

Potential Ecological Values (in 10-15 years time – based on likely change)			
Criteria	Score (0-5)	Comments	
Project Design is Effective/Addresses Key Threats	3	Key threat to this area is stock access - this will be removed with fencing (not part of funding for this project). Once the area is fenced planting in native species will help manage the threat of weed invasion.	
Project Potential/Positive Impact Ecologically	3	Protection of water quality high in the catchment through stock removal and planting the stream and wetland areas. Adding a native patch to a catchment that already has some native vegetation - though still disconnected as this point.	

Value for Money or Cost-benefit		This is a planting project with an enthusiastic landowner who has the time to complete the planting and maintenance.
Sub-total	9	

Other Criteria (non ecological or cultural)			
Criteria Sc (0		Comments	
Legally Protected	0	No legal protection.	
Educational or Partnership Value		Project is visible from the road and once complete will provide an example that is easy for others in the district to visit and view.	

Immediate Steps Criteria	
Criteria	Score (L, M, H)
2.2.1 - project restores wetland vegetation along the foothills	Н
2.2.2 - project integrates a biodiversity planting into a working farm landscape	Н
2.2.4 - Protecting wetlands - working with landowners to implement voluntary protection of wetland	Н

Overall Assessment Scores			
Criteria	Score	Comments	
Ecological Assessment Score (Existing and Potential) /39	13	Stage 2 of planting project. Assessment has been completed as per Stage 1 assessment as although 1100 plants have recently been planted at site they are still too young to provide any material changes in the biodiversity values.	
Cultural	Unknown		
Other Criteria Overall Rating	Low		
Immediate Steps Rating	High		

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 24 November 2020

Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee

From Henry Winchester

Subject Ashburton/Hakatere Consent Reviews Update

10 Ashburton/Hakatere River Consent Review Process

Purpose

To update the Committee on Hakatere / Ashburton river consent 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. Since the previous Zone Committee update, there has been some good progress with the project.

Table 1 below provides a summary of the consent reviews. Further explanation of the process going forward is outlined below.

To date, 45 consent reviews have been granted out of the 88 originally identified. Additionally, we are currently preparing a consent review for decision.

We have recently publicly notified consent CRC200269, which is the review of consent CRC952441. Consent CRC952441 authorises the taking of water, from the North Branch of the Ashburton River and from springs, for the irrigation of up to 150 hectares at Ashburton Staveley Road. The consent holder proposes an alternative minimum flow which is the Ashburton River mainstem minimum flow of 6,000 l/s only. The Ashburton River mainstem minimum flow and the North Branch minimum flow were proposed by the consent review. The consent review was publicly notified because of the potential adverse effects on the environment from the proposed alternative minimum flow. The submission period closes on 27 November 2020 and further information is available on our website at: https://www.ecan.govt.nz/do-it-online/resource-consents/notifications-and-submissions/notified-consents/.

Currently, 40 have been granted further timeframe extensions until between November 2020 and March 2021. Decisions were made on a case-by-case basis, with consent holders having to demonstrate progress to date and a plan for resolving any outstanding issues. Reasons for extensions included:

- additional time to prepare information relating to the impact of the consent review;
- to progress drilling and testing of new deep bores and lodge required new water permit application(s);
- to investigate opportunities to connect to an irrigation scheme; and

• awaiting the outcome of another consent process which may impact the consent holder's response to the review.

As highlighted in previous updates, 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 continue to monitor this situation and have processes in place to identify and obtain assistance for these consent holders.

The next steps involve continuing to provide technical and procedural advice to consent holders while the consents are on hold (31 March 2021 is the furthest date currently).

Table 1: Summary of the consent reviews

Granted	45	These consents have been granted.
On hold S37		Timeframes have been extended at request of consent holder while they further assess the impact of the proposed new minimum flows on the consented activity and to decide whether they will propose changes to the new conditions. No timeframes have been extended past 31 March 2021.
Declined		This was an ADC consent and the rate of take that would be subject to the minimum flow was within the margin of error for the water metering equipment which would mean that it would be impossible to measure compliance with the minimum flow.
Surrendered	1	The consent holder surrendered the water permit, so the review was no longer required.
Public notification		One consent is being publicly notified because the consent holder proposes an alternative new minimum flow. The submission period closes 27 November 2020.
Grand Total	88	

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 24 November 2020

Timetable		
Time	Item	
1:00 pm	Meeting Commences	

Or	der of Business
1	Welcome, Karakia
2	Apologies - Chris Allen - Genevieve de Spa
3	Extraordinary Business
4	Register of Interest
5	Confirmation of Minutes
6	Correspondence - Outward O Nil - Inward O Nil
7	Public Contribution
8	Immediate Steps – overview to end of financial year and project proposals5
9	Ashburton Lakes Update – Leo Fietje
10	Ashburton/Hakatere River Consent Review Update15
11	Farewell for John Waugh and Karl Russell
12	Other Business
13	Close Meeting and Karakia