

# Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee **[Confirmed]**

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**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 26 January 2021, 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, Angela Cushnie, Genevieve de Spa and Les Wanhalla

## **In attendance**

Environment Canterbury: Dave Moore (Facilitator) and Carol McAtamney (minutes)

2 members of the public in attendance

## **1 Welcome**

Brad Waldon-Gibbons opened the meeting with a Karakia.

### **Acknowledgement**

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Lachie Ashton, Land Management Advisor - Environment Canterbury. A service for Lachie is being held in Dunedin on Wednesday 27 January.

## **2 Apologies**

**That** an apology for absence be received on behalf of Cargill Henderson and Arapata Rueben

Wilson/Brown

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 24 November 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

McKenzie/Wilson

Carried

### **5.1 Matters Arising**

Nil.

## **6 Correspondence**

### **Inward:**

Nil.

### **Mid Canterbury Essential Freshwater Package Working Group (MCEFP)**

The Chair advised that he had been approached to represent the Zone Committee on the Mid Canterbury Essential Freshwater Package Working Group, formed in December 2020.

The purpose of the working group is to represent the views of the wider community and met to reflect on the progress in the freshwater space, engage across sectors and proactively consider solutions for freshwater management in Mid Canterbury. The working group comprises of

representatives from ADC, Ecan, irrigation companies, banks, te Rūnanga o Arowhenua and Federated Farmers.

Mayor Brown informed the committee that the Mayoral Forum is also putting a working group together (Mayors and CEs of the 10 TAs) to look at the impacts of the Fresh Water policy statement. Their first meeting will be in March.

The group are in the process of preparing a discussion document that representatives of the working group will present to Hon. Damien O'Connor – Minister of Agriculture, Hon. David Parker – Minister for the Environment and Jo Luxton – MP for Rangitata in Wellington on Monday 15 February 2021.

The Chair stated that he has been invited to represent the Zone Committee and wished to ensure the committee was happy. No decisions have been made without consulting the Zone Committee but there will be a paper presented

The Chair requested that the Committee formalise his appointment to the working group as the Zone Committee representative.

**Move** that the Zone Committee Chair is appointed the official Zone Committee representative on Mid-Canterbury Essential Freshwater Package Working Group  
Wilson/Cushnie Carried

After the discussion document, which is being taken to central government in February, more work will be undertaken by the Working Group. The Chair stated that if asked to sign something on behalf of Zone Committee it would be circulated to the committee prior to signing.

Gen de Spa noted concerns regarding the Zone Committee being represented on the Mid Canterbury Essential Freshwater Package working group but after discussion she did support the motion.

**Post meeting note:** Further concerns were expressed by Gen de spa via email in regard to the Zone Committee being part of this working group and requested that this topic be included on the February meeting agenda to enable further discussions to be undertaken.

**Outward:**

Nil.

**7 Public Contributions**

Nil.

**8 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair**

Facilitator Dave Moore took the chair for the elections process.

**Nominations for the Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee**

**That** Bill Thomas be nominated as Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee for the term of one year.

Allen/de Spa

Confirmed

### **Nominations for the Deputy Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee**

**That** Chris Allen be nominated as Deputy Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee for the term of one year.

Cushnie/Brown

Confirmed

## **9 Work Programme Progress Update for Quarters 1 & 2 (Jul-Dec 20) FY2020-21**

### **Main Work Streams**

- Consent to farm follow up with remaining Hinds farmers and those identified as triggering regional rules in rest of Ashburton
- Ashburton Rivermouth strategy implementation
- Ashburton Lakes project
- Carters Creek and Mt Harding Creek projects commenced, and remainder of IMS funds allocated
- Compliance monitoring of RSCs/Zone priorities
- Ashburton River Consent review support
  - *An invitation is to be extended to an E-Can representative from the Consents team to join the February meeting to update the Committee*

### **Safe and Sustainable Drinking Water**

Concerns were expressed for this project not being progressed. It was explained that this delay was temporary as resources had been diverted to other Ashburton priorities – the Ashburton Lakes project, consent to farm campaign follow up and Ashburton River consent review.

- Bill Bayfield – Toumata Arawai be invited to the February meeting to present on developing its guidelines.
- Andy Guthrie – ADC be invited to the February meeting to present on what the new drinking water guidelines are.

### **Ashburton Lakes Update**

Leo Fietje

- Complaints had been received of green-brown discolouration of the water and excessive aquatic plant growth
- A health warning advising that cyanobacteria had been discovered in the lake was issued on 21 December 2020
- Have the origins been able to be identified?
  - Increasing concentrations of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in the lake from surrounding land use practices and wastewater discharges
  - Climate patterns (temperature, wind etc) and inflow patterns

Next steps

- ADC/Ecan staff workshopped options last week
- Pathway for hut holders to improve wastewater systems and reduce nitrate loads
- ECan Scientists continue to closely monitor water quality and state of not only Lake Clearwater, but also seven other lakes in this area
- Conversations between landowners on effects of land use in the Ashburton Lakes basin continue with all major statutory agencies and Ngai Tahu/Runanga
- Hut holder community and farming community need to work together

## **10 Facilitators Update**

Dave Moore worked through his report

## **11 Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-22**

A 2021 draft work programme was tabled.

- O tu Wharekai/Ashburton Lakes field trip is to undertaken on Friday 26 March
- Regenerative Farming site visits – Nga Tahu farm trial site and trail sites within the Mid Canterbury district.

## **12 Other Business**

### **Ashburton River**

The Land, Air, Water Aotearoa website was showing the whole of the Ashburton River as unswimmable, but no dates showing when tests had been conducted.

*Ecan is to look into this data and website information*

### **Ashburton River Liaison Group**

Chris Allen is to attend an Ashburton River liaison group meeting next month. If any members have and issues please discuss with Chris so he can bring them up at the meeting.

### **Consent Reports**

A request was made to have the consent reports reinstated into the agenda for members information.

### **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 February 2021.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm with a Karakia by Brad Waldon-Gibbons

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)