

ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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

DATE: Tuesday 27 July 2021

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: Chris Allen
Adi Avnit
Clare Buchanan
Angela Cushnie
Genevieve de Spa
Bill Thomas
Sidinei Teixeira
Michael McMillan (Te Runanga o Arowhenua)
Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)
Les Wanhalla (Te Taumutu Runanga)
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
Adi Avnit	
Clare Buchanan	
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 NZ Landcare Trust 'Managing Westlands as Farm Assets's project' – Farmer Engagement Hinds Reserve Board Committee member Community Catchment Groups
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 Rakaia Environmental Enhancement Trust
Ian MacKenzie	Environment Canterbury Councillor
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
Sidinei Teixeira	
Les Wanhalla	Returning good health and mauri O Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Kaitiakitanga, Whakapapa Rugby league, life member, honorary south Kiwi Trustee – Central Plains Water for Selwyn District Council
Stuart Wilson	Ashburton District Councillor A son who is a Director of Mayfield Hinds Irrigation Co and Chair of RDR

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Unconfirmed Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 25 May 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 (departed meeting from 1.03pm to 1.33pm), Angela Cushnie, Cargill Henderson, Araparta Reuben, Genevieve de Spa and Les Wanhalla.

In attendance

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

3 members of the public in attendance – Councillor Carolyn Cameron

Paul Churchill (ADC Surface Water Project Coordinator)

1 Welcome

Genevieve de Spa opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

Nil.

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

5 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 27 April 2021, be taken as read and confirmed.

Wilson/Wanhalla

Carried

Councillor Ian Mackenzie was noted as both in attendance and an apology for absence. He was an apology for the meeting.

6.1 Matters Arising

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil.

Outward:

Nil.

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Immediate Steps Proposals

Donna Lill

Immediate Steps Funding Update

Following the deliberations on ECan's LTP there are some proposed changes regarding the Immediate Steps funding. If these changes are confirmed on 17 June, Zone Committees will have access to a CWMS Community Engagement Fund of \$50k per committee in year 1, \$75k per committee in year 2, and \$100k per committee in year 3 onwards to support actions in their zones. Immediate Steps funding will no longer be offered from 1 July.

Araparta Reuben joined the meeting at 1.09pm

The Terrace – Rangitata Terrace Riparian Planting

Agreed: That the Zone Committee recommend the allocation of \$9,000 to The Terrace – Rangitata Terrace Riparian Planting project for the purchase of Eco-sourced native plants and plant protection guards.

Silverstream (Anama Planting) – Stage 2

Agreed: That the Zone Committee recommend the allocation of \$10,000 to the Silverstream (Anama Planting) – Stage 2 project for the purchase of Eco-sourced native plants and plant protection guards.

Chris Allen rejoined the meeting at: 1.33pm

9 Eiffelton Biodiversity Collective Update

Angela Cushnie 1.38pm

- Inaugural meeting held 10 May with approximately 30 participants in attendance
- Presentations from Mark Webb – Fish and Game, Graham Harris, Janine Holland –Ecan, Dave Moore – Ecan
- Hamish McKenzie to lead the group
- Next meeting to be held on Thursday 27 May

Summary

- The Zone Committee is in favour of catchment collectives
- A report to be prepared investigation options of funding/administration report avenues available through the Zone Committee.

Ashburton College Environment Committee

Lauren Taylor – Committee Head and Parixit Maharjan - Secretary

Currently planning a planting project for Fairton

- Supply the labour
- Arrange transport for volunteers
- Plan on what to plant (2.5k plants)
- Information on social media
- Organisation plan to monitor students to ensure they stay within the guidelines
- Kanuka Trust are facilitating the project
- Planting will be in an area adjacent Fairton School and near a bore
- Talley's are funding the plants and ongoing maintenance of plants

10 Committee Updates

Dave Moore 1.33pm

Refresh Process

- 11 applications have been received for four available positions
- A selection workshop is schedule for 2 June

11 Zone Committee Planning Workshop

Work Programme 2021 including a Committee Action plan - tabled
Members are asked to provide any feedback to Dave within the week.

Ian MacKenzie departed the meeting at 2.51pm

12 Sarah Hedell

Sarah advised that she was departing from her role with the Zone Committee after five years. She will still be working within Ecan in a Regional Team in a Farm Systems Advisory role.

The Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the Committee to Sarah for the assistance she has provided to the Zone Committee over the past five years and offered her best wishes in her new role.

13 Other Business

- Final regional meeting of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee has been rescheduled to 15 June.

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 27 July 2021.

The meeting scheduled for 22 June is to be replaced by a field trip.

The meeting closed at 3.17pm with a Karakia by Genevieve de Spa.

Dated this 27th day of July 2021 _____ (Chair)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee

12 July 2021

Lauren Taylor and Parixit Maharjan
Environment and Canteen Committee
Ashburton College
P.O. Box 204
Ashburton 7740
E-mail: info@ashcoll.school.nz

cc: Ross Preece, Principal
E-mail: rp@ashcoll.school.nz

Dear Lauren and Parixit

Re: PRESENTATION TO ASHBURTON WATER ZONE COMMITTEE

Thank you for presenting to the Ashburton Water Zone Committee on 25 May 2021. The committee were interested to hear about your plan for tree planting in Fairton and your efforts to involve young people in your project.

The committee congratulate you on your efforts to improve the environment in our district. We are very keen to involve young people in our activities and decision making and welcome you back at any time.

Yours sincerely



Bill Thomas
Chair of Ashburton Zone Committee

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 27 July 2021
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Val Clemens
Subject Wakanui Hāpua Restoration

10 Wakanui Hāpua Restoration

Purpose

To update the Committee on the Wakanui Hāpua considerations.

Recommendation

- The Zone Committee receives this update and the presentation from Val Clemens.
- The Zone Committee considers options and recommends actions for Wakanui Hāpua.

Report

- On 29 June 2021 members of the Zone Committee, Environment Canterbury staff, Ashburton District Council staff and the Wakanui Crew met at the hāpua to learn about the environment and discuss options for improving water supply to the lagoon.
- One option discussed was pumping shallow ground water from a disused well into the lagoon using either wind or solar power. Environment Canterbury Principal Scientist - Water Quality and Ecology Adrian Meredith was at the meeting and produced the attached report Wakanui wetland management considerations.
- At the 27 July Zone Committee Val Clemens from the Wakanui Crew will discuss the values of the hāpua, the work undertaken to date and the benefits of having permanent water in the hāpua.

Background

- The Zone Committee has received several reports in the past on restoration activities at Wakanui Beach including work undertaken by the Wakanui School and Ashburton District Council and the Wakanui Crew (Staff at Wakanui School, local farmers, Wakanui Beach residents, ECAN staff, ADC councillors and staff, ADBAG members)
- The Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group established its objectives for Wakanui Beach:
 - To restore and enhance native coastal vegetation
 - To control the encroachment of weeds and introduced species
 - To provide a public space for the appreciation of native biodiversity
- In 2016 the Wakanui Beach Reserve Landscape and Management Plan was produced and work since then includes:

2017

- Archaeological Assessment of Wakanui Beach
- Insect Survey – presented to students
- Check for Gorse Biocontrol Agent
- ECAN Councillors visit

2018

- First planting with Wakanui School Students
 - Students collect seed, grow seedlings with ADC help
 - Student Art Exhibition
 - Second planting day
 - Students design signs, printed & erected by ADC
- 2019
- Students make seed balls & catapults
 - Seed balls fired into gorse areas
- 2020
- Kanuka Trust Planting
 - Third planting day (without students)
- Ashburton Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024
 - Ashburton District Council's Letter of Shared Priorities to the Zone Committee includes Wakanui Hāpua.
 - In developing its Action plan the Ashburton Zone Committee agreed to focus specifically on the Wakanui hāpua area, rather than the broader catchment. The Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024 states:

We will work towards improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets by: Engaging with councils, rūnanga, catchment groups and schools to support further restoration activities which positively impact the biodiversity and mahinga kai values of the Wakanui hāpua area.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 27 July 2021
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Adrian Meredith
Subject Wakanui Wetland Management Considerations

10a Wakanui Wetland Management Considerations

Purpose

To understand the functioning of the Wakanui wetland, so as to determine successful management actions/interventions.

Value Propositions

The Ashburton Water Zone Committee has chosen the Wakanui Wetland as one of its three priority action catchments. In determining whether interventions will be successful in restoring its values, consideration must be given to understanding the hydrological context of this catchment system. This memo sets out some important considerations for how this catchment and wetland feature functions.

Background

The Wakanui wetland (hāpua) is the coastal terminus of the Wakanui catchment. While the Zone Committee chose to address the wetland as a priority alone, this memo summarises the main attributes of this catchment and why it will be very difficult to manage the wetland values in isolation from the catchment as a whole;

- The Wakanui catchment stretches inland close to the lower end of the North Branch of the Ashburton River. The North Branch of the Ashburton River is likely to have historically flowed to the coast down a now relic channel to the current Wakanui wetland/hāpua. There is therefore likely to be preferential surface and groundwater flow paths to the Wakanui wetland along this relic channel feature.
- Currently the North Branch loses water to groundwater that arises as springs inland of Ashburton Township. This water flows through Ashburton township as a perennial stream called Wakanui Creek.
- Below Ashburton township Wakanui Creek has been diverted through roadside drains and stockwater races to a culvert structure that diverts Wakanui Creek flow to the Ashburton River at Cochranes Road. This “starves” the lower Wakanui Creek catchment of a significant catchment water volume.
- Below Cochrane Road many remnant Wakanui Creek reaches have been infilled or cultivated. However, in heavy rainfall periods they still represent the natural catchment drainage route to the Wakanui wetland and the sea.
- The Wakanui Creek catchment between Ashburton township and the sea are composed of rich soils but are not currently supplied with irrigation sources from alpine water

schemes (BCI, AL, Acton, etc.). In the past 20 years irrigation has developed solely off harvesting the shallow groundwaters. This “basin” is therefore a very highly allocated groundwater aquifer but this allocation has proceeded largely without acknowledging its natural surface catchment and effects on its outlet to the sea (Wakanui wetland/hāpua).

- Both the Diversion of upper Wakanui Creek, and high allocation/abstraction of the lower catchment groundwater have largely extinguished the Wakanui catchment as a surface flowing stream system feeding the Wakanui wetland/hāpua.
- The shallow groundwater and Wakanui Creek (when it intermittently flows) now has high Nitrate-N concentrations in the range 6-8 mg/l as a result of the intensive irrigated land use. The freshwaters that the Wakanui wetland will receive will generally be high nitrate concentration water.
- Wakanui wetland/hāpua now seldom contains much surface water and drains very quickly. The survival of Wakanui wetland as a coastal wetland or hāpua is therefore tenuous or failing.
- The Wakanui wetland/hāpua is a listed cultural site that was a favoured site on coastal trails and historically provided for safe habitation and abundant mahinga kai gathering.

Proposals

- There have been proposals to rehabilitate the Wakanui wetland by pumping small amounts of shallow groundwater from an adjacent dis-used bore into the wetland to provide permanent shallow water to support the native vegetation, shore and water birds, and their food. The feasibility of this depends upon whether the pumped water will remain as ‘surface water’ in the wetland.
- Immediately following a recent field visit in May 2021, strong South-Easterly seas broke over into the Wakanui wetland filling it up with seawater. However, this seawater inundation drained away in a matter of days leaving the wetland/hāpua again largely dry.
- This illustrates that:
 - the wetland bed is a permeable surface draining rapidly to groundwater;
 - and that even at this time of year the groundwater level was still considerably depleted by the previous irrigation season and drained surface waters away.
- This situation illustrates that the pumping proposal is unlikely to succeed as a single action alone.
- The Wakanui wetland will only hold permanent water if its base is enhanced with impermeable material (clays etc.) to prevent them soaking away. Alternatively, the depletion of groundwater levels would need to be limited, or managed, to ensure they replenish to a surface discharge condition.

- These background observations illustrate the importance of considering the whole Wakanui catchment (Ki Uta Ki Tai), and how it functions, when attempting to rehabilitate the existing Wakanui wetland/hāpua.

Recommendation

That the Committee:

1. Receive this information as background information to assist in considering actions to restore the Wakanui wetland/hāpua, and the current groundwater pumping proposal to refresh the wetland.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 27 July 2021
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Bianca Sullivan and Henry Winchester
Subject Ashburton Consent Review Update

11 Ashburton Consent Review Update

Purpose

To update the Committee on the Ashburton Consent Review process.

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee receives the update.

Report

To date, Environment Canterbury has decided 58 of the 88 consents being reviewed to implement the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) minimum flows in the Hakatere / Ashburton River catchment. Of these 58, 54 reviews have been granted (the LWRP minimum flow condition has been added to the consent), one has been surrendered, and three have been declined (as the minimum flow was not deemed necessary).

There are 14 consent holders who hold the 30 consents that are yet to be decided. Of those 14 consent holders, five are looking to 'swap' shallow groundwater/surface water for deep groundwater. Unfortunately, the Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Limited pipeline which has been mentioned in previous updates has not eventuated, which results in three consent holders with limited water availability options. We hope to meet with each of these consent holders within the next four weeks to offer support and assistance.

Therefore, there are nine consent holders who we are actively working with. Table 1 below provides a summary of the consent reviews, and further explanation of the process going forward is outlined below.

The Ashburton District sustained significant damage in the May/June flood event, with rural areas particularly affected. On 1 July 2021, the Ashburton Consent Review project team visited the Greenstreet area and met with several flood affected farmers who are part of the review. It was a sobering experience and we will continue to work with these and other farmers as they recover from the impacts of the flooding.

Notified Consent Review

Mr and Mrs Galloway proposed an alternative minimum flow as part of their consent review process. A hearing for this consent review was held in April 2021, and a decision was released on 17 July. The decision is to grant the consent review with the LWRP minimum flow (North Branch and SH1 minimum flows), rather than the alternative sought by the consent holder (SH1 minimum flow only).

The Galloways were impacted by the recent flooding and the project team understand that this decision will be disappointing to them.

The decision concludes that the proposed alternative minimum flow (SH1 only) would result in ongoing effects on the hydrology and ecology of the North Branch, along with significant effects on the cultural values of the Hakatere, and effects on other users who will be subject to the LWRP minimum flows. By putting the use of water for irrigation purposes before the health and wellbeing of the river, the decision concluded that the alternative minimum flow would be contrary to the direction of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater and the concept of Te Mana o Te Wai.

Communication with consent holders and timeframe extensions

To ensure all consent reviews will be decided by 1 July 2023 (when the LWRP minimum flows commence), all consent holders were previously informed that timeframe extensions would not be granted beyond 30 November 2021. This would allow time for hearings and any appeals to be resolved before the LWRP minimum flows take effect.

As a result of the floods, we are aware that some consent holders will now require additional time to assess their situation. We anticipate that some consent holders will request timeframe extensions beyond the November date and these will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The project team will keep in touch with consent holders who are particularly affected and signal any concerns through to Federated Farmers/Rural Support Trust.

The project team are aware that the consent reviews, in combination with the floods and other factors including COVID-19 and mycoplasma bovis, are continuing to affect some consent holders' well-being. We have been in contact with the Federated Farmers liaison in Ashburton but to date have not been actively contacting those farmers who we know have been severely affected by the flooding. We will contact those who we haven't yet heard from within the next few weeks.

Throughout the consent review project, we have stressed the importance of collaboration and working with those who are affected to ensure a transition to the new minimum flows is as smooth as possible. This approach has not changed, and we continue to monitor/communicate with those who are part of the reviews.

The next steps involve continuing to provide technical and procedural advice to consent holders while their consents are on hold (16 October 2021 is the furthest date currently).

Table 1: Summary of the consent reviews

Granted	54	These consent reviews have been granted. This includes the publicly notified consent review, which is still within an appeal period.
On hold S37	30	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 30 August 2021.
Declined	3	One 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. For the other two consents, it was demonstrated that the stream depletion effect was less than 5 litres per second and the taking of water does not need to be subject to a minimum flow.
Surrendered	1	The consent holder surrendered the water permit, so the review was no longer required.
Total	88	

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 27 July 2021
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Dave Moore
Subject Committee Updates

14 Committee Updates

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.

1. Zone Committee Refresh Process

The process of refreshing community members is now complete.

Environment Canterbury Regional Council (8 July) and Ashburton District Council (30 June) approved:

- a) The reappointment of Chris Allen and Angela Cushnie to the CWMS Ashburton Zone Committee.
- b) The appointment of Clare Buchanan, Adi Avnit and Sidinei Teixeira to the CWMS Ashburton Zone Committee.

2. Regional Committee – Community Representation

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Regional Committee has recently been refreshed to ensure it continues to support the implementation of the CWMS. This includes a revised structure with a smaller membership, the establishment of a new Ngāi Tahu Co-Chair and a revised role description for the independent Chair and Co-Chair.

Expressions of interests are now being sought for community representatives to join the CWMS Regional Committee. Further information, including how to apply, can be found on at <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/canterbury-water-regional-committee/>

If you are interested, we encourage you to apply through the process outlined on the webpage

3. September Noho Marae

A noho marae overnight stay at Te Pā o Moki marae, Taumutu.

<https://tetaumuturunanga.iwi.nz/our-marae/>

This is a joint gathering of members of the Ashburton and Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committees.

Kaupapa at this stage will be a focus on mahinga kai and taonga species, while exploring Taumutu and surrounding area. (Agenda to be sent out once confirmed).

This will be a great opportunity to learn first-hand from manawhenua, to share ideas and to build relationships.

Please RSVP to the Facilitator.

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 27 July 2021

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
 - o Ashburton College Environment Committee – Letter of Thanks 5
 - Inward
 - o Nil
- 7 Public Contribution
- 8 Carters Creek (Donna Lill) Verbal
- 9 Flood Update (Shaun McCracken/John Waugh/Angela Cushnie) Verbal
- 10 Wakanui Hāpuna Update (Val Clemens)..... 6
Wakanui Wetland Management Considerations (Adrian Meredith)
- 11 Ashburton Consent Review Update 11
- 12 Hekeao Hinds Catchment Collective (Duncan Barr) Verbal
- 13 Ō Tū Wharekai Ashburton lakes Update (Nick Daniels) Verbal
- 14 Committee Updates 14
- 15 Other Business
- 16 Close Meeting and Karakia