

Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee

Action Plan July 2021–June 2024



This summary highlights the key actions agreed by the zone committee for the next three years.

For more detail on the zone committee and plan, visit ecan.govt.nz/lower-waitaki-water-zone

Our purpose:

To uphold the mana of the freshwater bodies within Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury by facilitating enduring land and water management solutions that give effect to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy vision, principles and targets in our zone.

The CWMS aims to enable present and future generations to gain the greatest social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits from our water resources within an environmentally sustainable framework.

Our role:

- **Facilitate community engagement and collaboration** – continuing an active programme of engaging with communities on freshwater management matters
- **Facilitate the provision of advice through to councils** (relevant Territorial Authorities and Environment Canterbury) and others (e.g. private sector) contributing to freshwater management
- **Enhance delivery capability and coalition of the willing** – working with stakeholders across all sectors to extend the resources available to implement the CWMS, including connecting others to additional resources and seeking opportunities to promote, support, leverage and expand catchment-based initiatives that deliver the CWMS
- **Provide progress reports** – annual progress reporting to councils and rūnanga on progress towards delivery of the zone-specific priorities and CWMS target areas identified in the Zone Committee Action Plan.

Our Councils' priorities for our zone committee are:

Waitaki District Council

Overarching Priorities

- Promoting & encouraging the responsible use of our water resources to sustain the four wellbeings identified in the Local Government Act “Purpose” clause for TLAs (improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of our communities)
- Enable people to sustainably and environmentally appropriately use water for the benefit of its communities
- Support farmers adjusting to the requirements of the Governments “Action for Healthy Waterways”.

Focused Priorities

- Increased community engagement on water quality issues and improvement opportunities across the wider community (including schools)
- Achieving a higher level of engagement and support from landowners to ensure water quality improves as it travels along the waterway system
- The objectives of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark are supported and strengthened through the above.

Waimate District Council

- Increased community engagement on water quality issues and improvement opportunities across the wider community (including schools)
- Improving water quality and enhance immediate environs of Wainono Lagoon and the Waihao River and catchment area
- Achieving a higher uptake of water quality responsibility from landowners to ensure water quality improves as it travels along the waterway system.

Environment Canterbury

Kaitiakitanga Wāhi Taonga and mahinga kai targets

Grow support and resources to achieve the goal of five mahinga kai projects.

Ecosystem health and biodiversity targets

- Increased riparian management to protect aquatic ecosystems
- Reducing the number of fish barriers
- Protection and enhancement of wetlands.

Recreation and amenity targets

Working alongside organisations and communities to achieve the 2025 target to restore priority freshwater recreation opportunities in each zone that do not meet contact recreation standards, and developing plans and actions to achieve and show measurable progress.



This taniko (woven pattern for clothing) Pātikitiki, represents lashing or binding together. The smaller diamonds represent pātiki (flounder). The Aramoana are white chevron shaped spaces representing the ocean waves. Together they represent the sustenance of our waters and the binding organisations that protect them. Pātiki is also the symbol for abundance. – Ariki Creative

Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee

Action Plan 2021–2024

We will work alongside landowners, rūnaka, communities, and others to achieve the 2025 goal of five mahika kai projects in Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury. We will achieve this by:

- Inspiring and growing support and resources
- Rūnaka identifying five mahika kai projects
- Kaitiakitanga will be at the heart of all zone committee actions.

We will work alongside landowners, rūnaka, communities, councils and others towards ecosystem health and biodiversity targets by:

- Identifying and championing new and existing riparian, stream and wetland projects providing the most benefit for water quality in the zone.

We will promote and encourage the responsible use of water resources to sustain the “Four Wellbeings” identified in the Local Government Act by:

- Having regard to the four wellbeings in all zone committee activities and decisions in conjunction with Te Mana o Te Wai and the CWMS order of priorities
- Ensuring all Zone Committee members are familiar with the four wellbeings; Te Mana o Te Wai; and the CWMS First Order Priorities.

We will work alongside landowners, rūnaka, communities, councils and others to restore priority freshwater recreation opportunities in the zone and develop plans and actions to achieve and show measurable progress. We will achieve this by:

- Identifying waterways that do not meet contact recreation standards
- Supporting and growing resources to restore identified priority freshwater recreation opportunities
- Supporting the work already underway on the Waihao River (Black Hole) by the Waihao Wainono Catchment Community Group.

We will improve water quality and enhance immediate environs of Wainono Lagoon and the Waihao River and catchment area by:

- Identifying and championing projects across the catchment
- Supporting the Waihao Wainono Catchment Community Group, particularly with their work on the upper Waihao River by attending meetings, supporting funding applications, and linking with other groups
- Investigating the urban impact on Wainono Lagoon and working with Waimate District Council to develop and deliver an educational programme and community engagement
- Staying abreast of industry initiatives such as augmentation proposals.

We will support farmers adjusting to the requirements of the Government’s Action for Healthy Waterways proposal by:

- Maintaining close networks with the farming community, listen to issues, and connect with relevant support networks and authorities when appropriate
- Working with councils, industry and community groups (e.g. South Canterbury Catchment Collective), encourage timely education and information sharing
- Participating in the review of the Waitaki Water Allocation Plan as appropriate.

We will strive for increased engagement to identify and support improvement opportunities in water quality across the wider community, including schools.

We want to achieve a higher level of engagement and support from landowners to ensure water quality improves as it travels along the waterway system by:

- Developing an engagement plan on water quality issues and improvement
- Engaging with the Waihao Wainono Catchment Community Group and the Hakataramea Sustainability Collective to agree how they can best work with the zone committee
- Engaging with the community to set up a northern streams catchment group
- Advocating for the funding of catchment coordinators to set up and sustain catchment groups
- Encouraging and supporting initiatives to improve water quality, including community events, field days and educational events
- Educating, motivating and inspiring communities, both rural and urban, through the use of community events, newsletter and other communications channels. We will tell the real story and advocate for change; and we will involve schools – through Enviroschools and other direct engagement.

Want to get involved? Head to ecan.govt.nz/lower-waitaki-water-zone

