

Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

Action Plan 2021-2024



Image - Native planting at Twaddle's Swamp

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/upper-waitaki-water-zone

Our purpose:

To uphold the mana of the freshwater bodies within the Upper Waitaki Zone by facilitating enduring land and water management solutions that give effect to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) 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:

- To get involved in an active programme of community engagement on freshwater management matters;
- To facilitate relevant advice to councils and other organisations contributing to freshwater management;
- To extend the resources available to implement the CWMS by: working with stakeholders across all sectors and seeking opportunities to promote, support, leverage and expand catchment-based initiatives that deliver the CWMS;
- To report back annually to councils and Rūnanga on progress towards delivery of the zone-specific priorities.

Our Councils' priorities for our zone committee are:

Waitaki District Council

- Safe drinking water free of contaminants for humans and animals;
- Rivers and wetlands have healthy ecological flows and high water quality;
- Rural and urban communities are fully engaged and have ownership of water management processes;
- Native and indigenous wildlife associated with waterways have adequate habitats;
- The objectives of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark are supported and strengthened through the above;
- The objectives of the Mackenzie Basin Alignment Programme are supported and strengthened through the above.

Mackenzie District Council

- Managing impacts of recreational use on lakes and rivers;
- Enabling biodiversity enhancement;
- Understanding cultural values – rehabilitation of nohoanga and mahinga kai.

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

Achieve the 2025 target to restore priority freshwater recreation opportunities in each zone.

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 sustainment of our waters and the binding organisations that protect them. Pātiki is also the symbol for abundance.

– Ariki Creative



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Image - Lake Ruataniwha

We will commit to the enhancement of Nohoanga, improved health of key waterways for customary use and enhancement of mahinga kai opportunities by:

- Gaining insight into cultural values and areas of significance relating to mahinga kai;
- Engaging with schools and youth to illustrate the importance of mahinga kai and the local history
- Increasing engagement with Ngāi Tahu regarding enhancement of Nohoanga sites;
- Recommending biodiversity funding with a priority focus on mahinga kai sites;
- Improving understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- Hosting hāngi for stakeholders and local schools.

We will commit to the improved management and preservation of recreational values of the Waitaki Lakes by:

- Supporting and enhancing our Love Our Lakes Campaign;
- Engaging with agencies, catchment groups and stakeholders to enhance and protect recreational areas such as the Twizel River and Lake Ruataniwha;
- Educating the community about how to protect our environment through actions such as responsible toilet use.

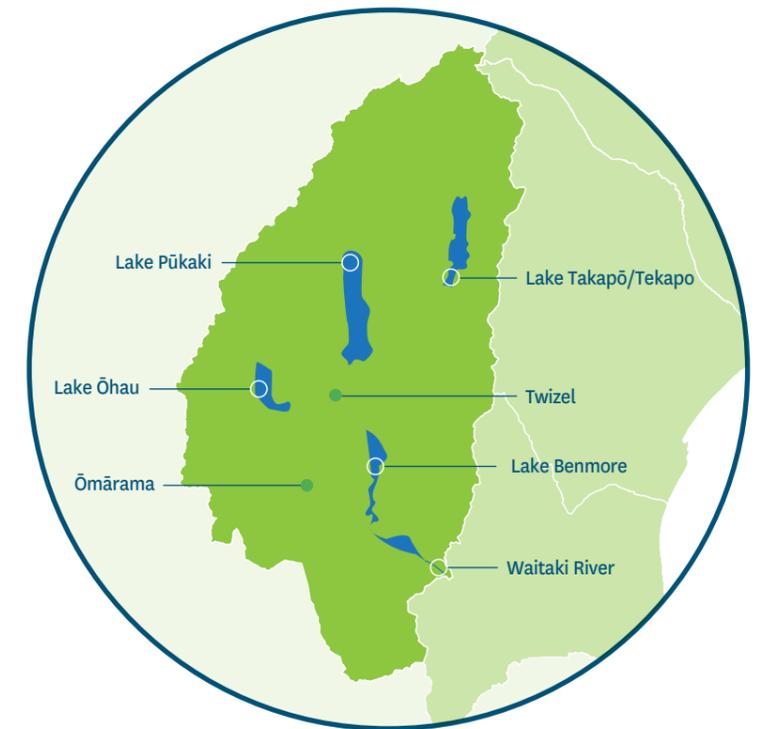
We will support catchment groups taking collective action to reduce losses of contaminants, prioritised where they are addressing identified at-risk areas by:

- Exploring opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways, such as the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group;
- Supporting establishment of new catchment groups and build on what is already on the ground in the community;
- Requesting bi-annual reports from Environment Canterbury on Farm Environment Plan audit results and consenting follow-up and sharing this information with relevant catchments;
- Requesting briefings from Environment Canterbury on the state of our water resources and results from monitoring and sharing with relevant catchments.

We will communicate and engage with our communities by:

- Investigating additional channels for sharing the Zone Committee story within local townships around the Upper Waitaki zone;
- Increasing engagement with local community boards, such as Tekapo Community Board, and discussing opportunities for collaboration;
- Developing and maintaining relationships with industry, rūnanga, councils, and catchment groups to be an intermediary for when community members need advice;
- Sharing and celebrating successes.

Upper Waitaki Water Zone



Want to get involved?

Head to ecan.govt.nz/upper-waitaki-water-zone

