

Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora (OTOP) Water Zone Committee

Action Plan 2021-2023



Image – Washdyke Waitarakao Lagoon

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/otop

Our purpose:

To uphold the mana of the freshwater bodies within the OTOZ 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.

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:

Waimate District Council

- Safe drinking water free of contaminants for humans and animals;
- Rivers and wetlands have healthy ecological flows and high-quality water;
- Rural and urban communities are fully engaged and have ownership of water management processes;
- Native and indigenous wildlife associated with waterways have adequate habitats.

Mackenzie District Council

- Support Catchment Groups;
- Drinking water supplies (awareness and education);
- Recognise and protect culturally significant sites;
- Protect and enhance mahinga kai; and
- Protect and enhance biodiversity.

Timaru District Council

- **Lowland stream health** – collaborate to reduce ecological damage to stream health from sediment and contaminants from stormwater and wastewater. Community education/ behaviour change campaigns on stormwater issues and management;
- **Indigenous biodiversity** – advocate for indigenous biodiversity. Education/behaviour change campaigns to improve understanding of the importance of protecting and conserving indigenous vegetation as well as the management of Significant Natural Areas;
- **Safe drinking water** – collaborate to ensure Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand are met. Education on land-use activities within drinking water protection zones;
- **Water use management and conservation** – community education/behaviour change campaigns on water use management and conservation.

Environment Canterbury

Kaitiakitanga Wahi Taonga and mahinga kai targets

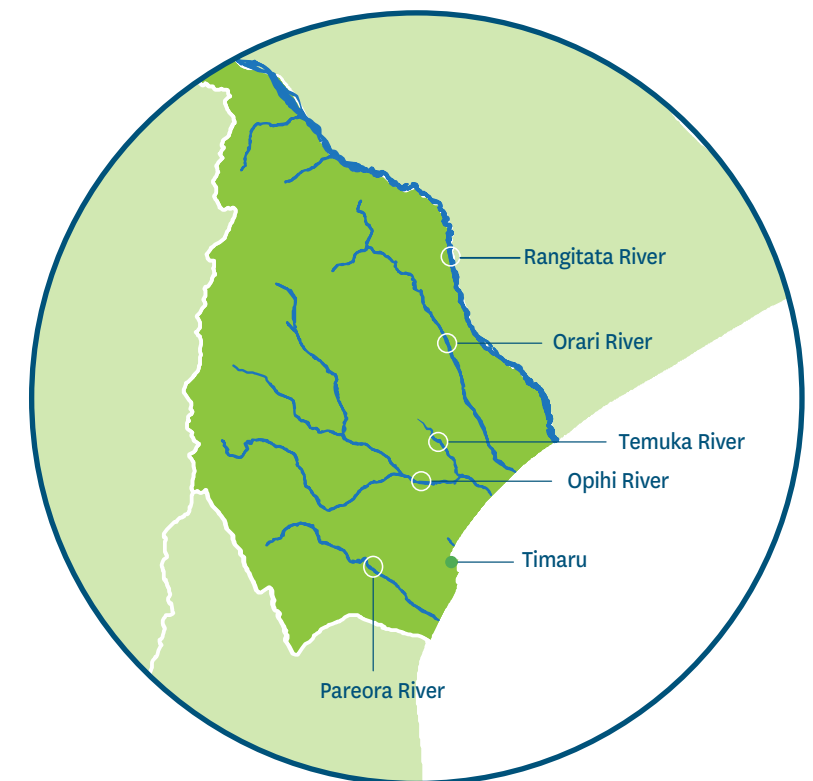
Grow support and resources to achieve the goal of five mahinga kai projects.

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 - Opihi River

Our vision:

Te Mana o te Wai - When managing freshwater, it ensures the health and well-being of the water is protected and human health needs are provided for before enabling other uses of water for us and our children after us.

CWMS - 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. The first order priorities are environment, customary use, community supplies and stock water.

We commit to protecting, enhancing, and restoring mahinga kai and tuhituhi neherā sites:

- Zone committee to attend a session at the Te Ana Maori Rock Art Centre and host a field trip to Taniwha Gully with invited catchment group members. Focus on tuhituhi neherā sites and mahinga kai and how best to manage these.

We commit to raising awareness of how to engage in a more positive manner with Rūnanga:

- Host an annual Te Tiriti o Waitangi workshop for community members to attend;
- Work with papatipu rūnanga and relevant landowners to host at least one hikoi for the community. Areas of interest include Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon, Te Ahi Tarakihi Reserve and Creek, and Milford Lagoon.

We commit to raising awareness of Te mana o te Wai and te mana o te awa in a rural, urban, and industrial context:

- Host a public forum, combined with other Southern Canterbury zone committees, to assist the public in understanding what Te Mana O Te Wai and te mana o te awa means for them;
- Request briefings from Environment Canterbury on the state of our water resources and results from monitoring and share with relevant catchments.

We champion safe and reliable drinking water for the OTOP community:

- Host at least one community session offering on-site indicative private drinking water testing. Include presentations of possible solutions and research on reducing high nutrient levels.

We engage with the community and raise awareness of the impacts of human activity on land and water:

- Support the Catchment Collective South Canterbury Society Incorporated;
- Every zone committee member to be a member of one catchment group and report back regularly to the committee on catchment group needs and initiatives;
- Assist in establishing a Washdyke catchment group and help align this with the Waitarakao Washdyke working group.

Want to get involved?

Head to ecan.govt.nz/otop

