

**Christchurch West Melton Water Management
Zone Committee
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS**

Date: Thursday 25 November 2021
Time: 6pm
Venue: Woolston Community Library/Hall, 689 Ferry Road,
Woolston

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Subject:Plan Change 7 & Plan Change 2

Date:Thu, 18 Nov 2021 04:49:33 +0000

From:Chair Hughey <Councillor.Hughey@ecan.govt.nz>

To:Kevin Brown <kevin@geokem.co.nz>

Dear Kevin

I am very pleased to inform you that at yesterday's meeting, the Environment Canterbury Council adopted as its decisions the recommendations of the independent hearing commissioners on Plan Change 7 to the Land & Water Regional Plan (LWRP) and Plan Change 2 to the Waimakariri River Regional Plan.

The plan changes build on the operative Nutrient Management and Waitaki plan provisions (established by Plan Change 5 to the LWRP), which set industry agreed "Good Management Practice" as the minimum standard for all farming activities.

The region-wide part of Plan Change 7, which your Zone Committee and community will be particularly interested in, aims to improve freshwater outcomes for the whole of Canterbury. It provides greater protection to habitats of freshwater species, enables consideration of Ngāi Tahu values in more activities, enables the use of managed aquifer recharge across the region, and provides a revised nutrient management framework for commercial vegetable growing.

Plan Change 7 also includes new frameworks for freshwater management in the Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora (OTOP) and Waimakariri zones. These changes will help with delivery of recommendations in each Zone Committee's Zone Implementation Programme Addendum. The Plan Change introduces requirements for some farms in these zones to further reduce their nitrogen losses and to exclude stock from more waterbodies.

Plan Change 7 also has a focus on water quantity issues in OTOP and Waimakariri. It increases minimum flows for rivers and streams where community outcomes are not being met, and introduces new limits on the volume of water available for allocation.

Plan Change 2 to the Waimakariri River Regional Plan is the first step towards bringing rules relating to this zone into the Land & Water Regional Plan. The main stem of the Waimakariri River, its upper catchment and tributaries south of the mainstem will continue to be managed by the WRRP.

Until the plan changes become operative, activities must comply with the region-wide rules in the Land & Water Regional Plan, as well as the proposed rules that apply in the OTOP and Waimakariri sub-regions. Activities may also need to comply with regulations in the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 and the Stock Exclusion Regulations, both part of the Government's Essential Freshwater package.

The plan changes are subject to an appeal period of 15 working days. Appeals (on points of law only) can be filed in the High Court. Once any appeals have been resolved, the plan changes in their final form will be made operative.

For more information, go to www.ecan.govt.nz/lwrppc7 and www.ecan.govt.nz/wrrppc2

The media release accompanying the decision appears at <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2021/more-protection-for-canterburys-freshwater-and-taonga-with-tightened-rules/>

If you would like to discuss these plan changes, please do not hesitate to contact me. I understand a full briefing for your Zone Committee can be arranged on request.

Yours sincerely
Jenny Hughey
Chair

Chair Hughey
Chair
Environment Canterbury

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