



*Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee (Water Management)*

**119<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
SELWYN-WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE  
TO BE HELD AT THE TAI TAPU  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ON MONDAY 8 MAY 2023  
AT 4.00PM**

"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water..."

Loran Eisely, US Author



# Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee 8 May 2023

08 May 2023 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM

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## SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE – Meeting Agenda &amp; Runsheet

MEETING: **Monday, 8 May 2023**, 4-6.00 pm, at **Tai Tapu Community Centre**

## TIMETABLE &amp; ORDER OF BUSINESS

| Item | Time                        | Description  |
|------|-----------------------------|--|
|      |                             | <i>Public meeting begins</i>   |
| 1    | <b>4.00 pm<br/>(15 min)</b> | Meeting commences with Karakia and formal order of business:<br><i>Chair</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Apologies</li> <li>• Identification of Urgent General Business</li> <li>• Register of Interests review</li> <li>• Confirmation of minutes 17 April 2023</li> <li>• Public contribution</li> <li>• Correspondence</li> </ul>   |
| 2    | <b>4.15 pm<br/>(5 min)</b>  | <b>Zone Committee Action Plan Confirmation</b><br><i>Action Plan amendments for this year that were discussed at the April workshop are to be confirmed by the Committee.</i>  |
| 3    | <b>4:20 pm<br/>(20 min)</b> | <b>Zone Committee Action Plan Initiatives – projects and review</b><br><i>An opportunity for the Zone Committee to consider a project for support using the Zone Committee Action Plan Budget; and review project supported to date with a view to confirm an approach for the remaining budget.</i>   |
| 4    | <b>4:40 pm<br/>(10 min)</b> | <b>Committee updates</b> – for information<br><i>Includes the Our Freshwater 2023 report; Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society; Environment Canterbury consents; Farm Portal unavailability; Finetuning Predator Control event; Living Water update – Te Ararira LII Catchment; Changes to Three Waters Reform announced; EDS ‘Pivot Point’ Papers online; and actions from previous meetings.</i> |
| 5    | <b>4:50 pm<br/>(10 min)</b> | <b>General Business</b><br><i>Any items confirmed by the Committee for follow up or information.</i>   |
|      | <b>5.00 pm</b>              | Meeting closed   |
|      |                             | <i>Workshop commences</i>  |
| 6    | <b>5:00 pm<br/>(55 min)</b> | <b>Zone Committee Priorities for the year</b><br><i>An opportunity for the committee to consider its priorities for the coming year in light of its action plan, environmental context and changes affecting the zone.</i>   |
|      | <b>5:55 pm</b>              | Workshop finished with <i>karakia</i>  |

## **SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE – Register of Interests**

### **Declaration of Interests – March 2023**

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Keeping a Zone Committee Members' declarations of interest register allows Zone Committees to identify and manage a conflict of interest when it arises.

The Office of the Auditor General notes a conflict of interest can arise when: "A member's or official's duties or responsibilities to a public entity could be affected by some other interest or duty that the member or official may have."<sup>1</sup>

If a member is in any doubt as to whether or not they have a conflict of interest, then the Member should seek guidance from the General Counsel, Environment Canterbury via the Zone Facilitator, and/or refer to the following guidance: <https://www.oag.govt.nz/2010/lamia>

Types of Interests to be documented in this Register:

- Employment, trade or profession carried on by the Member or the Member's spouse for profit or gain
- Company, trust, partnership etc for which the Member or their spouse is a director, partner or trustee, or a shareholder of more than 10% shares
- Address of any land in which the Member has a beneficial interest and which is in the area of the Zone Committee
- The address of any land where the landlord is Environment Canterbury, or Selwyn District or Christchurch City Council and:
  - The Member or their spouse is a tenant; or
  - The land is tenanted by a firm in which the Member or spouse is a partner, a company of which the Member or spouse is a director, or a Trust of which the Member or spouse is a Trustee.
- Any other matters which the public might reasonably regard as likely to influence the Member's actions during the course of their duties as a Member.
- Any contracts held between the Member or the Member's spouse and Environment Canterbury or Selwyn District Council or Christchurch City Council. Including contracts in which the Member or their spouse is a partner, a company of which the spouse is a director and/or holds more than 10% in shares, or a Trust of which the Member or their spouse is a trustee (noting that no committee member should be a party to a contract with Environment Canterbury or the relevant TLA if that value is more than \$25,000 per annum)

Zone Committee members need to ensure that the information contained in this register is accurate and complete.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of the Auditor General Good Practice Guide – Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for public entities

| <b>Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – Register of Interests</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Zone Committee Member</b>                                 | <b>Interest/s</b>  |
| James Booker   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracted Regional Manager – Southern Pastures LP<br/>Canterbury Southern Pastures LP owns farmland in Selwyn (and across NZ)</li> <li>• Director/Shareholder of Maatua Hou Ltd – Small landholding in Burnham</li> <li>• Member of Fish &amp; Game</li> <li>• Member of NZIPIM (New Zealand Institute of Primary Industries Management)</li> </ul>  |
| Simon Bryant   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former shareholder CPW</li> <li>• Owner sheep / beef farm with riparian and river boundary to Hororata River</li> </ul>   |
| Matt Dodson  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employee – GHD Limited</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Spouse – ECan employee</li> </ul>   |
| Allanah Kidd   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employee – Ravensdown</li> </ul>  |
| Khan McKay   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former Selwyn Youth Council member</li> <li>• Whakapapa to Te Taumutu Rūnanga</li> </ul>  |
| Tayla Nelson-Tuhuru  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whakapapa to Rāpaki Runanga</li> </ul>  |
| Cr Vicky Southworth (ECan)                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor, Environment Canterbury Regional Council</li> <li>• Family membership of Forest and Bird</li> <li>• Family membership of Fish and Game</li> </ul>  |
| Karaitiana Taiuru  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata representative</li> </ul>   |
| Helen Troy   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Company Director of MBY Investments Ltd. Property portfolio</li> <li>• Post graduate student Lincoln University</li> </ul>  |
| Benita Wakefield   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wairewa Rūnanga representative</li> </ul>   |
| Les Wanhalla   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Returning good health and mauri to Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere</li> <li>• Kaitiakitanga, Whakapapa</li> <li>• Te Taumutu Rūnanga representative – Ashburton and Selwyn Waihora Zone Committees</li> <li>• Te Taumutu Rūnanga representative – Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society</li> <li>• Trustee – Central Plains Water for Selwyn District Council</li> <li>• Rugby league, life member, honorary south Kiwi</li> </ul> |

| <b>Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – Register of Interests</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Zone Committee Member</b>                                 | <b>Interest/s</b>  |
| Cr Andrei Moore  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor, Christchurch City Council</li> </ul>  |
| Cr Sophie McInnes  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor, Selwyn District Council</li> <li>• Resident within the water zone (I can provide the address if required)</li> <li>• Co-director of a beekeeping business (Dads Bees)</li> <li>• Board member, NZ Motor Caravan Association (voluntary role)</li> <li>• Farmlands shareholder</li> <li>• Postgraduate student, Lincoln University</li> <li>• Husband is a member of Fish &amp; Game</li> <li>• Husband and children whakapapa to Wairewa Rūnanga</li> </ul> |

**MINUTES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE TAI TAPU COMMUNITY CENTRE ON  
MONDAY 17 APRIL 2023 COMMENCING AT 4PM**

**Meeting Agenda**

| Item | Time                        | Description  |
|------|-----------------------------|--|
|      |                             | <i>Public meeting begins</i>   |
| 1    | <b>4.00 pm<br/>(15 min)</b> | Meeting commences with Karakia and formal order of business:<br><i>Chair</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Apologies</li> <li>• Identification of Urgent General Business</li> <li>• Register of Interests review</li> <li>• Confirmation of minutes 13 March 2023</li> <li>• Public contribution</li> <li>• Correspondence</li> </ul>   |
| 2    | <b>4.15 pm<br/>(30 min)</b> | <b>Report on the MBIE research programme: Subsurface Processes in Braided Rivers – by Scott Wilson (Hydrogeologist - Lincoln Agritech) and Alice Sai Louie (Ph.D. student, University of Canterbury) – for discussion</b><br><i>Scott Wilson and Alice Sai Louie will provide an introduction to the “subsurface processes in braided rivers” research programme and the implications for Waikirikiri/Selwyn River. Digital Thermal Sensing, an investigation method being used to understand and quantify the exchange of water between the river and groundwater will also be discussed.</i> |
| 3    | <b>5.00 pm<br/>(15 min)</b> | <b>Committee updates – for information</b><br><i>Updates on CWMS Forums; Bioblitz at Muriwai o Whata/Coopers Lagoon; Tuna stranding near Taumutu Beach and Te Waihora; story noting ZCAP projects supported; date for Whakakōhanga Kōrero hui; Cawthron report on Catchment groups; ECan Science summary on nitrate lag times; Coes Ford Wetland; ECan Drop-in sessions; and the upcoming May Committee meeting and field trip.</i>  |
| 4    | <b>5.15 pm<br/>(10 min)</b> | <b>General Business</b><br><i>Any items confirmed by the Committee for follow up or information.</i>   |
|      | <b>5.25 pm</b>              | Meeting closed   |
|      |                             | <b>Workshop commences</b>  |
| 5    | <b>5.30 pm<br/>(25 min)</b> | <b>Action Plan amendments</b><br><i>An opportunity for the committee to consider its Action Plan to inform the priorities discussion at the May workshop.</i>  |
|      | <b>5.55pm</b>               | Workshop finished with karakia   |



**PRESENT**

Les Wanhalla (Te Rūnanga o Taumutu / Chair); Councillor Vicky Southworth (Environment Canterbury Regional Council); Simon Bryant (Community member), James Booker (Community Member); Karaitiana Taiuru (Te Rūnanga o Koukourarata); Khan McKay (Community Member); Allanah Kidd (Community Member); and Tayla Nelson-Tuhuru (Rāpaki Rūnanga).

**ONLINE**

Councillor Sophie McInnes (Selwyn District Council); Benita Wakefield (Wairewa Rūnanga); and Helen Troy (Community Member).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Jaimee Grant (Facilitator, Environment Canterbury), Sandy Bowman (Zone Committee & Facilitator Support Co-ordinator, Environment Canterbury), Murray Washington (Selwyn District Council), John Benn (Department of Conservation).

**PRESENTERS**

Scott Wilson – Lincoln Agritech Ltd  
Alice Sai Louie – Researcher (PhD student, University of Canterbury)

Les Wanhalla welcomed everyone, and Jaimee Grant opened with a karakia.

**APOLOGIES**

Cr Andrei Moore (Christchurch City Council) and Matt Dodson (Deputy Chair / Community Member)

**Moved** – J Booker / **Seconded** – A Kidd

*'That the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee receives the apologies for its information.'*

**CARRIED**

**IDENTIFICATION OF URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

None.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No changes to the register were noted.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee (Water Management) held on Monday 13 March 2023**

**Moved** – Cr Southwick / **Seconded** – K McKay

*'That the minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee (Water Management) held on Monday 13 March 2023 be confirmed as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

## **PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION**

None.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None received.

L Wanhalla welcomed presenters Scott Wilson and Alice Sai Louie.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. MBIE research programme: Subsurface Processes in Braided Rivers**

S Wilson presented on the project, 'Subsurface processes in braided rivers: hyporheic exchange and leakage to groundwater.' The study involves three rivers: Selwyn/Waikirikiri (Canterbury), Wairau (Marlborough), Ngaruroro (Hawke's Bay).

The aim is to understand how braided rivers work hydrologically in the relationship between surface flow, subsurface flow (hyporheic exchange), and groundwater exchange (parafluvial flow and groundwater recharge). Understanding how braided rivers work conceptually, will highlight how different aspects of river management influence their ability to sustain flows during dry periods and provide groundwater recharge.

One of the main pieces of missing information about braided rivers is the extent and nature of subsurface saturation, and how it changes with different flow conditions. The importance of field observation data will enable it to be used as a basis for improved understanding and for future modelling. Also looking at different scenarios, economic implications, and mapping.

L Wanhalla queried how braided river extraction affects the mean river flow for Selwyn-Waikirikiri. S Wilson noted that the river moves more rapidly in a flooding situation and in a dry season dries quickly. This means there will be a lot less recharge.

J Booker further queried whether this work took gravel entering the river into account. S Wilson noted that if the gravel builds up, there will not be an issue. If extraction exceeds the rate of deposit and there are not enough floods to rework the bed it can take hundreds of years to recover.

Cr Southworth noted Selwyn/Waikirikiriri does not have the same large-scale flow as the Wairau and Ngaruroro rivers. When there are peak flows gravel is spread out across the flood plain between braids. She queried whether there was a sense of how much water isn't captured into the aquifer during floods. S Wilson noted it depends on the hydraulic connection and whether it is hydraulically disconnected. He commented that aquifers are important for storage and even more important for climate change. If the water is going out to sea, the opportunity is lost to store water.

The question is what braided rivers in Canterbury region are most important in capturing water. S Wilson advised that a mapping programme would clarify this more which they are advocating for.

S Wilson noted flood management in the 1960s sped up water and moved gravel more rapidly and was the objective of the schemes. If river were widened, there would be more retention and a lot less sedimentation transport. There are advantages to widening sections of rivers which is the logical next step.

J Benn added it is not just the narrowing of rivers but also the straightening of river sections that has impacts. He commented the Selwyn/Waikirikiriri is different to the major rivers like the Ngaruroro and Waiau in that it is perched between the depression of major river fans.

**Alice Sai Louie – Presentation on 'Quantifying losses from braided rivers using active distributed temperature sensing'**

Alice Sai Louie presented on the method of distributed temperature sensing.

Horizontal groundwater flow was measured with distributed temperature sensing along cables installed with direct-push equipment. These heat trace connectors estimate temperatures at high resolutions. The Selwyn District has four installations.

A Sai Louie noted this is the first time we have seen the Selwyn/Waikirikiriri braided river gravel structure which was estimated to be 20-25 m deep, when in fact it is only 5 m in depth. It is a powerful tool to understand how the waters flow.

L Wanhalla queried whether this method had been used to investigate the contaminants in the water and A Sai Louie noted this study is only looking at water flow.

J Booker queried if there is a commercial use of this model of technology. A Sai Louie noted yes, this technology is becoming more and more common, particularly in Europe. It can monitor wind currents, volcanos, rivers and has a wide range of other uses.

L Wanhalla thanked both presenters.

**Moved** – James Booker / Seconded – Khan McKay

*That the Zone Committee*

*Receives the information including project overview of Subsurface processes in braided rivers, Lincoln Agritech, and quantifying losses from braided rivers using active distributed temperature sensing.*

**CARRIED**

## 2. Committee Updates

### **CWMS Committee Hui – North and South**

J Grant noted the forums introduced the partnership approach being developed to support integrated regional planning framework mahi, gained community feedback on what engagement tools could be used and a background to the CWMS. Notes for the two hui were being put together to be distributed to the zone committees.

T Nelson-Tūhuru found it very beneficial.

L Wanhalla suggested more time should be allocated for questions and answers. There was quite a bit on the future, where zone committees are heading, and issues. A Kidd reiterated there was limited amount of time for discussion.

There was general consensus that it was a good opportunity to speak/connect with other zone committee members.

### **Bioblitz at Muriwai o Whata/Coopers Lagoon – 18 March 2023**

J Grant noted it was a very successful day with over 1100 observations made. Highly recommend going along to future Bioblitz. A mini bioblitz is to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> April at Mahoe Reserve, Boundary Road, Lincoln.

L Wanhalla noted the kōrero given on the origin of tuna as a highlight of the day.

Cr McInnes took her children along and they found it very informative. Learnt the different ways (western and traditional) of bringing invertebrates up from the creek.

### **Tuna stranding near Taumutu Beach and Te Waihora**

J Grant noted the communications that have gone out regarding the tuna stranding.

L Wanhalla noted that the lake openings need to take tuna migration into account.

### **Plans firmly in place for the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee**

Four Selwyn Waihora projects now in place to go ahead.

**Whakakōhanga Kōrero operational Forum**

This is being held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May and Les Wanhalla and Tayla Nelson-Tūhuru will be attending.

**Where next for catchment groups – Cawthron guidance report published**

A copy of this Cawthron report attached to the agenda groups for zone committees to read as a reference.

**Environment Canterbury Science Summary**

Environment Canterbury recently published a summary and gives key messages on the nitrate time lags being the time period between land use change and resulting change in nitrate concentrations at a monitoring location (week, spring, stream, river, wetland or lake) (summary attached to agenda)

**Coes Ford Wetland update – Mātauranga Māori assessment due May**

The Mātauranga Māori baseline assessment has been put back due to staffing availability.

**Environment Canterbury Drop-in sessions – intensive winter grazing**

These drop-in sessions to be discussed at the upcoming workshop.

**8<sup>th</sup> May Zone Committee meeting and Boat Creek visit**

Zone Committee 8<sup>th</sup> May Boat Creek visit - weather permitting. Will send out communications on this event. Committee confirmed to leave from Tai Tapu Community Centre and car pool to Boat Creek.

**Moved** - Karaitiana Taiuru / **Seconded** - Tayla Nelson-Tuhuru

**CARRIED**

**4 General Business**

Murray Washington advised Selwyn District Council annual plan open for engagement.

Jaimee Grant led the karakia to close the meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.25pm

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**CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATE**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| AGENDA ITEM NO: 2   | SUBJECT MATTER: <b>Zone Committee Action Plan Confirmation</b> |
| REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant – CWMS Facilitation, Environment Canterbury | DATE OF MEETING: 8 May 2023                                    |

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the agenda item is for the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee (SWZC) to confirm the changes to the Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-24 for this financial year.

**Recommendations:**

The following recommendation is presented to the SWZC for consideration and decision.

That the Zone Committee:

- a) **Confirms** the changes to the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-24 for this financial year.

**Background:**

Zone Committee Action Plans were established as a requirement under Environment Canterbury’s Long-Term Plan 2021-31. Each zone committee now has an Action Plan covering 2021-24 which outlines how they will work with the community to deliver their aspirations for freshwater as outlined in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

As noted in each zone committees Terms of Reference, committees will review and amend their Action Plan at the beginning of every year to ensure they are still in agreement with the priority areas, and the actions are still those they believe will achieve their objectives.

A review was undertaken by the Zone Committee via workshop, and this now requires formal confirmation.

**Action Plan changes:**

A copy of the Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-24, with the proposed changes, is attached as **Agenda Item 2.1**. The changes to dates reflect the impact COVID has had on the ability for the Zone Committee to undertake several actions. The removal of the reference to the Immediate Steps programme is required as this funding stream no longer exists.

## Agenda item 2.1

Marked up changes as discussed at 17 April workshop

### We will help raise awareness about the risks to private drinking water supplies by:

- Requesting and assisting with consolidation of information to raise awareness about the safety of private drinking water supplies by July 2021
- Attending or hosting at least one public event each year to raise awareness about water quality in private drinking water supplies and wider water quality trends
- Investigating opportunities for accessible community testing by late 2021.

### We will enhance mahinga kai, biodiversity and recreation opportunities by:

- Hosting or attending at least one public information session on mahinga kai each year
- Developing 'prompt questions' to ensure mahinga kai is built into decision making and projects by December 2022
- Using at least one method each year to support rūnanga and agencies to implement mahinga kai projects
- Hosting at least one biodiversity-focused celebration each year
- Publicising and celebrating measurable improved biodiversity outcomes for at least one project each year
- Publicising and supporting at least two planting days per year
- Co-hosting a <sup>2023/24</sup> Rakaia field trip with Ashburton Water Zone Committee, with a focus on bioiversity and recreation
- ~~Recommending full allocation of Immediate Steps each financial year~~
- Requesting Environment Canterbury and Department of Conservation briefings on progress in the identification of fish passage issues, improved guidelines, and Environment Canterbury's prioritised approach to improving intake design.

### We will facilitate actions to achieve catchment nutrient targets and water quality outcomes by:

- Identifying and suggesting at least one role model farmer each year to be promoted
- Requesting at least two verbal or written updates each year on progress, including current rules, consent updates, audit results, meeting the PC1-modelled nitrogen load
- Hosting at least one community meeting per year on progress and challenges with meeting nutrient limits (rural and urban)
- Attending at least three Environment Canterbury farm advisory drop-ins per year
- Hosting or attending at least one community engagement event per year that assists with community understanding about Central Plains Water
- Communicating with at least three people or organisations driving positive change in the rural sector each year.

### We will support actions to restore Te Waihora to a healthy state by:

- Attending and contributing to Te Waihora Co-Governance and Whakakōhanga Kōrero Group meetings
- ~~Advocating for and contributing to a map of all projects in the catchment by December 2021~~
- Assisting Te Waihora Co-Governance with community engagement and communications
- Requesting and completing regular reporting to/engagement with Te Waihora Co-Governors.
- **Work alongside Co-Governance to advocate for and contribute to a map of all projects in the catchment.**

### We will facilitate a community-wide approach to restore the Waikirikiri/Selwyn River back to a healthy state by:

#### Seeking support in the form of a partnership and actively seeking resources and practical projects, including:

- Identifying and requesting specific priorities/actions/locations/funding for councils and agencies to prioritise by June 2022
- Writing at least one story for publication on the Waikirikiri each year
- Attending and contributing to relevant community/partner meetings
- Investigating a "scorecard" for the river for community reporting by December 2023 and seeking assistance with measurable criteria for a healthy Waikirikiri/Selwyn River
- Promoting and enabling school engagement and citizen science.

#### Ensuring all practical work is based on best practice and evaluation, including:

- Actively pursuing research into the effectiveness of riparian planting to ensure best practice and positive environmental outcomes
- Requesting regular reporting to track sediment loads in Silverstream catchment, and providing this information to the community
- Recommending ~~2021-22~~ summer student internships to relevant councils for specific research
- Requesting regular Waikirikiri/Selwyn-related project updates and contributing ideas and support to ensure projects progress
- Supporting Greendale School's EnviroSchools work in the Near River Recharge project and supporting the NRR and Targeted Stream Augmentation projects
- Investigating the impact of 4WD use and rubbish dumping in the river, and options for low-impact recreational 4WD use.

#### Support landowner work in the catchment:

- Supporting the Environment Canterbury zone team to encourage catchment groups and implement the Swimmable Selwyn at Coes Ford project
- Supporting funding bids and land purchases.



|   |   |
|---|---|
| AGENDA ITEM NO: 3   | SUBJECT MATTER: <b>Zone Committee Action Plan Initiatives - projects and review</b> |
| REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant – CWMS Facilitation, Environment Canterbury | DATE OF MEETING: 8 May 2023   |

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the agenda item is for the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee to consider an initiative and decide whether to recommend funding using the Zone Committee’s Action Plan Budget for the 2022-23 financial year. This also presents an opportunity for the Zone Committee to review and decide how, and if, the unallocated funds will be used.

**Recommendations:**

The following recommendations are presented to the SWZC for consideration and decision.

That the Zone Committee:

1. **Confirms** for the Community Drinking Water Testing Proposal, whether the Zone Committee:
  - a. **Supports** the project to be recommended for funding using the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan Budget; or
  - b. **Requests further information** on the initiative before making a decision to support or not support a recommendation to fund using the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan Budget; or
  - c. **Does not support** the project be recommended for funding using the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan Budget.
2. **Reviews** the projects supported to date in consideration of the remaining available funds and **confirms** which option it supports.

**Background:**

***Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan Budget***

As part of their Long-Term Plan 2021-2031, Environment Canterbury established the Zone Committee Action Plan Budget (formerly referred to as the Community Engagement Fund) and committed \$50,000 per zone for the 2022-23 financial year. The confirmed purpose of the budget is to allow Zone Committees to focus on implementing their action plan and leverage other funding opportunities to achieve the CWMS priorities.

The Zone Committee has supported the following initiatives this financial year:

| Initiative                                       | Funding  | Project key details   |
|--|----------|---|
| 1) Boat Creek Reserve Native Restoration Project | \$12,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding to increase the weed control margin created through last year’s funding by a further 10 m to reinforce weed control efforts (\$10K) and; development and installation of an</li> </ul> |



|   |                 |  |
|---|-----------------|--|
|   |                 | <p>information panel on hydrodynamics (\$2K) which will complement the five funded information panels which promote the story of the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This funding will contribute to the project vision that “Boat Creek and the surrounding conservation estate will be a fresh water and native bush habitat that; sustains fish and bird life, improves water quality in the lagoon and river catchment, acknowledges the cultural significance of the area, and provides recreational access for everyone to enjoy”.</li> <li>In the Rakaia River Catchment.</li> </ul> |
| 2) Te Ara Kākāriki Kids Discovery Plantout Day – Te Motu o Ahuriri Proposal | \$8,756         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding a Kids Discovery Plantout Day this coming spring for Lincoln Primary School at the Te Motu o Ahuriri site (\$8,256) and development of an information sign (\$500).</li> <li>Plantout day outcomes include educating students on native biodiversity whilst encouraging them to become tiaki tamariki. Contributes to the restoration of a local native ecosystem and health of the Huritini/Halswell awa.</li> <li>In the Huritini/Halswell and ultimately, Te Waihora Catchment.</li> </ul>   |
| 3) ESAI Project Coordination Support Proposal                               | \$10,000        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding to cover Project Tinaku Coordination costs for three-four months. The total funding is \$20K to be split over this financial year and next.</li> <li>Project coordination is vital to the success of the Tinaku project which aims to protect and enhance remaining remnants of native biodiversity within the Ellesmere area and to improve water quality in the lowland waterways that feed into Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and Muriwai/Coopers Lagoon.</li> <li>In the Te Waihora and Muriwai/Coopers Lagoon catchments.</li> </ul>                         |
| 4) ESAI Corbetts Wetland Restoration Project                                | \$12,970        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting to restore the natural biodiversity of the wetland and its abutting dryland terrace, to filter runoff from the paddocks, and to uptake nutrients from the groundwater seepage. Additionally, the planting aims to improve habitat for native wildlife and increase mahinga kai values.</li> <li>In the Waikirikiri Selwyn catchment.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$43,726</b> | <b>\$6,274 remains to be allocated.</b>  |

### **Community Drinking Water Testing proposal:**

The Zone Committee has been investigating the opportunity to support community nitrate testing to help educate and raise awareness in the Selwyn Waihora community. At the time of this report was prepared, a proposal was still in development and will be tabled at this meeting.

### **Action Plan Budget Review and next steps:**

To date, the Zone Committee has committed \$43,726 of the available of the \$50,000 excluding the project considered today. There is a possibility that the remaining funding from the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan budget will not be allocated.

The Zone Committee have some options they can consider for any remaining funds:

- **OPTION A: Recommend funding to an existing project supported by the Zone Committee**
  - Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Incorporated were seeking \$20K across two financial years with \$10K supported this financial year and seeking \$10K next financial year. The Zone Committee could look to allocate the funding and deduct it from the \$10K being sought next financial year.
- **OPTION B: Leave funding unallocated**
  - The funds will be put back into the reserve and included as part of the next financial year's budget. This funding will not be rolled over for the Zone Committee to allocate next financial year.

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|---|--|
| AGENDA ITEM NO: 4   | SUBJECT MATTER: <b>Committee Updates</b> (for information) |
| REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant – CWMS Facilitation, Environment Canterbury | DATE OF MEETING: 8 May 2023                                |

**PURPOSE:**

The following updates are provided for the committee’s information and approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Zone Committee:

**Receives** these updates for its information.

**1. Our Freshwater 2023 report - Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ**

The Ministry for the Environment has recently published the ‘Our freshwater 2023’ report. The report examines the most pressing issues in our freshwater environment and is produced jointly by the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ.

Key findings include:

- 36 percent of lake monitoring sites improved while 45 percent worsened between 2011 and 2020, based on a nutrient and algae-level measure of ecosystem health.
- Modelling shows efforts by farmers to reduce fertiliser use and keep stock out of waterways helped to reduce the amount of phosphorus and sediment reaching our rivers between 1995 and 2015. However, because the number of farms grew, it’s estimated the total amount of nitrogen reaching rivers increased.
- It’s estimated 45 percent of New Zealand’s total river length is not suitable for activities like swimming, according to models of campylobacter infection risk between 2016 and 2020.
- Data suggests 48 percent of Aotearoa New Zealand’s river network is at least partially inaccessible to migratory fish.
- About two-thirds of freshwater native bird species were either threatened with extinction or at risk of becoming threatened in 2021.
- Wastewater service providers reported more than 4,200 overflows due to wet weather events, or blockages and failures during dry weather in the 12 months from July 2020 to June 2021.

Examples of the impacts include:

- People’s health is put at risk by pollution from sources such as wastewater overflows and livestock run-off.
- Communities and infrastructure can be dramatically affected by extreme weather events that cause flooding.
- Mātauranga, mahinga kai, wellbeing, and other important aspects of te ao Māori are impacted when freshwater and the life it supports are degraded or threatened.
- Algal blooms and other effects of excess nutrients can harm freshwater species and ecosystems, and restrict people’s recreational use of lakes and rivers.

- Fish can be affected by structures like dams, weirs, and flood pumps – which hamper their ability to migrate and breed.
- All New Zealanders – and many sectors of the economy – need clean and reliable supplies of water.

Alongside the report, the Ministry for the Environment has also the digital storytelling platform ESRI StoryMaps to create a new and engaging way to look at some of the issues raised in the Our freshwater 2023 report. The StoryMap, [Navigating our freshwater environment](#), considers what's going on from the perspective of tuna (longfin eels). Tuna are a remarkable species that can live 70 years or more, travel thousands of kilometres, and are taonga to Māori and treasured by other people from many walks of life. Using photos, videos, and interactive maps, the StoryMap examines the challenges facing tuna throughout their lives as travel ki uta ki tai (mountains to sea) – and how those challenges affect aspects of the freshwater ecosystem, people, communities, and sectors.

For more information, see:

[Our freshwater 2023 | Ministry for the Environment \(environment.govt.nz\)](#)

## **2. Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Trust update**

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The Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society administers a fund that was established to contribute funding for projects within the Rakaia River catchment that enhance the cultural, ecological, and biological health of, and recreational opportunities within the catchment area, and thereby contribute to the first order priorities set out in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. Matt Dodson will provide an update to be tabled at this meeting.

## **3. Environment Canterbury consents**

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Environment Canterbury processes the most resource consent applications of any regional council in Aotearoa/New Zealand - between 1500 and 2200 each year - with 1000 to 1200 applications in the system at any one time.

Protecting the environment is always our top priority. Environment Canterbury is committed to working with mana whenua, farmers and the wider community to ensure Canterbury's environment is maintained and enhanced.

There is a backlog of consents, but it is decreasing. The backlog will affect people who are applying for new consents, seeking renewals or variations to existing consents, or those needing pre-application advice. Delays should be expected in initial contact and longer-than-usual processing times.

The delays are due to:

- The planning and regulatory framework is complicated and has shifted with central government legislation, particularly the National Policy Statement on Freshwater

Management 2020 and the hierarchy of obligations to put the health of the water/wai first. We must ensure we are processing consents correctly which means it may take more time as often we need more information from applicants.

- There is a nationwide shortage of planning professionals, and this impacts on our resource planning services. In addition, we have a high number of complex consents which impact overall backlog levels.
- The Resource Management Act requires us to address applications in the order they are received, which impacts on backlog numbers. Essentially, we need to address historic applications in the queue before processing new applications.

Staff will continue to take the time needed to fully understand the potential effects of every resource consent application we receive.

The exact timeframes in delays varies hugely depending on the nature of the activity being applied for and the scale, scope and significance of that activity. On average processing is delayed by about 10 weeks, excluding applications on hold awaiting action from applicants.

Environment Canterbury is taking action to tackle these staff shortages and clear the backlog, by increasing number of planners, providing more administration support, reinstating the preapplication service, outsourcing processing and ensuring our employment package is competitive in a challenging labour market.

For more information, see:

[Delays in processing resource consent applications | Environment Canterbury \(ecan.govt.nz\)](#)

#### **4. Environment Canterbury Farm Portal unavailable from 26 April for up to one month**

*From the Environment Canterbury website:*

**Farm Portal maintenance - system unavailable from noon Wednesday 26 April for up to one month**

We have been working to enable the Environment Canterbury Farm Portal to continue to function following the planned Overseer cropping updates.

This work has been a lot more complicated than first thought, and unfortunately, we have to close the portal to make the necessary software updates and system testing. We apologise for the short notice and any inconvenience this may cause.

**From noon Wednesday 26 April, the portal will close for up to one month – from that point, you won't be able to generate GMP N loss or any other reports.**

This has implications for consent applications that require use of the Farm Portal and Environment Canterbury Equivalent Pathway Tool. The most significant effect will be on applications for farming land use consents because:

A report from the Farm Portal is required to be submitted with all applications that require demonstration of a Baseline GMP Loss Rate and/or GMP Loss Rate (e.g., regional farming land rules

5.44A to 5.59); we will be unable to accept applications that require those reports until that function is restored.

The Environment Canterbury Equivalent Pathway Tool (ECEP) also uses the same programming architecture as the Farm Portal, this issue will also apply to applications made under regional rules 5.42A and 5.42B (the 'equivalent pathway' rules) where they make use of the ECEP tool.

Applications made under the 'equivalent pathway' rules that do not use the ECEP can still be made, as can applications under sub-regional rules that do not require the generation of a Baseline GMP Loss Rate and/or GMP Loss Rate.

It is possible that other applications which need to demonstrate how an activity can be undertaken within a nutrient limit will also be affected on a case-by-case basis.

Restoring Portal functionality is a very high priority for Environment Canterbury and we are working at full capacity to get the Portal back online. We are working hard to restore functionality as soon as possible and we will let you know when this is complete.

For more information about the Farm Portal, go to:

- [Farm Portal](https://www.ecan.govt.nz/) | Environment Canterbury (ecan.govt.nz)

#### **5. Fine tuning your predator control with Cam Speedy – 8 May, 6-7.30 pm**

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Selwyn District Council is hosting a talk by predator control specialist, Cam Speedy, at Te Ara Ātea in Rolleston from 6-7.30 pm as part of a series in the wider region. Cam is a wildlife biologist with over 40 years of experience in predator control and ecosystem management.

The evening will consist of a presentation and Q&A session. 'Attention-to-detail' is Cam's number one tip for predator control. Cam will share some of his experiences to help make your predator control more effective. Having kit sitting out there that pests encounter but don't interact with is an increasing issue we can't afford if we want to achieve a predator free NZ by 2050.

#### **Details for Selwyn event:**

- **Rolleston**

6–7.30 pm Monday 8 May

Te Whare Tapere room – Te Ara Ātea (Rolleston Library), 56 Tennyson Street, Rolleston.

Registration is required – register via PredatorFreeNZ website (<https://predatorfreenz.org/about-us/predator-free-new-zealand-trust/our-events/>)

Details for other sessions in the series

- **Christchurch Central**

6–7.30 pm Tuesday 9 May

Aldersgate Centre – Puari Huinga – The Great Hall, 309 Durham Street North, Christchurch Central

Registration is required – register via PredatorFreeNZ website (<https://predatorfreenz.org/about-us/predator-free-new-zealand-trust/our-events/>)

- **Banks Peninsula**

6 – 7.30 pm Wednesday 10 May

Akaroa Village Inn Boat Shed, Opposite 107 Beach Road, Akaroa

Registration is required – register via PredatorFreeNZ website (<https://predatorfreenz.org/about-us/predator-free-new-zealand-trust/our-events/>)

## **6. Living Water - Bringing back biodiversity to lowland waterways**

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### *Living Water team update:*

The Living Water team celebrated a huge achievement with the Department of Conservation (DOC), Fonterra, Te Taumutu Rūnanga, Selwyn District Council, Environment Canterbury, the LII Drainage Committee, EOS and Aqualinc - the completion and handover of the Catchment Management Plan and Implementation Guide to the Selwyn District Council.

An event was held on the banks of the Ararira/LII River in Liffey Springs Reserve to officially hand over the documents to the Selwyn District Council. Now, the council are 'plan ready' to improve the health and mauri of Te Waihora and the Ararira/LII catchment. This project provides a recipe for change, the plans can be used as starting point for other similar lowland regions within the Te Waihora catchment and around Aotearoa New Zealand.



Left, Selwyn District Council CEO, David Ward receives the Catchment Management Plan from Fonterra Partnership Manager, Peter Savage. Right, Living Water Ararira-LII Site Lead Robin Smith hands the Implementation Guide to Les Wanhalla (Te Taumutu Rūnanga), Chair of Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee.

For more information on the project, go to:

- [Ararira-LII Catchment Water Network Redesign Project](#) | Living Water (livingwater.net.nz)

## **7. Changes to Three Waters Reform announced**

Safe, affordable, and reliable drinking water, and wastewater and stormwater networks that meet environmental and cultural expectations are the foundation of advanced societies. It is also essential for the protection of public health and the health of the environment.

In mid-2017, following the Government Inquiry into Havelock North Drinking Water, the Government established the Three Waters Review to look at how to improve the regulation and service delivery arrangements of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater – the three waters – to better support New Zealand’s environment, health, and safety.

As a result of the review, the Government announced in July 2020 announced the Three Waters Reform Programme in response to mounting evidence of the challenges facing three waters service delivery nationally. The Review also led to the establishment of Taumata Arowai, the new water regulator for Aotearoa and a strengthened regulatory environment for three waters services.

In early April 2023 the Government decided on changes to the water services reform programme. These changes included increasing the number of new water services entities from four to ten in order to strengthen local representation and voice.

A summary of the changes can be found on the Department of Internal Affairs webpage. The Government also released a statement on 13 April 2023 which can be viewed via the [beehive.govt.nz](http://beehive.govt.nz) website.

For more information, go to:

- Water Services Reform Programme | Department of Internal Affairs (<https://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme>)
- Major shakeup will see affordable water reforms led and delivered regionally | Beehive.govt.nz (<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/major-shakeup-will-see-affordable-water-reforms-led-and-delivered-regionally>)

## **8. Environmental Defence Society (EDS) 2023 ‘Pivot Point’ conference papers online**

On 22-24 March, the EDS held their ‘Pivot Point’ environmental conference which focussed on the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, and the land use changes needed post Gabrielle. The pre-workshop and conference recordings are now available online.

- Pre-workshop recordings - [EDS 2023 RM Pre-conference Workshop on Vimeo](#)



Including – The Climate Adaption Act; what’s required?, RMA reforms, Addressing conflicts during implementation, Implementation of the reforms; how do we make them work?, How to make the Acts work for Māori.

- Conference video recordings - [EDS 2023 Conference: Pivot Point on Vimeo](#)  
Including – our place in the world; trade, environment, and climate change, Restoring the mauri of the whenua, Jointly addressing Aotearoa’s biodiversity and climate change crisis, Recalibrating environmental policy.

Note, the June 2024 EDS Conference will be held Christchurch next year.

**9. Actions from previous meetings**

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| <i>From 17 April meeting and workshop:</i> |         |  |
| 1.   | Jaimee  | When preparing papers for Committee – send out word document version for committee updates so links can be accessed.<br><i>Completed</i> |
| 2.   | Jaimee  | Talk to Environment Canterbury staff to get an understanding of the consenting backlog<br><i>Completed</i>                               |
| 3.   | Jaimee  | Follow up with David Murphy re: mapping project for Te Waihora<br><i>In process</i>  |
| 4.   | Jaimee  | Talk to Tim Davies re: summer students<br><i>In process</i>  |
| 5.   | Jaimee  | Look into TOW training for ZC members<br><i>In process</i>   |
| 6.   | Allanah | Ask around networks re: speakers on topics of relevance for the Zone Committee<br><i>Completed</i>                                       |