

Christchurch West Melton Water Zone progress report

Each of Waitaha/Canterbury's water zone committees has an [action plan](#) which outlines how they will work with the community to deliver their aspirations for freshwater as outlined in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS). Committees report annually to let the CWMS partners and the community know how things are tracking.

2021/22 Progress report

From the chair: Advocating for the health of our waterways



Annabelle Hasselman, Christchurch West Melton Water Zone Committee Chair

Our committee works to protect and restore the freshwater ecosystems and habitats in the zone. These spring-fed waterways are the foundation of our unique landscapes, ecosystems and communities in Christchurch and as a committee we recognise their importance and vulnerability.

Over the last year we've focused on being advocates for issues that threaten the health of our urban rivers - and supported the enthusiasm and commitment of community groups who are active in their catchments. We have helped fund a range of projects to enable these groups to implement actions on the ground - including work by the [Community Waterways Partnership](#).

The development of the [Stormwater Superhero campaign](#) is another recent highlight, and the topic of stormwater itself remains firmly on our radar.

Other projects that our action plan budget helped fund were:

- a contribution to co-ordination costs for the Avon-Heathcote Esturay Ihutai Trust
- a contribution to [Stormwater Superhero trailer](#) costs
- planting of natives along school streams
- Te Tiriti training for community group members
- Cashmere Stream freshwater springs project (Stage 1)
- planting around Albert/Victory Stream by Port Hills Park Trust Board
- hiring of a helicopter for Water & Wildlife Habitat Trust's remote sensing work at the Otukaikino catchment.

In 2022 we farewelled two long standing members - Les Wanhalla, Taumutu Rūnunga representative, and Kevin Brown, chair. A huge thank you for all the time and energy over your combined contribution of 16 years. We welcomed Tyla Harrison Hunt as the new Taumutu Rūnunga representative and I accepted the opportunity to chair the committee.

The achievements of each committee are the result of the ideas, actions and commitment of the individuals involved. We are also excited about working together to implement Te Mana o te Wai, which will ensure the health and wellbeing of water is protected and that human health needs are provided for.

Challenges and opportunities

Two key urban contaminants that threaten the health of our waterways are zinc and copper. These come from copper brake pads, tyres and building materials. The committee is advocating for further research around their impacts and is seeking national solutions for their management. We hope to see progress on this in the coming year, and I see this as an opportunity for some meaningful change in this space.

Sediment, especially the fine loess soil from the Port Hills, destroys the habitat for species in urban rivers and the estuary. This is an ongoing challenge for the community and the committee – but we'll continue to push for lasting solutions to this problem.

Annabelle Hasselman.

Delivering the community's vision for freshwater

The [Canterbury Water Management Strategy \(CWMS\)](#) puts some responsibility for finding solutions for freshwater management in the hands of the community, with support from councils, Ngāi Tahu, and others. The strategy sets out freshwater goals and targets to deliver the community's vision for freshwater.

Each of the [community-led water zone committees](#) work collaboratively to develop freshwater recommendations for councils to help ensure plans give effect to these goals and targets.

Within each target area, there are several specific time-bound targets to be achieved and these are [monitored and reported](#) on to ensure progress is being made.

The CWMS targets are: [Environmental limits](#), [Ecosystem health and biodiversity](#), [Natural character of braided rivers](#), [Kaitiakitanga](#), [Drinking water](#), [Recreational and amenity opportunities](#), [Water use efficiency](#), [Irrigated land area](#), [Energy security and efficiency](#) and [Indicators of regional and national economies](#).

Local projects helping to deliver on the CWMS targets

Read some of the stories about what is being done in the zone to deliver on the CWMS targets.

Stormwater Superhero campaign spreads the word

The committee carried out an awareness campaign during June 2022 to encourage people to become a Stormwater Superhero – at home, with the car, and in the workplace.

It followed an earlier Christchurch City Council survey ([Christchurch Waterways Survey](#)), which found 42 percent of respondents either didn't know where stormwater flows to or thought it went to a treatment plant.

The campaign included social media posts, media articles, a media release, a live TV interview, newspaper ads, posters for council service centres, and revamped brochures.

The Stormwater Superhero trailer was onsite at various events and will continue to be used with Envirohub and other partners of the Community Waterways Partnership.

Committee members will be giving educational talks to community groups, and future engagement opportunities are being explored.

Undertaking a Stormwater Superhero campaign and utilising the mobile stormwater resource are both targets in the committee's action plan.

This work helps meet these CWMS targets: [Ecosystem health and biodiversity](#), [Kaitiakitanga](#) and [Recreational and amenity opportunities](#)



A training day at Environment Canterbury - for use of the Stormwater Superhero trailer.

Support for the Community Waterways Partnership

Nearly 50 community groups, organisations and government agencies have signed a [Community Waterways Partnership Charter \(CWP\)](#) to improve the health of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula waterways.

Collective action remains at the heart of the charter - which aims to change behaviour towards stormwater at an individual, household and community level.

The zone committee has supported the partnership by participating in workshops and helping fund [Christchurch Envirohub](#) – enabling it to utilise the Stormwater Superhero trailer at events and other locations – and providing funds for native plantings along streams at schools.

The partnership is also developing an online hub to encourage greater connection between all partners. It will be hosted by Envirohub and will provide a digital platform where groups and businesses involved with the partnership can share information, stories and data, as well as communicate with the wider public.

The committee continues to support the Community Waterways Partnership by assisting with community engagement and providing a conduit to councils – both action plan targets.

This work helps meet these CWMS targets: [Ecosystem health and biodiversity](#), [Kaitiakitanga](#), [Recreational and amenity opportunities](#) and [Water use efficiency](#)



A Community Waterways Partnership workshop held at Te Hāpua/Halswell Library in July 2021.

Committee hosts catchment hui

In November 2021, the committee held a Catchment Hui with members of community groups and councils to understand their challenges and explore ways we can better support them - all action plan goals.

It was decided that the committee needs to reduce its number of actions and focus on fewer priorities.

The priorities identified by the participants for the committee included sediment and erosion control, stormwater contamination, advocacy on issues common to community group submissions, and supporting the Community Waterways Partnership.

This work helps meet these CWMS targets: [Ecosystem health and biodiversity](#) and [Kaitiakitanga](#)



The committee is narrowing the focus of its action plan, following discussions at a Catchment Hui

Other achievements for 2021/22

- At the request of the committee, Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council again wrote to central government about stormwater contamination, calling for faster action to better manage urban contaminants such as copper and zinc.
- Stormwater Superhero trailer training was provided for members of the Community Waterways Partnership.
- The committee continued working with key stakeholders on improving erosion and sediment control.

Key actions for the year ahead

- Exploring opportunities with key stakeholders to enhance [mahinga kai](#) – Īnanga spawning and shellfish health.
- Supporting the development of Christchurch City Council's behaviour change programme.
- Holding the [Stormwater Superhero](#) programme July – November 2022.

Find out more

- Learn more about the [Christchurch West Melton Water Zone Committee](#).
- See the [Christchurch West Melton Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024](#).
- Download the [Christchurch West Melton Water Zone Implementation Programme \(PDF file, 21.59MB\)](#).

Previous progress reports

2020 progress report

[Download the 2020 progress report \(PDF File, 737.4KB\)](#)

2019 progress report

[Download the 2019 progress report \(PDF File, 4.5MB\)](#)

2018 progress report

[Download the 2018 progress report \(PDF File, 1.3MB\)](#)

Environment Canterbury © 2023

Retrieved: 5:14pm, Wed 27 Sep 2023

<https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/christchurch-west-melton-water-zone/christchurch-west-melton-water-zone-progress-report/>