

# Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Water Zone Committee 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 community know how things are tracking.

## 2021/22 Progress report

### From the chair: Setting our priorities to 2024



Michael McMillian, Lower Waitaki Water Zone Committee Chair

In August 2021, community members Kate White, Daniel Isbister, Barney Hoskins and Chris Batstone (co-opted) completed their terms on the committee. We're very grateful for the expertise and dedication of these members, especially Kate - who served for more than nine years, including four as chair.

We also welcomed three new community members - Jakki Guilford, Fraser McKenzie and Jonnie Rutherford. Brent Packman was reappointed.

In May 2022 Bruce Murphy stepped down as chair, and I was honoured to be elected to the role. Bruce remains on the committee as a community member. I am grateful for Bruce's knowledge and energy which is still highly valued by the committee.

We had a busy year developing our [action plan for 2021-2024](#). This plan outlines our purpose and role, the expectations that councils have of us, and our priorities for the next three years.

Committees were each provided with \$50,000 to support projects that help meet their action plan goals, and overall [CWMS targets](#). Our committee put its budget towards several community initiatives that positively impact biodiversity, [mahinga kai](#) and water quality in Hakataramea, Waitaki Valley and Waihao catchments.

A planned stormwater awareness campaign in Waimate was impacted by COVID-19 restrictions but this will be picked up again in 2022/23.

## **Challenges and opportunities**

I see plenty of opportunities to progress our work in 2022/23 – including through further support of catchment and community groups, a focus on urban stormwater and building closer relationships with papatipu rūnanga.

A new challenge for the committee will be working with the community and stakeholders to support actions to investigate and alleviate the source of high nitrate concentrations in the Lower Waihao Rural Water Scheme - across the wider Northern Fan area of the lower Waitaki.

Michael McMillan.

## 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](#).

#### Waimate beach clean-up



The Waimate community came together to clean-up the beach at Waihao Box Reserve

During Seaweeek in March, more than 30 people from Waimate came together to collect roughly 60 kgs of waste from the beach at Waihao Box Reserve.

The clean-up was hosted by the committee, together with Waimate District Council and Environment Canterbury.

Discarded tyres, a water cylinder, 23 plastic bottles, a washing machine lid and other waste that can be harmful to both ika (marine animals) and manuhiri (visitors) to the beach were all found

and picked up.

The [Stormwater Superhero trailer](#) was also on display, providing interactive education about the connection between the stormwater network and local waterways.

The event aligns with the committee's action plan goals of increasing community engagement to help improve water quality – and educating and inspiring communities through the use of events.

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

## Waitaki Valley Biodiversity Project



Waitaki Valley School children learn about their local environment

A community project in Kurow is teaching children and their families how to grow and look after native plants that suit their unique local landscape.

The Waitaki Valley Biodiversity Project is a collaboration between the [Hakataramea Sustainability Collective](#) and Waitaki Valley School, and is all about sharing knowledge at the grassroots (or harakeke roots) level.

One of the committee's action plan goals is to work alongside communities towards ecosystem health and biodiversity targets. The committee supported this project with \$17,500 to fund materials to help establish a nursery, as well as purchase some seedlings.

It's hoped that eventually, plants can be sold from the nursery to help cover costs - but the key aim is to provide a community-oriented resource.

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

## Other key achievements for 2021/22

- The committee recommended \$12,000 of funding for the [Waihao Wainono Catchment Community Group \(WWCCG\)](#) for plants, an information kiosk and administration costs to support two existing projects - further enhancement of the Waihao River Walkway and facilitating improvements to Sir Charles Creek. The funding will also assist a new programme of weed-control work in the Upper Waihao catchment.
- The committee supported the [Know Your Catchment database](#) and web platform with \$6,000 to upgrade and make the programme more useable. The platform, which is managed by [Waitaki Irrigators Collective](#), enables the community to engage and learn about freshwater in the Waitaki catchment.
- The committee recommended funding of \$11,887 for plant guards and fertiliser to support the Te Rūnanga o Moeraki's Te Puna a Maru (Bortons Pond) ecological restoration project.

## Find out more

- Learn more about the [Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Water Zone Committee](#).
- See the [Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024](#).
- Download the [Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Water Zone Implementation Programme \(PDF file, 9.07MB\)](#).

## Previous progress reports

### 2020 progress report

Download the [2020 progress report \(PDF File, 3.88MB\)](#)

### 2019 progress report

Download the [2019 progress report \(PDF File, 5.00MB\)](#)

### 2018 progress report

Download the [2018 progress report \(PDF File, 4.94MB\)](#)

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