

Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora 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 community know how things are tracking.

2021/22 Progress report

From the chair: Action plan sets the direction



Lucy Millar, OTOP Water Zone
Committee Chair

Our year started off with the compilation of the [OTOP Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024](#), pulling together several priorities for the committee to focus on. I think the plan has given members a sense of direction and we've already made good progress towards achieving some of the actions - despite frustrations and disruptions caused by COVID-19. We've also made good progress around the wider Canterbury Water Management Strategy goals.

A couple of highlights this year included the [Well Water Checks event in Temuka](#), which I attended. The aim was to raise awareness about the importance of knowing about your own

water quality. We had great community engagement and I look forward to seeing these events continue next year.

The other was a memorable [field trip out at a tuhituhi o neherā \(ancient Māori rock art\)](#) site near the Opihi River. We've supported the restoration of this gully for more than five years and it was encouraging to see the progress being made to re-establish indigenous vegetation of the valley floor and protect the rock art.

Alongside the action plan, the [committee welcomed its first youth representative](#), Bailey Lissington. It's beneficial hearing from someone like Bailey – from the younger generation – about what is important to him and his peers.

Challenges and opportunities

As mentioned above, the committee will continue to promote the importance of testing well water. This is an opportunity to improve people's awareness about their own responsibilities when it comes to the monitoring of water quality.

A challenge for the committee for the year ahead will be to develop closer relationships with catchment groups to better understand their needs, and in turn, better support initiatives that align with our action plan.

I have now finished up as chair, but I wish the committee all the best for what will hopefully be a more settled year ahead.

Lucy Millar.

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.

Well owners take advantage of free testing

A [well water testing day](#) in Temuka and Fairlie showed that many South Cantabrians are making an effort to check their private water supply is safe to drink.

On Monday 16 May, more than 86 private well water samples were analysed for nitrate concentrations at the two Well Water Checks, organised by the zone committee.

The testing, which was carried out on the spot, only took about 15 minutes per sample - which gave participants time to talk to committee members about water quality issues and also how to undertake tests for bacteria like E.coli.

The events achieved the committee's action plan goal of hosting at least one water testing session.

This work helps meet these CWMS targets: [Drinking water](#)



The zone committee is championing safe and reliable drinking water

Restoration of rock art

In addition to a planting day, the zone committee organised and attended an education session at the Opihi tuhituhi neherā site in May 2022.

The field trip, which was one of the committee's action plan goals, aimed to improve the community's understanding of how to [protect rock art](#) that's particularly related to farming, and the history and significance of the art and surrounding area. It was also an opportunity to discuss the planting and restoration of the site's biodiversity/[mahinga kai](#).

27 people attended the session including members of public, Catchment Collective South Canterbury and Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua. The committee recommended that \$3,000 from the action plan budget be put towards covering the guided tour, as well as helping fund further plants and maintenance for ongoing restoration.

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



Hosting a field trip to the Taniwha Gully rock art site was

Te Tiriti (Treaty of Waitangi) course helps improve knowledge

plan goals

A two-day Te Tiriti (Treaty of Waitangi) course was held in June for members of southern zone committees, local catchment groups and the OTOP community.

The workshop aimed to improve locals' knowledge of New Zealand's cultural history and raise awareness around how to better engage with local rūnanga - which is one of the priorities in the action plan.

It included a visit to Arowhenua Marae - where members took part in a pōwhiri.

14 people attended, with some surprised to discover how much they didn't know.

Discussions also included tips on how to talk to friends and peers about Te Tiriti.

This is the second annual Te Tiriti course that the zone committee has organised.

This work helps meet these CWMS targets: [Kaitiakitanga](#)

Committee's key achievements for 2021/22

- A field trip to Waitarakao Lagoon was hosted in December 2021. This was well attended by local businesses, as well as members from the newly formed Upper Washdyke Catchment Group.
- An update on the state of the region's groundwater was presented to the public in September 2022.
- With its \$50,000 action plan budget, the committee supported initiatives including Te Tiriti (Treaty of Waitangi) training, Well Water Checks events, community pest trapping library and supporting the South Canterbury Catchment Collective.

Find out more

- Learn more about the [Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora Water Zone Committee](#).

- See the [Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021–2024](#).
- Download the [Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora Water Zone Implementation Programme \(PDF file, 4.71MB\)](#).

Previous progress reports

2020 progress report

[Download the 2020 progress report \(PDF File, 3.2MB\)](#)

2019 progress report

[Download the 2019 progress report \(PDF File, 5MB\)](#)

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