

Minutes of the Water and Land Committee, held at Environment Canterbury, Council Chamber, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch on Wednesday 30 August 2023 at 10.34am.

Present

Committee Chair Iaeen Cranwell, Committee Deputy Chair Claire McKay, Councillors Greg Byrnes, Joe Davies, Paul Dietsche*, David East, Grant Edge, Tutehounuku Korako, Vicky Southworth, Deon Swiggs, and Nick Ward.

*via audio/visual link

1. Karakia/Mihi Timatanga - Opening

Committee Chair Cranwell opened the meeting with a karakia and a mihi whakatau.

Cr Dietsche joined the meeting at 10.36am during the mihi whakatau.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Chair Peter Scott, Deputy Chair Craig Pauling, and Councillors Ian Mackenzie and John Sunckell, who were all on Council business. An apology for absence was also received from Cr Genevieve Robinson.

3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest reported.

4. Public Forum, Deputations, and Petitions

There were no requests for public forum, deputations, and petitions.

5. Extraordinary and Urgent Business

There was no extraordinary or urgent business.

6. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

7. Minutes

Refer to pages 8 to 15 of the agenda.

7.1 Unconfirmed Minutes - Water and Land Committee - 28 June 2023

Refer to pages 8 to 15 of the agenda.

Staff recommendation adopted without change.

Resolved WLC/2023/24

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Confirms the minutes from the Water and Land Committee meeting held on 28 June 2023.

Cr Davies/Cr Ward
CARRIED

8. Report Items

Refer to pages 16 to 115 of the agenda.

8.1 Water and Land Committee Resolutions Status Report – August 2023

Refer to pages 16 to 23 of the agenda.

Staff provided visibility on the status of resolutions made by the Water and Land Committee.

Staff recommendation adopted without change.

Resolved WLC/2023/25

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Notes the status of previous resolutions provided in the Status of Water and Land Committee Resolutions report August 2023.

Cr McKay/Cr East
CARRIED

8.2 CWMS Update - Northern Zone Committees

Refer to pages 24 to 40 of the agenda.

The two Northern Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Zone Committees updated the Committee on their Action Plans to support the implementation of the CWMS.

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

Resolved WLC/2023/26

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Receives this progress update on the two Northern Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) zone committees, on their current priorities, and progress in advancing their Action Plans and budget.
2. Receives this progress update on the formation of the Hurunui Water and Land Committee.

Cr Byrnes/Cr McKay
CARRIED

Cr Korako left the meeting at 11.29am and returned at 11.30am during the presentation on agenda item 8.3.

Cr East left the meeting at 11.36am and returned at 11.42am during questions of clarification on agenda item 8.3.

8.3 CWMS Fish Screen Working Group - final report

Refer to pages 41 to 55 of the agenda.

Staff provided an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Regional Committee's Fish Screen Working Group's recent work, their completion of a recent project, and sought approval to discharge the group.

Staff recommendations.

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Receives an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Regional Committee's Fish Screen Working Group's (FSWG) recent work.
2. Discharges the Fish Screen Working Group.
3. Requests Environment Canterbury staff assess the opportunities and needs associated with a programme of work relating to fish screen facilities including the opportunities for the contribution of an external group.

Cr Ward/Cr Byrnes

An amendment to the staff recommendations was moved by Cr Southworth and applied to the substantive motion.

3. Requests Environment Canterbury staff assess the opportunities and needs associated with a programme of work relating to fish screen facilities including the opportunities for the contribution of an external group and will provide an update to the Water and Land Committee at its 29 November 2023 meeting.

Cr Southworth/Cr Swiggs
CARRIED

Resolved WLC/2023/27

Substantive Motion:

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Receives an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Regional Committee's Fish Screen Working Group's (FSWG) recent work.
2. Discharges the Fish Screen Working Group.
3. Requests Environment Canterbury staff assess the opportunities and needs associated with a programme of work relating to fish screen facilities including the opportunities for the contribution of an external group and will provide an update to the Water and Land Committee at its 29 November 2023 meeting.

Cr Ward/Cr Byrnes
CARRIED

Cr Ward left the meeting at 12.07pm during the presentation on agenda item 8.4 and returned at 12.09 during questions of clarification on agenda item 8.4.

8.4 Discharging the CWMS Regional Committee

Refer to pages 56 to 59 of the agenda.

Staff provided an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Regional Committee.

Secretarial note: Committee Chair Cranwell requested that it be noted in the minutes that the committee acknowledged the Regional Committee and especially the members, Chair Jane Demeter, Angela Cushnie, Dr Andrew Dark, Kevin Gallagher, Cameron Henderson, Rima Herber, and Ross Millichamp for their work, acknowledging the workshops that were held, and their role in meeting and debating on issues relating to water in the region.

Staff recommendation:

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Discharges the CWMS Regional Committee as a committee of the Canterbury Regional Council

Resolved WLC/2023/28

An updated staff recommendation was provided to the committee.

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Recommends to the Canterbury Regional Council that the CWMS Regional Committee is discharged as a committee of the Council.
2. Acknowledges the mahi of the members of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee and thanks them for their dedication.

Cr Swiggs/Cr Southworth
CARRIED

8.5 Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes Lessons-learnt Report

Refer to pages 60 to 103 of the agenda.

Staff summarized the key lessons from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes Lessons-Learnt report and advised of the steps that are being taken to address some of the identified vulnerabilities.

The meeting adjourned at 12.28pm and reconvened at 12.29pm.

11. Extension in Meeting Time Before Break

Pursuant to Standing Orders 4.2 'No meeting can sit for more than two hours continuously without a break of at least ten minutes unless the meeting resolves to extend the time before a break.'

Resolved WLC/2023/29

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Resolve to extend the time required before a break of at least ten minutes, for at least 30 minutes unless the meeting is almost completed.

Cr Cranwell/Cr Byrnes
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.30pm and reconvened at 12.35pm.

Cr Davies left during the adjournment and returned to the meeting at 12.36pm during discussion on the amendment to the resolutions on agenda item 8.5.

8.5 Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes Lessons-learnt Report (continued)

Refer to pages 60 to 103 of the agenda.

Staff recommendations:

That the Water & Land Committee:

1. Receives the Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes Lessons-learned report prepared by Ministry for the Environment (MfE) as per attachment 8.5.1.
2. Notes the next steps for improving lake outcomes in Ōtūwharekai.
Cr McKay/Cr Korako

An amendment to the staff recommendations was moved by Cr Edge and applied to the substantive motion. The amendment was voted on in parts.

2. Notes the next steps for improving lake outcomes in Ōtūwharekai.
 - 2.1. Environment Canterbury will continue to work to ensure all landholders in the catchment have appropriate authorisations in place to manage the adverse effects on the lakes from their activities.
Cr Edge/Cr Swiggs
CARRIED
 - 2.2. Supporting the Ōtūwharekai Working Group and its ongoing work, with a short-term focus on getting external expertise to guide the group through the development of an integrated management plan for Ōtūwharekai.
Cr Edge/Cr Swiggs
CARRIED
 - 2.3. Environment Canterbury continues to work with LINZ and other statutory agencies to align work in the catchment.
Cr Edge/Cr Swiggs
CARRIED
3. Requests the Ōtūwharekai Working Group investigate the consideration of assessing the impact of land-use activity on the outstanding natural landscape values in accordance with the Regional Policy Statement and with reference to the NPS Freshwater Management 2020 Appendix 1B (Natural Form and Character).
Cr Edge/Cr Swiggs
CARRIED

Councillors East, McKay, and Ward requested that their votes against part 3 of the amendment be recorded.

Resolved WLC/2023/30

Substantive motion:

That the Water & Land Committee:

1. Receives the Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes Lessons-learnt report prepared by Ministry for the Environment (MfE) as per attachment 8.5.1.
2. Notes the next steps for improving lake outcomes in Ōtūwharekai.
 - 2.1. Environment Canterbury will continue to work to ensure all landholders in the catchment have appropriate authorisations in place to manage the adverse effects on the lakes from their activities.
 - 2.2. Supporting the Ōtūwharekai Working Group and its ongoing work, with a short-term focus on getting external expertise to guide the group through the development of an integrated management plan for Ōtūwharekai.
 - 2.3. Environment Canterbury continues to work with LINZ and other statutory agencies to align work in the catchment.
3. Requests the Ōtūwharekai Working Group investigate the consideration of assessing the impact of land-use activity on the outstanding natural landscape values in accordance with the Regional Policy Statement and with reference to the NPS Freshwater Management 2020 Appendix 1B (Natural Form and Character).

Cr McKay/Cr Korako
CARRIED

Cr East requested that his objection to the third part of the substantive motion be noted.

Cr Korako left the meeting at 12.58pm during the presentation on agenda item 8.6.

8.6 Portfolio Work Programme - Water and Land

Refer to pages 104 to 115 of the agenda.

Staff updated the Committee on the progress of key work initiatives for the Water and Land Portfolio.

Staff recommendation adopted without change.

Resolved WLC/2023/31

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Receives the work programme report for quarter four 2022/23 for the Water and Land portfolio.

Cr McKay/Cr Edge
CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 18 October 2023.

10. Karakia/Whakamutunga - Closing

Cr Cranwell closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting concluded at 1.04pm.

CONFIRMED 18 OCTOBER 2023

Committee Chair Iaeen Cranwell
Councillor, Environment Canterbury