

Minutes of the Water and Land Committee, held at Environment Canterbury, Council Chamber, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch on Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at 10.30am.

Present

Committee Chair Iaeen Cranwell*, Committee Deputy Chair Claire McKay, Chair Peter Scott and Councillors Greg Byrnes, Joe Davies, Paul Dietsche*, David East, Tutehounuku Korako*, Ian Mackenzie, Craig Pauling, Genevieve Robinson, Chair Peter Scott, Vicky Southworth, John Sunckell, Deon Swiggs, and Nick Ward.

*via audio/visual link

Cr Southworth joined the meeting at 10.30am during the Karakia.

Cr Korako joined the meeting at 10.33am during the acknowledgment.

1. Karakia/Mihi Timatanga - Opening

Cr Pauling opened the meeting with a karakia and a mihi whakatau.

The Committee acknowledged the passing of Rosemary (Roe) Acland of Mount Peel Station, who formed and chaired the Upper Rangitata Gorge Land Care Group in 1999, with the intent to control broom and the rabbit population, and preserve the historic resources of the Upper Rangitata, such as the Mount Harper Ice Rink and various huts through the area. A highlight of her time with the group was winning the Weedbusters Supreme Canterbury Award for overall excellence and work on private land in 2010. She will be sorely missed by the Rangitata Gorge Community as she was a strong and forthright leader for South Canterbury.

2. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cr Grant Edge.

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 9 to 17 of the agenda.

7.1 Unconfirmed Minutes - Water and Land Committee- 30 August 2023

Refer to pages 9 to 17 of the agenda.

Resolved WLC/2023/32

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Confirms the minutes from the Water and Land Committee meeting held on 30 August 2023.

Cr Southworth/Cr Ward
CARRIED

8. Report Items

Refer to pages 18 to 55 of the agenda.

8.1 Water and Land Committee Resolutions Status Report - October 2023

Refer to pages 18 to 24 of the agenda.

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

Resolved WLC/2023/33

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Water and Land Committee:

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

Chair Scott/Cr East
CARRIED

Cr Byrnes left the meeting at 11.22am during questions of clarification on agenda item 8.2 and returned at 11.39am during discussion on the motion for agenda item 8.2.

Cr East left the meeting at 11.40am and returned at 11.43am during discussion on the motion for agenda item 8.2.

The meeting adjourned at 11.44am and reconvened at 11.46am.

Cr Davies left the meeting at 11.44am and returned at 11.47am during discussion on the motion for agenda item 8.2.

8.2 Soil Quality Monitoring

Refer to pages 25 to 30 of the agenda.

Staff provided the Committee with an overview of the soil quality monitoring programme carried out within Canterbury/Waitaha. A presentation was given to the Committee for this item and is attached as Attachment 8.2.1.

Secretarial note: The Committee requested that staff investigate the feasibility of a monitoring programme for pesticides into receiving environments (e.g., groundwater), and provide an update at the next meeting of the Committee.

Staff recommendation:

1. Notes the report on the Canterbury soil quality monitoring programme carried out as part of the Environment Canterbury State of the Environment monitoring.
2. Notes that the review of the soil quality monitoring programme carried out in 2019 fulfils a target in level of service 2.3 in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.
3. Recommends that staff continue to work on the soil quality monitoring programme, noting that progress updates will be provided to Council, or an appropriate committee of Council, on an ongoing basis.

Cr Swiggs/Cr Sunckell

During discussion on the motion, an amendment was moved by Cr Mackenzie and seconded by Cr East to reword the third part of the recommendation as follows:

3. Recommends that staff continue to work on the soil quality monitoring programme in the interim, noting that progress updates will be provided to Council, or an appropriate committee of Council, on an ongoing basis, until this expenditure can be reviewed in the Long-Term Plan.

Cr Mackenzie/Cr East

The motion was considered by way of division and declared lost by 9 votes to 5 votes, the voting being as follows:

For: Committee Deputy Chair Claire McKay, Chair Peter Scott, Cr David East, Cr Ian Mackenzie, and Cr Nick Ward.

Against: Cr Greg Byrnes, Cr Joe Davies, Cr Paul Dietsche, Cr Tutehounuku Korako, Deputy Chair Craig Pauling, Cr Genevieve Robinson, Cr Vicky Southworth, Cr John Sunckell, and Cr Deon Swiggs.

Resolved WLC/2023/34

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Notes the report on the Canterbury soil quality monitoring programme carried out as part of the Environment Canterbury State of the Environment monitoring.
2. Notes that the review of the soil quality monitoring programme carried out in 2019 fulfils a target in level of service 2.3 in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.
3. Recommends that staff continue to work on the soil quality monitoring programme, noting that progress updates will be provided to Council, or an appropriate committee of Council, on an ongoing basis.

Cr Swiggs/Cr Sunckell

CARRIED

Councillors East, Mackenzie and Ward requested that their votes against the motion be recorded.

Cr Robinson left the meeting at 12.02pm before the presentation on agenda item 8.3 and returned at 12.06pm during questions of clarification on agenda item 8.3.

Cr Swiggs left the meeting at 12.03pm during the presentation on agenda item 8.3 and returned at 12.09pm during questions of clarification on agenda item 8.3.

8.3 Update on Contact Recreational Monitoring Programme

Refer to pages 31 to 39 of the agenda.

Staff provided an update on the contact recreation gradings to apply in the upcoming summer and provided assurance that contact recreation is being monitored in Canterbury.

Resolved WLC/2023/35

An updated staff recommendation was adopted without change.

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Receives this update on the Contact Recreation Monitoring Programme, including grades for sites, based on the past five years of data.
2. Recommends that staff will continue to execute the next steps outlined in this paper, chiefly:
 - 2.1. Monitor contact recreation sites across Canterbury and share results of the monitoring on the LAWA website.
 - 2.2. Work over the summer to identify the sources of faecal pollution within the region and to inform the community of the increased risk at identified swimming sites.
 - 2.3. Develop a model with key partners to inform the predicted risk of poor water quality at sites in Lyttelton/Whakaraupō and Akaroa harbours.
 - 2.4. Work with the Christchurch City Council, landowners, Papatipu Rūnanga and Te Whatu Ora to identify and remedy sources of human faecal pollution in harbours and rivers.

Cr Pauling/Cr East
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.26pm and reconvened at 1.03pm.

Cr Dietsche joined the meeting at 1.07pm during questions of clarification on agenda item 8.4.

Cr Korako joined the meeting at 1.22pm during questions of clarification on agenda item 8.4.

8.4 Update on implementation of Essential Freshwater Regulations

Refer to pages 40 to 48 of the agenda.

Staff provided an update to the Committee on the implementation of national regulations regarding synthetic nitrogen fertiliser use (N-Cap), Intensive Winter Grazing (IWG), and freshwater farm planning (FW-FP)

Resolved WLC/2023/36

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Receives this update on the implementation of the Essential Freshwater Regulations including:
 - 1.1 Use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser (N-Cap)
 - 1.2 Intensive Winter Grazing (IWG)
 - 1.3 Freshwater Farm Plans (FW-FP)
2. Notes that, pending formal inclusion in the Order in Council, the Freshwater Farm Plan regulations will take effect in Canterbury from 1 July 2025.
3. Notes that work to implement the Essential Freshwater Regulations was agreed to in the Long-Term Plan Te Pae Tawhiti 2021-31 and that any subsequent changes may require community consultation under the Canterbury Regional Council's Engagement, Significance and Māori Participation Policy.
4. Recommends that staff continue to work on implementation of the Essential Freshwater Regulations, noting that progress updates will be provided to Council or an appropriate Committee of Council on an ongoing basis.

Cr Pauling/Cr Southworth
CARRIED

Committee Chair Cranwell joined the meeting at 1.30pm during questions of clarification on agenda item 8.5.

Chair Scott joined the meeting at 1.33pm during questions of clarification on agenda item 8.5.

8.5 Zone Priority Project Update 2022/23

Refer to pages 49 to 55 of the agenda.

Staff provided an update on the work delivered through the Zone Delivery Priority Projects workstream.

Resolved WLC/2023/37

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Water and Land Committee:

1. Receives this progress update on Zone Delivery Priority Projects for 2022/23 and the outlook for this current financial year 2023/24.
2. Recommends that staff continue to work on the Zone Delivery programme, noting that progress updates will be provided to Council, or an appropriate committee of Council, on an ongoing basis.

Cr Pauling/Cr Sunckell
CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 29 November 2023.

10. Karakia Whakamutunga - Closing

Cr Pauling closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting concluded at 1.44pm.

CONFIRMED 29 NOVEMBER 2023

Chair Iaeen Cranwell
Councillor, Environment Canterbury