

Thursday 1st February 2024

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this monthly report to give an overview of our river operational plans for the three months ahead across Canterbury. These plans may change at short notice due to weather conditions, but the attached outline is our anticipated workplan.

Staff will make contact to discuss further detail of specific projects where we need to gather feedback and adapt work plans as necessary prior to commencing the work.

Please let me know if there's any additional information you would like in this report going forward or if there are any other parties we should be making aware of this this information.

Please note that Berm Transition Project updates on this report are indicative only and more detail is available here: [Regionwide planting and berm transition | Environment Canterbury \(ecan.govt.nz\)](#)

Kind regards,

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What	Where	When
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TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

ATP	Anchored tree protection (large trees transplanted and tied in place to resist erosion)
Berm	The vegetated strips of land next to the active part of a riverbed
D/S	Downstream
Fairway	Open gravel area between the berms
Layering	A process used to thicken vegetation by the felling of a tree (or group of trees) whereby the trunk remains partially connected to the stump
OMB	Old Man's Beard (a deciduous, smothering, climbing vine)
Pole planting	Planting of (typically) poplar or willow stems which root, sprout and grow into trees to provide bank stabilisation and to help control erosion.
RDR	Rangitata Diversion Race
SH	State highway
Snagging or snag removal	Removal of unwanted trees in river fairway which can divert flows causing bank erosion
TL	True left (the left-hand side of a river when looking downstream)
TLB	True left bank
TR	True right (the right-hand side of river when looking downstream)
TRB	True right bank
U/S	Upstream
LABP	Light anchor bank protection
HABP	Heavy anchor bank protection
DIST	Distance from sea

What	Where	When
Kaikōura Rivers and Drains Schemes		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	Oaro	Feb-May
Gravel traps maintenance	Mt Fyffe Streams	As required
Mouth openings	Lyell Creek & Middle Creek	As required – pre rainfall based on forecast
Rock Excavation from Island	Hapuku River near TRB Carpark	Postponed
Roadside Drain Spraying as required	Various Roadside drains, Kaikoura Flats	Starting 15 Nov-March
Mechanical Drain Clearance	Kaikoura Drainage District	Nov-March
Erosion Control Rock	Middle Creek Harnetts Creek Swan Creek Kaikoura Drains Lyell Creek	Nov- Feb
Stopbank Spraying	Kowhai River Waimangarara River Lukes Creek Floodgate Creek	Nov-Feb
Brushweed Spraying	Lyell Creek Middle Creek Warrens Creek	Nov- Feb
Channel Works	Waimangarara Kowhai River Lukes Creek	Feb-March
Rock Extraction and Placement	Kowhai River	Feb- March
Conway River		
Ground Based Fairway Spraying	Below SH1 Bridge	Feb-March
Mason River		
Layering of Willows as required	Below River Road	Nov-Dec

What	Where	When
Ground based fairway spraying	Below inland Road Bridge	Feb-March
Hanmer – Percival & Chatterton River		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	Chatterton River U/S of Woodbank road, both banks.	Feb-May
Channel Works	Chatterton River	Feb-March
Waiau Uwha River		
Blockline Extension	Waiau Rotherham	Feb-March
Aerial Fairway Spraying	Waiau Rotherham Waiau Town Waiau Lower Flats Waiau Spotswood	Feb- March
Return Banking	Waiau Spotswood	Feb-March
Lower & Upper Pahau River		
Ground Based Fairway Spraying	Lower Pahau Upper Pahau	Feb-March

What	Where	When
Hurunui River		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	SH1 bridge & Balmoral bridge	Feb-May
Light ATP	Below SH1 Bridge	Nov-March
Waipara River		
Berm Transition Project, Tree clearance of the fairway.	SH1 bridge to mouth, currently chipping wood	Clearance complete, chipping continuing.
Kōwai River		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	TRB at Leithfield U/S of SH1 and section downstream of Lawcocks Road	Feb-May
Fallen tree removal and minor channel works	Downstream of Lawcocks Road	TBC – likely February
Sefton – Ashley Drainage		
Tree maintenance around bridges	Factory Road, Toppings Road, McGifferts Road	Starting November
Ashley River / Rakahuri and Sefton		
Taranaki Creek Floodgate Structural Upgrades, Full drained inspection, safety upgrades	Taranaki Creek Floodgate Structure	Ongoing to Feb 24
Ashley Vegetation Clearance Project	Cottles Road up to the Okuku and Okuku up to the Grey River	Final spray pass completed before December 2023. (more info here)
Aerial Fairway Spraying	Various weedy islands Okuku – SH1 Bridge	Feb 2024
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	Glentui-Bennets Road; Okuku confluence; Mount Thomas Road; Saltwater Creek.	Feb-May

What	Where	When
Waimakariri – Eyre – Cust Scheme		
Waimakariri		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	Between Bleakhouse Road and gorge on TRB	Feb-May
Culvert and floodgate inspection/maintenance	All major Waimakariri culverts and floodgates	Ongoing
Stop bank repairs	Waimakariri North Bank, D/S of Railway Bridge	Underway
	Cam River, Downstream Bramleys Road	March 2024
Kaiapoi		
Weed Removal	Heywards Road to Tram Road, Other Locations as Required	Starting mid-February
Cam / Ruataniwha		
Channel Cross Sectional Surveys & Investigation of Stopbanks	Tuahiwi Area & Lower Camside Road	Underway
Removable of overgrown/problematic Willows	Bramleys Road to SH1	Underway
	Bramleys to Youngs Road	Late Feb - March
Cust		
Channel Cross Sectional Surveys & Investigation of stop banks	Ashworths Road to Kaiapoi Confluence	Underway
Emptying Gravel Traps	Between Threlkelds Road and Kaiapoi River	As Required
Eyre		
Gravel beaching in erosion bays	Depot Road to Eyre Diversion	February to March 2024

What	Where	When
Halswell River/Huritini		
Riparian planting project: native planting maintenance program	U/S of Neill's Road TLB. Second section on River road.	Feb-May
Drain clearing/maintenance, tree removal windblown trees when necessary.	District wide drains and main river channel.	Ongoing monthly
Weed Cutting	Halswell River	January – First cut commenced up to Burkes Creek
New weed screen project	Halswell canal at the eastern end of Hudsons Road.	Construction onsite programmed to start February.
Waiwera Little River		
Windblown willow tree removal	District Wide as required	Ongoing monthly

Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere
<p>Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere is currently CLOSED to the sea. The wind affected average level on the Monday 29th of January 2024 was 0.54m.</p> <p>Te Waihora /Lake Ellesmere was opened to the sea in favourable conditions on Saturday the 18th November at 1200hrs, the calm average level at 0800hrs was 1.06m. The Lake naturally closed to the sea on the 1st January 2024, the calm average level at 0800hrs was 0.59m.</p> <p>The average lake levels can be found on the Environment Canterbury website here: River flow data - Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere (Average) Environment Canterbury (ecan.govt.nz)</p> <p>Potential lake opening to the sea may occur (following consultation) when the lake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exceeds 1.05 metres above mean sea level, from 1 August to 31 March; or • exceeds 1.13 m above mean sea level, from 1 April to 31 July: or • at any level, from 15 September to 15 October, (fish passage) or • at any level, from 1 April to 15 June.

What	Where	When
Selwyn River/Waikirikiri		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	U/S of SH1 Westernras Road Hororata River confluence	Feb-May
Tree Clearing – Fairway management	Coes Ford d/s to Selwyn Huts	Ongoing - December - February
Erosion bay repair, ATP, Pole bundles. Number of minor sites within 1km stretch.	Withells Ford (Brookside and Burnham Road)	Flood event has washed out – Re-assessment required.
Stop banks repairs following July 2023 flood event.	True right Stopbank - Selwyn-Lake Road Minor sites across network Between Chamberlains and Coes Ford.	February - March
Beaching and channel re-profiling	Westernras Road, SH1 Bridge, Selwyn Rd to Whithells ford	February
Stopbank spraying & Maintenance	Entire stopbank network	October - March

Rakaia River		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	Barrhill SH1 Headworks Road Dobbins Road	Feb-May
Aerial Spraying	<u>North Branch</u> Sea to SH1 Bridge <u>Main Steam</u> , Spray islands between Darrochs Rd and SH1 bridge.	February - March

What	Where	When
Ashburton River / Hakatere and tributaries		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	North Branch, TRB U/S of Thompsons Track North Branch, TLB D/S of Thompsons Track South Branch, TRB U/S of Hills Road Main channel TRB D/S of SH1 Taylors Stream Mt Harding Creek at Aikens Road South Branch Ashburton at Mt Somers village	Feb-May
Fish passage remediation – to improve fish passage.	Spring Creek 700m above Thompsons track on TRB North Ashburton River	Complete
Old Mans Beard Control	Ashburton Main Stem – TRB SH1 to Boundary Rd	Complete
All Scheme – Stopbank maintenance, spraying etc.	Entire stopbank network	Ongoing January - March
Layering – Mechanical and Hand	TBC - South Branch, North Branch, Taylors	January - May
Flood Recovery - Erosion repairs - ATP and pole planting – Site Prep	Various Sites - Bowyers Stream – Ashburton North Branch – Ashburton South Branch Inverary Various Sites	Bowyers – Instream Channel work March. Tree work and remaining sites April - June
Flood Recovery - Erosion Repair – Tree work, Hayman Fencing, Channel re-alignment	Bowyers Stream – Various Spots between Arundel Rakaia Rd and Moodies Rd	March – Instream Channel work April - May – Tree works out of water.
Targeted vegetation control in fairway, Berm & Fairway Spraying	South Branch, North Branch, Taylors, Bowyers – Islands as required	February - March
Aerial Spraying – islands infested with woody weed species	South Branch – Other Stems as required	February - March
Stopbank maintenance (spraying / mowing)	All stopbank network	In Progress

What	Where	When
Dry Creek		
Targeted Gravel Extraction	Entire Scheme	TBC
Hinds River / Hekeao		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	Above RDR Above SH1	Feb-May
Targeted gravel extraction	Lower Downs Road	December
Targeted vegetation control in fairway, Berm & Fairway Spraying	Main Stem, North Branch, South Branch	February - March
Erosion Repair - Channel Realignment - LABP reinstatement	Various Sites – North Branch, Upper Downs Rd, Main Stem Lismore	Minor sites deferred until Autumn
Stopbank rebuild and reprofiling	TLB in vicinity of Surveyors Road	February - March
Aerial Spraying	Main Stem – Various Beaches Lismore School to Bulls Rd	February
Erosion repair – Hayman fencing	South branch downstream of Lower Downs Rd	March - April
Ashburton Hinds Drainage Scheme		
Mechanical drain clearing	Various sites across network	Program to commence January
Drain spraying	Various site across network	InProgress October - March

What	Where	When
Rangitata River		
Restoration sites work: Native plant maintenance program	South branch breakout point, Withell's island, McKinnon's creek confluence, various sites along the true right bank near dip road	Feb-May
Orari-Waihi-Temuka Scheme, including Clandeboye Drains		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	Orari – Above Howard Rd Orari – Burdon Rd Orari – Main North Rd Orari – Lloyd road Orari – Inglis road (scour bay) Waihi – Waitui Drive Nth Waihi – Waitua Drive Sth Waihi – Geraldine High Waihi – Tabolt Road	Feb-May
Fairway, stopbank and berm spraying, track and Aerial Spraying of fairway as well	Mouth to gorge as required	January- March
Rock protection replacement lost in May 2021 flood	Orari River mouth	Design is underway, works occurring after whitebaiting
Orari tributaries, post May 2021 flood repairs, including reinstating gravel trap weirs, bank erosion protection and excess gravel removal	Sweetwater Creek (Station Creek), Tripp Settlement Road to Burdon Road	Completed
Rebuilding stopbanks and reinstating tree protection at May 2021 breakout points (flood recovery programme).	Waihi River, Geraldine to Winchester	Completed pending pole planting in May- June Completed

What	Where	When
Stopbank repair contd	North stopbanks, D/S of Coach Road, U/S & D/S of Hawke Road U/s Hawkes Road	Completed
Erosion Repairs - Rock placement, ATP, mesh fences and reinstating of tree protection (flood recovery programme).	Waihi River, Geraldine: Behind NPD garage D/S of Hawke Road TRB D/S SH79 Bridge	Completed Completed New erosion (winter 2023) at repaired site. Stopbank repaired. ATP to be done. Designs underway – consultation
Debris removal.	Temuka River	Monitoring.
Mowing	All stopbanks	Completed
Spraying	All stopbanks and tracks	October - February
Replacement rock for Orari River access track on the TLB, where the river is eroding the bank.	Orari mouth	February
Removal selected poplar of trees affecting stop bank integrity.	Waihi river upstream Winchester-Geraldine bridge	Completed
Channel works – removal of silt and sediment build up affecting channel flood capacity.	Coopers Creek – Pitt Road	Completed

What	Where	When
Tree removal, mainly nuisance willows	Ohapi creek – Factory Road	Completed
Opihi Catchment Scheme, including Te Ana a Wai and Opuha		
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	Opihi Mouth SH1 Te Ana a Wai confluence Upper Waitohi Opuha confluence Fairlie to Opihi Gorge Road	Feb-May
Opihi mouth opening. Issues, land flooding and inundation of local dwellings	Mouth of Opihi River	As required, unless opens naturally.
Channel works and reinstatement berm	Te Ana a Wai River at Fishermans hut	Completed
	Opuwa Stream	Completed and further maintenance as required
ATP along with channel improvement	Te Ana a Wai River adjacent to Opuwa Ford	On hold subject to consultation with stakeholders and iwi partners.
	Te Ana a Wai River TLB below Cricklewood Road	On hold subject to consultation with stakeholders and iwi partners.
	Opihi River TRB above Opihi Road	Islands have been cleared of debris, major works in the planning stage.
Burning of slash piles	Opihi river, u/s SH1	Delayed

What	Where	When
Fairway, stopbank and berm spraying as required	Full scheme	October - February
Tree removal and channel works	Opawas – Rutherford Road	February - May
Channel Works	Tengawai – Cave	Monitoring
Tree removal & Channel works	Totara Valley Creek	February - June
Tree removal & Channel works	Halls Creek	Monitoring
Poplar & Pine Removal	Cones Road Nursery	May
Seadown Drain		
Mechanical weed clearance	Main Drain	Monitoring
Washdyke Creek		
At Waitarakao Lagoon outlet pipes – install permanent safety inlet grille	Outlet pipes at coast	Completed
At Waitarakao Lagoon outlet pipes – Spraying of Fairway	Washdyke Creek	February - May
Saltwater Creek		
No work planned this period		
Pareora River		
Snagging and beaching as required	Mouth to Huts	February - March

What	Where	When
Berm Transition Project: Native plant maintenance program	Evans crossing U/S of Huts. Cannington sub-canopy work near the school.	Feb-May
Otaio River		
Channel works, willow poles (winter)	u/s Church Hill Ford Road	February - June
Aerial Spraying	SH1 to Blue h Hills Road	Completed
Fairway, stopbank and berm spraying as required	Full scheme	Completed
Kapua Drain		
Drone Spraying	Kapua Road	February - April
Waihao Wainono Combined		
Replacing boards on Waihao Box	Waihao Box	Ongoing
Spraying of Canary grass	Hook Drain	Completed
Stopbank tree clearance	Waihao stopbanks	Completed

Lower Waitaki River		
Channel realignment, rock groynes, ATP, erosion repairs (flood recovery programme)	Mouth to Kurow	Ongoing
	1km D/S of Stonewall on north bank	Completed
	3.5km D/S of Kurow Bridges, rock delivered	Completed
	North bank, at Ferry Road	Major works completed. Monitoring. Follow up ATP planned for this season.

Kaikōura to Waitaki Rivers

RIVER OPERATIONS

What	Where	When
Layering	Sea to Kurow where required	Work is ongoing.
Maerewhenua River		
Nothing planned this period		
Upper Waitaki Rivers		
Gravel relocation and stopbank repair along with selected willow removal.	Omarama Stream below SH8	Ongoing
Aerial Spraying	Takapō, Ohau, Pukaki and Lake George Scott	Completed
Truck and Tractor Fairway Spraying	Lake to Greys Creek	February - March