

ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

A Meeting of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee will be held as follows:

DATE: Tuesday 27 February 2024

TIME: 1.30 pm

VENUE: Council Chamber, Te Whare Whatakere
2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

MEETING CALLED BY: Hamish Riach, Chief Executive, Ashburton District Council
Stefanie Rixecker, Chief Executive, Environment Canterbury

ATTENDEES: Chris Allen
Adi Avnit
Clare Buchanan
Angela Cushnie
Genevieve de Spa
Bill Thomas
Sidinei Teixeira
TBC (Te Runanga o Arowhenua)
Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)
Jess Hobbs (Te Taumutu Runanga)
TBC (Tangata Whenua Facilitator)
Councillor Richard Wilson (Ashburton District Council)
Councillor Ian Mackenzie (Environment Canterbury)
Mayor Neil Brown (Ashburton District Council)

Zone Facilitator
Jaimee Grant
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jaimee.grant@ecan.govt.nz
Environment Canterbury

Committee Advisor
Carol McAtamney
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Ashburton District Council

Tangata Whenua Facilitator
TBC
Environment Canterbury



Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 27 February 2024

Meeting Commences: 1.00pm

Order of Business

- 1 Welcome, Karakia
- 2 Apologies
 - Nil
- 3 Extraordinary Business
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- 6 Correspondence
 - Outward
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 - Inward
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- 14 Other business
- 15 Close Meeting and Karakia

4 Register of Interests

Chris Allen	Farm owner of sheep, beef, lambs, crop Water resource consents to take water from tributary of Ashburton River and shallow wells Member of Ashburton River Liaison Group
Adi Avnit	Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust - Treasurer
Clare Buchanan	Head of Environment & Innovation at Align Farm Align Farms holds an irrigation resource consent to take water from shallow wells hydraulically linked to the Ashburton river Align Farms holds MHV water and Fonterra Shares Align Farms suffered significant flood damage on their support block
Neil Brown	Mayor Acton Irrigation Limited - Director Irrigo Centre Limited - Director Acton Farmers Irrigation Co-operative Limited - Director Browns Farm Limited – Director and Shareholder
Angela Cushnie	Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust - Trustee Hinds Reserve Board Committee member Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective – Coordinator Secretary for Hekeao Hinds Lowlands Catchment Group
Genevieve de Spa	Owner of Kakariki Camps focusing on ‘Head, Hands, Heart’ approach to biodiversity education Contractor and member of Staveley Campsite Committee (Previous recipient of Immediate Steps Funding) Rakaia Environmental Enhancement Trust
Jess Hobbs	
Ian MacKenzie	Environment Canterbury Councillor
Arapata Reuben	Trustee – Tuhono Trust Trustee – Mana Waitaha Charitable Trust Member - National Kiwi Recovery Group Rūnanga Rep – Christchurch – West Melton Water Zone Committee
Bill Thomas	Farm owner of Longbeach Estate Ltd (sheep, beef, lambs, arable, dairy) Member of Eiffelton Irrigation Scheme Hekeao/Hinds Water Enhancement Trust – Settler Director of Longbeach Estate & Longbeach Dairies
Sidinei Teixeira	Chemistry Teacher at Christ’s College Masters student at Lincoln University Studying Masters in Water Resource Management Intern at MHV Water (groundwater scientist) Past Head of Scient at Mt Hutt College Passionate about use of natural resources sustainability
Richard Wilson	Ashburton District Councillor Dairy Farmer at Hinds Shareholder in MHV Irrigation

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Unconfirmed Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee held on Tuesday 29 August 2023, commencing at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Councillor Richard Wilson, Chris Allen, Adi Avnit, Angela Cushnie, Genevieve de Spa, Bill Thomas (Chair), Sidinei Teixeira and Les Wanhalla

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Jaimee Grant (Facilitator), Dave Moore (Facilitator) and Carol McAtamney (minutes)

John Benn - DOC

4 members of the public in attendance

1 Welcome

Jaimee Grant opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

That apologies for absence be received on behalf of Councillor Ian MacKenzie, Arapara Reuben and Clare Buchanan

Thomas/Allen

Carried

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

Nil.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 26 September 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

Thomas/Avnit

Carried

Matters Arising

Nil.

Angela Cushnie joined the meeting at 1.06pm

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Carters Creek Catchment Group Update

Willy Leferink joined the meeting to provide an update from the Carters Creek Catchment group on their activities following the funding received from the Water Zone committee.

The allocated funds were originally tagged for water monitoring and the group were requesting permission for some of the funding be reallocated to other purposes.

The group were requested to provide a proposal for the reallocation funds to the next Water Zone meeting.

That the Zone Committee support the reallocation of the funds granted to the Carters Creek project

Allen/Anvit

Carried

Outward:
Nil.

- 7 Public Contributions
Nil.

- 8 Regional Policy Statement and Mid Canterbury Freshwaters Management Units
Lisa Jenkins - Ecan Planning team leader, Simon Woodlock – Ecan Senior Planner and Phil Everest – Mid Canterbury Vision Group joined the meeting to provide an update on the engagement on the Regional Policy statement and Mid Canterbury Freshwater Management units.

Ashburton summit feedback

- Timeframes need to reflect the current state of waterbodies
- Visions need to be tailored to the FMU that is associated with
- Visions need to reflect the extend to which these statements are achieved and which waterbodies are to be prioritised
- Community want to be part of the vision

Chris Allen departed the meeting at 2.15pm

- 9 Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective
Angela Cushnie
- Over the past twelve months the number of catchment groups has grown from three to nine
 - Hekeao Hinds Hill Country catchment group are having a biocontrol weed and pest field day on 5 December, 11.30am to 2.30pm

- 10 Zone Committee Action Plan Projects
Two funding applications have been received for funding for the financial year 2023/24

Riverbridge Native Species Trust

That the Zone Committee write to the Riverbridge Native Species Trust to advise that they support their project and will recommend allocation of funds.

Allen/Anvit

Carried

Staveley Camp Committee

That the Zone Committee support the application subject to Ecan's verification that we are within the scope of the action plan

Thomas/Cushnie

Carried

It was suggested that a closing date of late February be set for funding applications to enable all applications for the remaining funding to be considered at the same time, rather than on an individual basis.

11 Committee Updates

Ōtūwharekai

Continue to progress two distinct pieces of work within the lakes catchment:

- Actively considering the authorisations to farm in the catchment
- Supporting the formation of an integrated catchment plan through the Ōtūwharekai Working Group (this work is being undertaken by an independent contractor)

In early November, the Ōtūwharekai Working Group held its first workshop to find the goals, vision and agreed evidence base for the integrated catchment plan. A second workshop is planned early in the New Year and the first draft of the plan is expected to be ready in March before the next Mana to Mana hui.

Continue to update papatipu Rūnanga informed on this work

12 Farewell

It was noted that this was facilitator Dave Moore's last meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee. Thanks and appreciation was extended to Dave for his contributions and assistance over the past six years.

Les Wanhalla, Te Taumutu Runanga representative, also announced his retirement from the committee. Appreciation for his time and efforts were expressed to Les.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held in the Ashburton District Council Chamber Hine Paaka at 1:00pm on Tuesday 26 March 2024.

The meeting closed at 3.10pm with a Karakia by Dave Moore.

Dated this 27th day of February 2024 _____ (Chair)

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
MEETING ITEM NO: 8	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Zone Committee Action Plan Review – confirmation of changes
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 27 February 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this item is for the Zone Committee to confirm any changes to its [Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-24 \(ZCAP\)](#) as required by its Terms of Reference.

Recommendation

That the Ashburton Water Zone Committee:

Confirms the changes to the Ashburton Zone Committee Action Plan as noted in **Agenda Item 3.1**.

Introduction

As per their Terms of Reference, zone committees are required to annually review and amend their Action Plan to ensure the zone committee is still in agreement with the priority areas and the actions are still those the zone committee believes will achieve their objectives.

At their 30 January 2024 workshop, the Committee reviewed progress made against their Action Plan 2021-2024 and discussed possible changes to better reflect their priorities.

Further discussion was undertaken at a workshop immediately prior to this meeting to finalise the changes to be made and confirmed at this meeting.

Next steps

Once any changes are confirmed, the Zone Committee's Action Plan 2021-2024 web and paper versions will be updated.

Ashburton Water Zone Committee

Action Plan 2021–2024

Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes including supporting Recovery Project implementation and recommendations where appropriate, which may include community engagement and education.

We will focus on several waterbodies:

- Ō Tū Wharekai/Ashburton Lakes, REPLACE WITH
- Hakatere/Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek and Wakanui hāpua) and
- Hekeao/Hinds catchment
- Mid-Canterbury plans for the ADC transition out of stockwater and use of infrastructure and volume and involves Environment Canterbury.

We will work to enhance mahinga kai values by:

- Working in partnership with papatipu rūnanga, with councils, government agencies, catchment and community groups, and landowners championing five mahinga kai projects across the zone
- Increasing our knowledge of mahinga kai, ~~including by attending a hui on mahinga kai at T Pā o Moki Marae with Te Taumutu Rūnanga in 2021~~
- Utilising our members' communications channels such as newsletters, news media and social media to educate and promote mahinga kai and tangata whenua values
- Ensuring mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions.

Not noted as a confirmed action but discussion was held around a mahinga kai shed talk instead. Recommended removing reference to specific activity. Could this be replaced with another activity e.g. supporting a Shed talk?

We will work towards improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets by:

- Advocating for the protection of native fish species including uninterrupted access to the sea and the reduction of fish barriers where appropriate
- Co-hosting a ~~2021/22~~ Rakala field trip with the Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee, with a focus on biodiversity and recreation
- ~~Supporting the Ō Tū Wharekai / Ashburton Lakes recovery project by keeping abreast of the project implementation and assisting with recommendations where appropriate, which may include community engagement and education~~
- Working with partners and the community to review progress with the Hinds Drains Working Party recommendations and help facilitate the development of the Hekeao / Hinds biodiversity vision and providing ongoing support for agreed actions
- Facilitating a collaborative process to agree and support priority projects within the Hakatere / Ashburton River catchment. Examples of existing projects include the Hakatere river mouth enhancement, Ashburton consent review and biodiversity corridor KI Uta KI Tai
- Supporting the Carters Creek Enhancement project group by assisting with community engagement, education and communications, to encourage behaviours that positively impact water quality in Carters Creek
- Engaging with councils, rūnanga, catchment groups and schools to support further restoration activities which positively impact the biodiversity and mahinga kai values of the Wakanui hāpua area.

We will support measures to enhance recreation and amenity targets by:

- Identifying waterways that do not meet contact recreation standards, and supporting and encouraging catchment groups and community groups to implement actions that achieve water quality improvements for contact recreation
- ~~Supporting the Ō Tū Wharekai / Ashburton Lakes recovery project to arrest the decline in high country lake water quality for contact recreation by assisting with the implementation of recommendations where appropriate, which may include community engagement and education.~~

Want to get involved? Head to ecan.govt.nz/ashburton-water-zone

In workshop, noted to combine these with 1.1 as there is duplication and if focus on supporting project implementation, then improved ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets, and enhanced recreation and amenity values should result.



HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 10	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Carters Creek update and funding change proposal
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 27 February 2024

Purpose

To provide an update to the Zone Committee from the Carters Creek Catchment Group and request a variation to the Carters Creek grant agreement with Environment Canterbury.

Recommendation

That the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee:

- i. Receives the report on Carters Creek; and
- ii. Recommend a variation to grant agreement 1197-118 between Environment Canterbury and Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective for Carters Creek as follows:
 - [add required changes]
 - [add required changes]

Background

Carters Creek is a waterway under pressure from both urban, and lifestyle/rural environments. The Committee identified the need for this catchment to improve its water quality by working with the community and key stakeholders. The Carters Creek Catchment Group was formed with the support of the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective.

In June 2023, the Committee recommended \$15,000 go to the Carters Creek water monitoring and analysis project. Human sources were identified as one of several sources of faecal contamination in the catchment. The funding was proposed to go towards:

- Faecal source testing and monitoring to narrow down the area of human contamination which was identified as a faecal source;
- Testing of septic tanks within identified hotspot areas to identify any leakages;
- A review and analysis of available science data for the catchment to full understand the water quality issues.

In August, the Carters Creek Catchment Group presented to the Committee outlining flooding issues experienced by Tinwald residents and wanting councils and landowners to collaborate to address the issues. Subsequently, the Committee wrote to both Councils encouraging them to work with the catchment group to reduce the flooding risk along the creek. Councils have since been in discussions with the catchment group seeking resolutions.

In November, a stream walk was undertaken to look at activities potentially impacting the stream.

Carters Creek Catchment Update

Members of the Carters Creek Catchment Group joined Environment Canterbury (ECan) and Ashburton District Council (ADC) staff on 29 November 2023 to walk the creek from Lake Hood to Tinwald. A previous stream walk occurred in January 2020 and the idea was to discover what has changed for the better and worse in nearly four years.

Observations were taken at six stretches along the creek. Human eColi water testing planned for that day took place 24 hours later due to rainfall. Catchment group members met ECan staff later January to discuss what had been captured on the stream walk and what actions are needed.

ECan's draft report was circulated 8 February, and after technical review the report will be finalised in the near future.

Preliminary takeaways for catchment group:

- Pleasing to see less evidence of stock access and pugging.
- There is still confusion over roles and responsibilities. Carters Creek is an ECan managed drain meaning ECan manages vegetation that compromises the channel capacity for flow. Landowners are responsible for ensuring that ECan can access the drain and manage any planted vegetation which could impede access (e.g. hedges). Anecdotally, landowners believe there has been less drain maintenance in recent years. There is also a lot of confusion about fencing requirements. It is clear for some bigger farms, but many smaller block holders are confused.
- Sediment sources are still contributing to the problem. Three out of four obvious sediment sources were present in 2020 but one significant section of collapsing bank near Tinwald may have been caused by subsequent flooding. The catchment group is working with the ECan Zone and Rivers teams to identify what support they can provide and what landowners can do to address these issues. External funding may be required for battering projects as they could be very expensive.
- Culverts and bridges – some obvious impediments and blockages noted which belong to private landowners and ADC. Some findings from the 2009 report not implemented. Conversations need to take place. Internal or structural condition of bridges and culverts was not assessed during walk.
- Findings from Faecal Source Tracing results were inconclusive due to patchy results, and where human sources were detected, it was at very low levels, especially compared to previous results. Catchment group – consulting with ECan - has decided not to use Zone Committee funding for further testing and analysis for two reasons – significant testing has taken place and traces remain hard to pinpoint. Recent move by Lake Hood Water Quality Taskforce to commission a NIWA science review may provide some answers. Catchment group is keen to work with both ADC and ECan to educate landowners on how to maintain septic tank systems to reduce risk of wastewater entering the creek. Compliance checks on consented septic tanks were completed by ECan staff last September following the catchment group's urging, so the focus would be on unconsented/older systems.

Catchment group will bring proposal for repurposing of grant to support some of these actions to 27 February meeting as subcommittee is meeting 21 February.

Willy Leferink and Janine Holland from the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective (MCCC) will provide an update on the work done to date including the recent stream walk to the Committee.

Presentation - Proposed variation to grant agreement

A proposal to vary the grant agreement will also be presented as aspects of the project have now been funded by other sources that were previously unavailable at the time Zone Committee Action Plan Budget funding was sought. MCCC will present a proposal to reallocate some of the funding to other Carters Catchment Creek mahi.

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 11	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Committee Updates
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 27 February 2024

Purpose

To update the Committee on actions from the previous meeting, relevant information, and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Recommendation

The Zone Committee receives the updates and provides feedback.

Report

1. CWMS Zone Committees Review

At its meeting in August 2023, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum agreed to a review of Zone Committees to enable and support local leadership and ownership of freshwater management issues into the future.

Environment Canterbury has commenced planning the 2024 zone committee review. This review will focus on what structure, function and resourcing are needed to support local freshwater leadership into the future.

The CWMS is underpinned by a collaborative approach between Environment Canterbury, territorial authorities, Ngāi Tahu, sector groups and communities. While the aim is to keep this review simple, it will reflect this collaborative ethos by engaging with key stakeholders under the auspices of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (as the 'owner' of the CWMS).

The review's objectives are to answer the following main questions:

- a) What local freshwater leadership is required in the future?
- b) For which actions will key partners (Environment Canterbury, Territorial Authorities and mana whenua) need local leadership to deliver freshwater management outcomes in the future?
- c) What resourcing is required to support local leadership?

Environment Canterbury is leading the review and will report back to the Mayoral Forum, following engagement with Mayors, zone committee members, and mana whenua representatives. Refer to Table 1 below for key actions and milestones.

Table 1: Zone Committee review – key actions and milestones

August 2023	Mayoral Forum agrees to a review of Zone Committees
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December 2023	Initial engagement with Zone Committee Chairs and Deputies
February – April 2024	Engagement with Zone Committees, Mayors, mana whenua and other key partners
May 2024	Preliminary report to Mayoral Forum and agreement to next steps
August 2024	Progress update to Mayoral Forum
November 2024	Final report with recommended options for Mayoral Forum decision

Please feel free to liaise with your zone committee facilitator to provide feedback on the proposed approach and discuss how to best involve your committee in this review.

We look forward to working closely with you over the coming months.

2. CWMS zone committees refresh

A zone committee refresh will take place towards the end of this financial year. Advertising and communications are being finalised and details will be provided in due course as they are confirmed. Zone committee members who are coming to the end of their three-year term will be advised.

3. Actions from previous meetings/workshops:

#	Received	Who	What
1.	30/01 WS	Jaimee	Arrange a meeting with Bill and Judith Earl-Goulet regarding desired level of zone committee involvement with Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes. <i>Completed</i>
2.	30/01 WS	Jaimee	Request information - Information and data on water in the Wakanui Hāpua. <i>Completed.</i>
3.	30/01 WS	Jaimee	Follow up on Carters Creek Stream outcomes <i>Completed.</i>
4.	30/01 WS	Jaimee	Request information from Environment Canterbury – The Hakatere/Ashburton consents regime is now meeting the plan, is the plan meeting the intended outcome? <i>Completed.</i>
5.	30/01 WS	Jaimee	Request information from Environment Canterbury – How are Immediate Steps projects monitored and reported on? <i>Completed.</i>

4. Zone Committee Calendar

26 March	Closed Briefing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zone Committee Action Plan Budget funding application considerations
23 April	Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zone Committee Action Plan Budget project recommendations Closed Briefing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes with Judith Earl-Goulet
28 May	Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hekeao/Hinds report back• TBC
Apr-May	Rakaia Field Trip with Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – TBC

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 12	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Testing in the Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes region
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 27 February 2024

Purpose

To provide an update to the Committee on testing undertaken in the Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes District by Phil Everest and runholders and see a demonstration of the nitrate sensor.

Recommendation

That the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee:

Receives the update on testing undertaken by runholders in the Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes District

Background

In August 2023, the Committee recommended \$10,000 of Zone Committee Action Plan Budget funding go toward the purchase of a nitrate sensor to increase ‘in stream’ background monitoring and develop strategies that will assist in the long-term water quality of the Ōtūwharekai Ashburton Lakes.

There has been water monitoring completed in the area and this project will enhance that knowledge further with a greater number of sites. A portable meter will also allow more regular monitoring. By improving knowledge of what is happening in the area already, and monitoring it, the Ōtūwharekai Ashburton Lakes Catchment Group will be able to develop more strategies to make further improvements to their environmental footprint, while being mindful of economic viability.

This work aligns with the Zone Committee’s Action Plan priorities and actions:

- Focus on several waterbodies including Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes.
- Supporting the Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes recovery project to arrest the decline in high-country lake water quality for contact recreation by assisting with the implementation of recommendations where appropriate.

Presentation

Phil Everest and the Ōtūwharekai Ashburton Lakes Catchment Group will report back on the testing they have undertaken. Use of the nitrate sensor will also be demonstrated.

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 13	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Hakatere/Ashburton Consent Holders presentation
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 27 February 2024

Purpose

To provide an update to the Committee on experiences of the Hakatere/Ashburton Consent Holders.

Recommendation

That the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee:

Receives the update from Hakatere/Ashburton Consent Holders.

Background

Environment Canterbury reviewed 87 resource consents that take surface water or stream-depleting groundwater in the Hakatere/Ashburton River catchment.

This review was designed to implement the minimum flows which were developed with the community to protect the waterways' values and to ensure there is a reliable source of water for the environment, community, and consent holders.

Following the reviews:

- Three consents were surrendered
- 10 consent reviews were declined, and these consents continue to operate under preexisting conditions
- 74 consent reviews were granted, and new minimum flow conditions have been applied to those consents.

From 1 July 2023, new minimum flow limits were set to keep more water in the river and protect the natural character and mauri of the river. From that date, affected consent holders are required to stop taking water when the flow in the Hakatere/Ashburton River mainstem at the State Highway 1 Bridge recorder site is less than six cumecs (6000 litres per second). There are also minimum flow restrictions on tributary waterways.

At the Committee's January 2024 workshop, discussion was undertaken around the Hakatere/Ashburton River, the new limits, and their impacts. Following the workshop, Matt Bubb and other consent holders were invited by the Chair, to talk to the Committee about their experiences.

This work aligns with the Zone Committee's Action Plan priorities and actions:

- Focus on several waterbodies including Hakatere/Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek and Wakanui hāpua)
- We will work towards improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets by:
Facilitating a collaborative process to agree and support priority projects within the Hakatere/Ashburton River catchment

Presentation

Darryl Butterick – farmer from Greenstreet and Chair of Greenstreet Irrigation Scheme, Craig Galloway – farmer from Ashburton Forks and Matt Bubb – Business Manager for Consents and Compliance at Aqualinc will present on the experiences of some Hakatere/Ashburton Consent Holders following the implementation.