

AGENDA/KAUPAPA

Membership: Matthew Bayliss (Chairperson), Adriana Theobald, Richard Subtil, Marcelo Carena, Michael McMillan, Rynee de Garnham, Scott Aronsen, Brent Cowles, Nick Ward

Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee

Date: Friday 19 April 2024

Time: 10:00 am

At: Distinction Hotel, cnr Ostler and Wairepo Road, Twizel

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Time	Item	Lead
9.30am	Morning Tea	
10am	Meeting Opens – Karakia Tīmatanga	
10.05am	Welcome & introductions	Chair
10.10am	Standing Items - Apologies, Minutes, Interests Register, Matters arising	Chair
10.20am	Ahuriri Catchment Community Group (ACCG) – update - David will provide an update on current priorities of the ACCG.	David Anderson (ACCG Chair)
10.40am	Ahuriri Farmers engagement – Review & Next Steps - A review of the 9 April Farmer’s meeting, hosted by the committee, with Jess updating on arrangements for the next Farmer’s meeting, provisionally scheduled for May.	Chair & Jess Hishon-Knowles (ECan)
10.55am	ECan Zone Delivery – update - Peter and Jess will lead a update on current priorities of the ECan Zone Delivery Team.	Peter Burt & Jess Hishon-Knowles (ECan)
11.15am	CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 – Review - Jenna Hughes-Games (ECan) will provide an overview of an application for the committee’s consideration. - Murray will provide an approach, for the committee’s consideration, to receive final applications for 2023/24 at the 17 May UWZC meeting.	Facilitator & Jenna Hughes-Games (ECan)
11.50pm	Committee Updates - Murray will provide updates for the committee including the Omarama / Twizel Demonstration Plots project, Love our Lakes Facebook trial, ECan’s RPS development, and his follow-up on the Twizel Groundwater investigations by ECan Science.	Facilitator
12.10pm	General Business	Chair & Facilitator
12.15pm	Meeting Closes – Karakia Whakamutunga	
12.15 – 1pm	Lunch	

1 Opening/Karakia

2 Apologies

3 Declarations of Interest

Upper Waitaki Zone Committee

Declaration of Interests Register – as of 1 April 2024

Keeping a Zone Committee Members' declarations of interest register allows Zone Committees to identify and manage a conflict of interest when it arises.

The Office of the Auditor General notes a conflict of interest can arise when: "A member's or official's duties or responsibilities to a public entity could be affected by some other interest or duty that the member or official may have."^[1]

If a member is in any doubt as to whether or not they have a conflict of interest, then the Member should seek guidance from General Counsel, Environment Canterbury, the Zone Facilitator, and/or refer to the following guidance: <https://oag.parliament.nz/2020/lamia>

Types of Interest to be documented in the register:

- Employment, trade or profession carried on by the Member or the Member's spouse for profit or gain
- Company, trust, partnership etc for which the Member or their spouse is a director, partner or trustee, or a shareholder of more than 10% shares
- Address of any land in which the Member has a beneficial interest and which is in the area of the Zone Committee
- The address of any land where the landlord is Environment Canterbury, Mackenzie District Council or Waitaki District Council and:
 - o The Member or their spouse is a tenant;

Or

the land is tenanted by a firm in which the Member or spouse is a partner, a company of which the Member or spouse is a director, or a Trust of which the Member or spouse is a Trustee.

- Any other matters which the public might reasonably regard as likely to influence the Member's actions during the course of their duties as a Member.
- Any contracts held between the Member or the Member's spouse and Environment Canterbury, Mackenzie District Council or Waitaki District Council. Including contracts in which the Member or their spouse is a partner, a company of which the spouse is a director and/or holds more than 10% in shares, or a Trust of which the Member or their spouse is a trustee (noting that no committee member should be a party to a contract with Environment Canterbury or the relevant TLA if that value is more than \$25,000 per annum)

Zone Committee members are to ensure that the information contained in this register is accurate and complete.

Name	Committee Member Interests
Cr Scott Aronsen	Mackenzie District Councillor, Register of interests held by Mackenzie District Council.
Mat Bayliss	Head of Generation Strategy for Meridian Energy in Twizel. Shareholder of Meridian Energy. Consents held CRC142283.
Marcelo Carena	Independent consultant/contractor. Independent writer for the Twizel Update. Volunteer member of Mackenzie Wilding Pines Trust. Member of ECan Biodiversity Advisory Group.
Cr Brent Cowles	Waitaki District Councillor, Register of interests held by Waitaki District Council
Rynee de Garnham	Te Rūnanga o Waihao.
Michael McMillan	Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua.
Richard Subtil	Farmer and irrigator in Omarama catchment. Member of Omarama Stream Water Users Group. Committee member of Omarama Airfield. Resource consents CRC010693.1, CRC010694, CRC010727.2, CRC110202, CRC122382, CRC174573, CRC194088, CRC194520, CRC203348.
Adriana Theobald	Senior ranger with Department of Conservation
Cr Nick Ward	Environment Canterbury Councillor, Register of interests held by Environment Canterbury.

[\[1\]](#) Office of the Auditor General Good Practice Guide – Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for public entities

4 Confirmation of non-confidential minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Committee Minutes

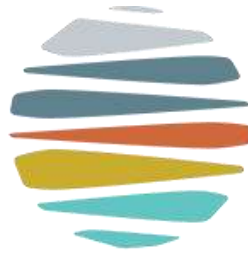
Author:

Attachments:

1. UPP 20240216 MIN 3725 [**4.1.1** - 6 pages]

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee meeting held on February 16, 2024, be received and confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.



Mackenzie
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Unconfirmed MINUTES

**Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management
Committee Meeting**

16 February 2024

**MINUTES OF
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT MOUNT COOK SALMON, 4 BENMORE PLACE, TWIZEL
ON FRIDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 10.00AM**

PRESENT: Chairperson Matthew Bayliss, Deputy Adriana Theobald, Richard Subtil, Marcelo Carena, Rynee de Garnham, Cr Scott Aronsen, Cr Nick Ward

IN ATTENDANCE: Murray Griffin (facilitator), Justin McLachlan, Jess Hishon Knowles, Peter Burt, Lara Welsh, Kate Doran (all Ecan staff), Douglas (Mount Cook Salmon), Katrina Te Rito, Scott McMillan, Rebecca MacIntyre (Farmer), John Benn (DOC), Rick Ramsay (Mount Cook Salmon), Diane Finn (DOC), Arlene Goss (Mackenzie District Council).

1 OPENING

Rynee de Garnham opened the meeting with a karakia. The chairman asked everyone to introduce themselves. He thanked Mount Cook Alpine Salmon and their team for hosting the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from member Michael McMillan and Cr Lisa Small (Waimate DC).

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The chairman amended his interests as follows:

Delete the reference to my chairing the Upper Waitaki 'Power Up' Fund for Meridian, I have relinquished this role. Also, my role with Meridian Energy has changed, my job title is now "Head of Generation Strategy". The other two items, my shareholding and consent remain the same.

Member Adriana Theobald declared a new role as senior ranger with the Department of Conservation.

4 REPORTS

4.1 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 10 NOVEMBER 2023

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Nick Ward

Seconded: Mr Richard Subtil

1. That the Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 10 November 2023 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4.2 CALL FOR ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

The following matters are to be discussed at the end of the meeting:

- The future of the ongoing lake weed control programme, requested by John Benn (DOC).
- Date for the hangi, requested by Richard Subtil.
- Study of the groundwater around Twizel, requested by Cr Aronsen.

4.3 AHURIRI CATCHMENT FARMER ENGAGEMENT - REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS

This agenda item provided the Zone Committee with the opportunity to discuss the Ahuriri catchment Farmer's meeting, hosted by the committee on Thursday 26 October in Omarama.

Facilitator Murray Griffin said a letter has gone to the farmers with key items from the meeting and plans for the coming year. He noted the key action points from his report.

The chairman asked members to confirm the dates and the three action points. Cr Ward talked about catchment groups at Ashburton who have bought their own water testing equipment and were testing every two weeks. This cost them about \$10,000. He also recommended an independent facilitator.

Richard Subtil said his small catchment group were doing a lot of water testing and passing this information to Ecan, but it was not being used. They all wanted more testing but didn't want to repeat what was already being done.

Peter Burt thanked the committee and the chairman for the opportunity to get all the farmers together and talk about the issues. The chairman said this needed to be repeated in March.

Cr Ward suggested the second week in March. Richard Subtil will speak to the Ahuriri Community Catchment Collective chairperson for agreement on the date.

It was agreed that the chairman, Cr Ward, Richard Subtil, Jess Hishon-Knowles, Murray Griffin, and Shirley Hayward from the Ecan science team, would get together to plan the next session with the farmers.

Mr Subtil would like a review of what water testing data was available and where the gaps were.

4.4 ECAN ZONE DELIVERY UPDATE

This update by Peter Burt (Zone Delivery Lead, Ecan) and Jess Hishon-Knowles (Senior Land Management & Biodiversity Advisor, Ecan) provided the Upper Waitaki water zone committee with an update on the current priorities of the Ecan Zone Delivery team in the Mackenzie Basin/Te Manahuna.

Mr Burt took the committee through his written report and answered questions.

4.5 OMARAMA AND TWIZEL DEMONSTRATION PLOTS PROJECT UPDATE

This update was provided via Teams by Felicity McMillan, Manager of Arowhenua Native Nursery, Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa Ltd. She provided an update on the Arowhenua Native Nursery and sought the committee's guidance on establishing demonstration plots in Omarama and Twizel.

Cr Scott Aronsen has worked with Mackenzie District Council to get permission for the Twizel plot.

Rynee de Garnham and Justin McLachlan offered to work with Waitaki District Council to get permission to plant on the Omarama site.

4.6 LOVE OUR LAKES CAMPAIGN - INTERIM UPDATE

This agenda item was from Kate Doran, principal communications and engagement advisor. She spoke to the committee and updated them on the project to establish a Facebook page. She has found someone local to do this work and the communications budget has been used to set up the page and get it started. She asked for some more money from the action plan budget to use the contractor for another five months. This would cost \$1,415.

Discussion took place on reservations that the committee members expressed at the last meeting regarding spending action plan money on social media. These reservations have been addressed.

Members were asked for their views and were favourable. The need for the administrators and zone committee members to share posts was noted. This was experimental. Where would it go at the end of five months? The expectation was that committee members would be involved in running the page in the long term.

Kate Doran noted that the \$1415 in the agenda report was to pay for ongoing support of the Facebook page, not the set up cost. The chairman noted that the Love Our Lakes posters were working, as he had noticed that lakeside areas were tidier this year.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2024/108

Moved: Deputy Adriana Theobald

Seconded: Mr Richard Subtil

2. That the Upper Waitaki water zone committee agrees to the use of \$1,415 from the CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 for the resourcing of the training, and then four months of management, for a Love Our Lakes Facebook page for the remainder of this summer's campaign.

CARRIED

4.7 MOUNT COOK ALPINE SALMON UPDATE

This update was provided by Rick Ramsay, Environmental Manager at Mt Cook Alpine Salmon Ltd. He presented an overview of the organisation's environmental management programme, with a particular focus on its relationship to freshwater management and the monitoring undertaken.

Mr Ramsay was thanked for this presentation and the chairman noted that aquaculture was a big industry and very well run.

4.8 CWMS FACILITATOR'S REPORT

Facilitator Murray Griffin went through the main points in his report. He proposed that the March meeting should include a workshop on the zone committee review.

The grant application from the Church of the Good Shepherd would go through. A second grant application from Paul Geaney for money to plant on council land would be followed up. Mr Griffin would like this funding to go to the district council rather than individuals who did not own the land. The committee was unaware if consent had been given by the three land owners involved in that area. This would be followed up by Mr Griffin.

A request had been received from a community group working in the Lindis Pass area concerned about weed growth. Mr Griffin suggested coming to the March meeting with more information to talk about whether the committee wanted to support this.

Richard Subtil said a farmer-run goose culling event was organised and they killed about 1600 geese across three different areas. This was well organised and was done safely. Mr Subtil noted there were just as many black swans now as geese. He hoped the committee would support these efforts in the future. The chairman suggested they put in a funding application next time. This was a big success story for the farming community.

Mr Griffin said applications for grants in this financial year needed to arrive in the next few months to be considered.

Hangi – Mr Griffin suggested holding this in May. Details to be decided at the March meeting.

4.9 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Scott Aronsen said he studies water bore logs. He is concerned about Twizel water flowing off the Benmore range.

He was concerned about plans for 1500 new sections in Twizel. Some of those people would want to put water bores down. This would affect groundwater that runs under Manuka Terrace and comes out near the Black Stilt ponds. He suggested more in depth study of the bores, to take into account future needs.

Cr Aronsen suggested putting some grant money into a fund for a PhD or Masters student to study this water situation. He said if this was not looked at there would be problems in 20 years when some people had access to water and other's didn't.

Discussion took place on whether this was the responsibility of the zone committee. Cr Aronsen believed it was because he felt the committee should know as much about water under the ground as water above the ground.

Education of the public on how to store and use water was needed. The chairman said Ecan was already doing some work on studying bores. Maybe that information should come to the committee.

Rick Ramsay suggested it would be better to pull together the information that was already there.

Justin McLachlan said this was an opportunity to work on the information already held. He was confident that he could bring something back to the committee.

Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting Minutes

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The chairman declared an interest and said he would stand aside from this discussion because he had a bore.

John Benn asked why sections of the Twizel River had gone dry. Had anything changed? Peter Burt said from what he knew there were no illegal water takes, and it was due to a dry season.

The chairman thanked Cr Aronsen for putting up the Love our Lakes signs. They were very visible and in good locations.

It was noted that the Waitaki District Council representative on the committee, Cr Coles, has not attended for over a year. The chairman would come up with a plan and get in touch with WDC to resolve this.

The Meeting closed at 1.02pm.

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CHAIRPERSON

5 Reports from Staff

5.1 Ahuriri Catchment Community Group Update

Author:

Attachments: Nil

Recommendation

That the report be received.

Purpose of Report

This agenda item provides the Zone Committee with the opportunity to receive an update on the current priorities of the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group

WHO

This item will be led by:

David Anderson, Chairperson, Ahuriri Catchment Community Group

Background

In the 2022/23 financial year, the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee supported the recommendation to provide \$10,000 from the CWMS Action Plan Budget to the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group.

This support was to assist the Group to employ, on a part-time basis, a facilitator for the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group.

This project aligned with the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee's 2021-2024 Action Plan priority: *'We will support catchment groups taking collective action to reduce losses of containments, prioritized where they are addressing identified at risk areas.'*

5.2 Ahuriri Farmers Engagement - Review and Next Steps

Author:

Attachments: Nil

Recommendation

That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee receive this update and confirm how it can best support further engagement with Ahuriri Catchment Farmers to achieve water quality improvements for Lake Benmore.

Purpose of Report

This agenda item provides the Zone Committee with the opportunity to discuss the Ahuriri catchment Farmer's meeting, hosted by the committee, on Tuesday 9 April in Omarama.

The focus of this discussion will be on the next steps following this 9 April meeting, and how the committee can support the farmers in this catchment to develop a collaborative approach to lessen environmental impacts in the catchment and on Lake Benmore.

WHO

This item will be led by:

Jess Hishon-Knowles, Senior Land Management & Biodiversity Advisor, ECan

Background

Below is a short overview of the speakers and the topics covered at the 9 April Farmer's meeting.

April 9 Meeting – Speakers:

1. **Pete Young, Clyde. Central Otago Farm Consultant**

Strategies for dealing with drought/tips and tricks

Pete spent several decades farming next to the Ida Burn Dam in Central Otago – an area that experiences one of the most extreme climates in NZ. From prolonged hoar-frosts in winter, to summers with temperatures in the high 30s and months of drought. Through it all, the Youngs' were known for exceptional sheep performance.

2. **Mark Adams – Fairlie Farmer and South Canterbury Chair of the Rural Support Trust**

Mark's presentation focused on acknowledging the challenges at play for farmers, their families, and farm team. The role and functions of the Rural Support Trust. Next steps in the Government's Drought Support Funding announcement and some Tips and Tricks to aid farmers and their families getting through the potentially challenging six months ahead.

Article on the 9 April Meeting:**Dealing with the Dry – farmer workshop in Omarama:
COPY FOR SOUTHERN/CENTRAL RURAL LIFE**

Farmers and rural professionals in the Mackenzie Basin came together to talk through strategies for dealing with the challenges of extreme weather in Omarama last week (Tuesday 9 April).

The ‘Strategies for Dealing with the Dry’ lunch and workshop was a collaboration between the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee, the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group, the Rural Support Trust and Environment Canterbury.



Dry conditions during autumn in the Mackenzie Basin.

The aim of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for local farmers and their teams to get off farm for a few hours and have a refresher on concepts that could help them navigate through the remainder of the autumn and winter months with advice from Peter Young, a farm advisor from Central Otago, and Mark Adams, Chair of the South Canterbury Rural Support Trust.

Co-organiser Jess Hishon-Knowles from Environment Canterbury Regional Council said about 30 people came to the get-together at the Omarama Community Hall.

“It was a great turn-out considering the weather warnings coming in and the exceptionally high workload farmers are faced with at this busy time.

“Although farmers in this area used to navigating conditions that are on the more extreme end of the spectrum, the extent of this prolonged-dry has caused a significant impact on the land and businesses. It’s important to recognise that it is tough going and at this point it’s the people power that really needs to be recharged.”

Peter Young, who spent several decades farming next to the Ida Burn Dam in Central Otago, discussed a range of strategies with the group including the importance of working through the fundamental basics, in order to come out the other side in spring in reasonable shape.

He said paying close attention to the farm financial budget, winter feed budget, measuring pasture, crops and stock condition is integral.

“It’s important to keep the damage to one year, with the goal of bouncing back next year.”

Keeping up the conversations with all involved in the farm team: family, staff, bank manager, accountant, and stock agents, was all important.

“It’s all about having as much information on hand to help inform your management decisions.”

Peter added that dealing with drought conditions can also provide an opportunity to have a good review of your farm system.

“If you feel like you have no influence and are leaving things to good luck, it’s a good time to review your farming system. If you’re having a big annual variation, there’s probably things you can improve.”



Speakers Peter Young (left) and Mark Adams (right)

Mark Adams, who is also a farmer from Fairlie, spoke about the challenges for farming families during adverse weather events like droughts.

“When times are challenging and stress levels are on the higher end of the spectrum, we can be tough on those closest to us. It’s very important to take a breath and just go easy on each other. Try and get off farm, even for a drive, taking a moment to gather yourself and put your physical and mental health first.”

Mark also encouraged people to think about who was on their 'team' and plug into local collective knowledge.

"We aren't wired to be independent, and we work better cooperatively – you might need to reconfigure your team to include more people, or those that think differently to you."

Mark also outlined the help on hand from the Rural Support Trust and was joined by both South Canterbury and Otago representatives, Jilly Haywood and Lindsay Purvis, to talk with farmers and the rural professionals during and after the event.

Peter Greenslade, local agent for Silver Fern Farms, generously brought the delicious protein to the BBQ hot plate and ensured it was cooked to perfection for lunch. The local Blue Cross Veterinary Centre team kindly supplied the BBQ.

Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee member, Cr Scott Aronsen, from Mackenzie District Council, said the committee was pleased to be able to support the local farming community during these very dry conditions, and more generally as well.

"We're keen to run more events throughout the year in conjunction with catchment groups and the community, and welcome ideas for future topics."



Local farmers and rural professionals enjoy a hot BBQ lunch before the workshop.

5.3 Ecan Zone Delivery Update

Author:

Attachments: Nil

Recommendation

That the report be received.

Purpose of Report

This update by Peter Burt (Zone Delivery Lead, ECan) and Jess Hishon-Knowles (Senior Land Management & Biodiversity Advisor, ECan) will provide the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee with an update on the current priorities of the ECan Zone Delivery team in the Mackenzie Basin/Te Manahuna.

Background

ECan Zone Delivery Update – April 2024

ECan Twizel Office Staff – Working to deliver improved environmental standards in the catchments in the Upper Waitaki zone.

Roles and responsibilities:

- Peter Burt leads the project and directly the Twizel team who deliver compliance and land management function.
- Regional farming and Implementation teams are supporting catchment relations, nutrient management, farming technical advice.

Omarama – Strategies to Deal with the Dry Workshop – General update on how the BBQ Lunch and workshop went. Good attendance, around 30 people and some quality discussion and presentations from Pete Young and Mark Adams. Cr Scott Aronsen spoke on behalf of the Zone Committee. Great feedback and a bonus that the rain was falling that evening across the region.

Good Management Practices – Important to highlight the need for farmers and their staff to be aware of GMP to keep standards high throughout the catchment. General communication will begin in the local publications to highlight this.

Where to from here – Landowner engagement and future workshops (end of May Winter Grazing & Stock Exclusion, Spring – Irrigation & GMP and early December - topics to be further discussed with catchment groups to ensure content is relevant).

Discussion around the formation of the Mackenzie Catchment Collective Group and funding to support catchment groups, including the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group.

Ahuriri Catchment Project Update – Work continues on this project. Jess Hishon-Knowles and Peter Burt (along with other key team members at Environment Canterbury) to re-work the resources available to farmers, to raise the bar in the Upper Waitaki Mackenzie District, to deliver water quality outcomes.

5.4 CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023-24 - Update for Decision

Author:

Attachments:

1. UWZC 2024.04.19 1.6-1 Mackenzie Basin Weed Strategy UWZC Presentation J Hughes-Games [5.4.1 - 10 pages]
2. UWZC 2024 04 19 1 6 2 CWMS Action Plan Bu [5.4.2 - 5 pages]

Recommendation

That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee:

1. Receives this report.
2. Receives the CWMS Action Plan Budget project application presented.
3. Confirms its preferred approach and support of the project applications received for the CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 available in the Upper Waitaki Water Zone (\$75K).

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides an update to the committee on current proposals for the CWMS Action Plan Budget for 2023/24 available in the Upper Waitaki Water Zone.
2. The Facilitator will also confirm a review of the committee's CWMS Action Plan 2021-24.

Background

CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 – Current Project Application

1 – Mackenzie Basin Weed Strategy

Please refer to the presentation prepared by Jenna Hughes-Games (ECan) included in the meeting papers as **agenda item 1.6 – 1**, and the accompanying application for this project as **agenda item 1.6 – 2**.

2 – CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 – Project Applications for the 17 May meeting

Also confirming, the committee should receive three further applications at its 17 May meeting as follows.

- *Snow tussock grassland protection – from the Lindiss Pass Conservation Group*
- *Facilitation, Stage Two – from the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group*
- *Omarama / Twizel demonstration plots, stage two – from Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa Ltd*

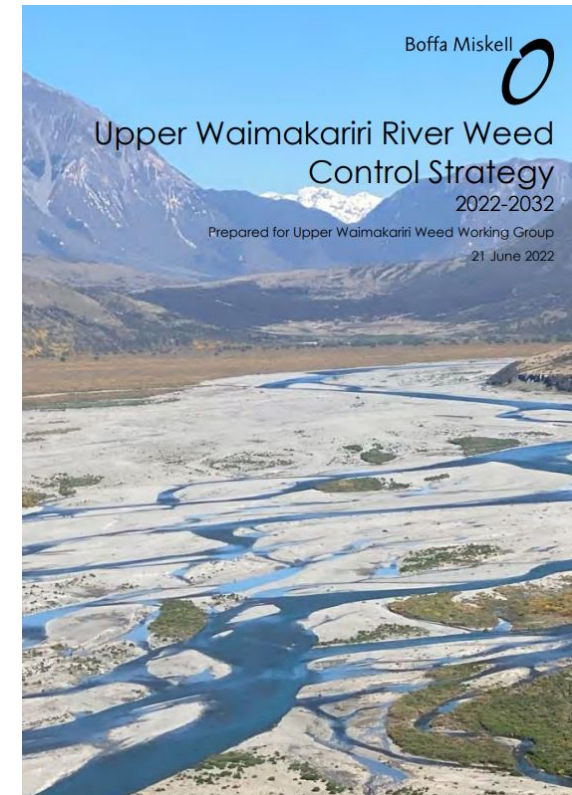
Upper Waitaki Zone Committee - 19April 2024 Meeting - Agenda Item 1.6 - 1

Mackenzie Basin Weed Strategy

Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury and Land Information New Zealand

What is a Weed Strategy?

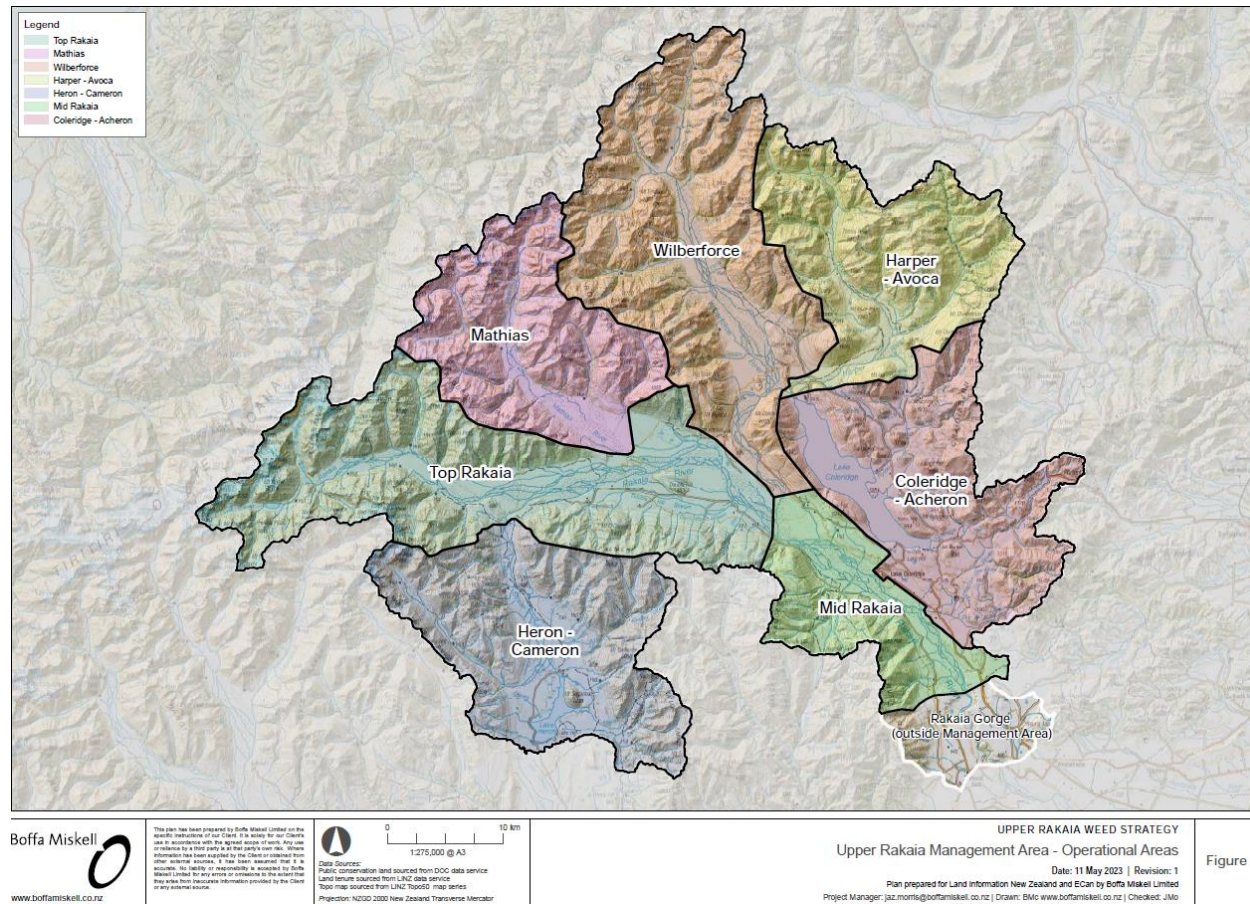
- Defines values and goals for each management area
- Defines all weeds in an area and control goal for each weed
- Infestation level of all weed species in different areas mapped
- Ties in all weed control work different organizations have been doing
- Can be used as a tool for District Councils, LINZ, Doc and Ecan for strategic planning



Why Do We Need a Weed Strategy?

- Maximize funding efficiency by working strategically together with all stakeholders
- A strategy/guide with what to tackle and when, to ensure an efficient approach
- Snapshot in time of weed densities and distributions
 - This can be used to measure progress against if reviewed in 5 or 10 years
- Surveys of high-value areas, ensures we know about weed presence that may otherwise get missed, especially cryptic species
- Control of weeds in these low-density areas during surveys
- Weed strategies can be used to further leverage funding, as it shows a clear understanding of the weeds across a range of tenures, and has achievable and measurable goals
- Strategy documents help to pass on information to new staff etc, especially if experienced staff leave and would otherwise have taken all that knowledge with them

Example of Rakaia Weed Strategy Management Areas



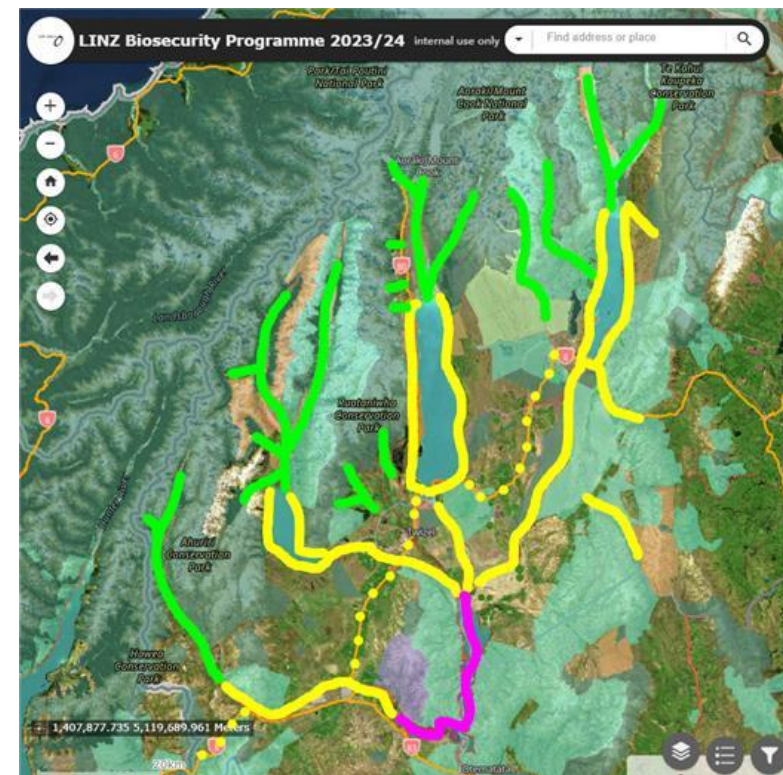
Initial Surveys

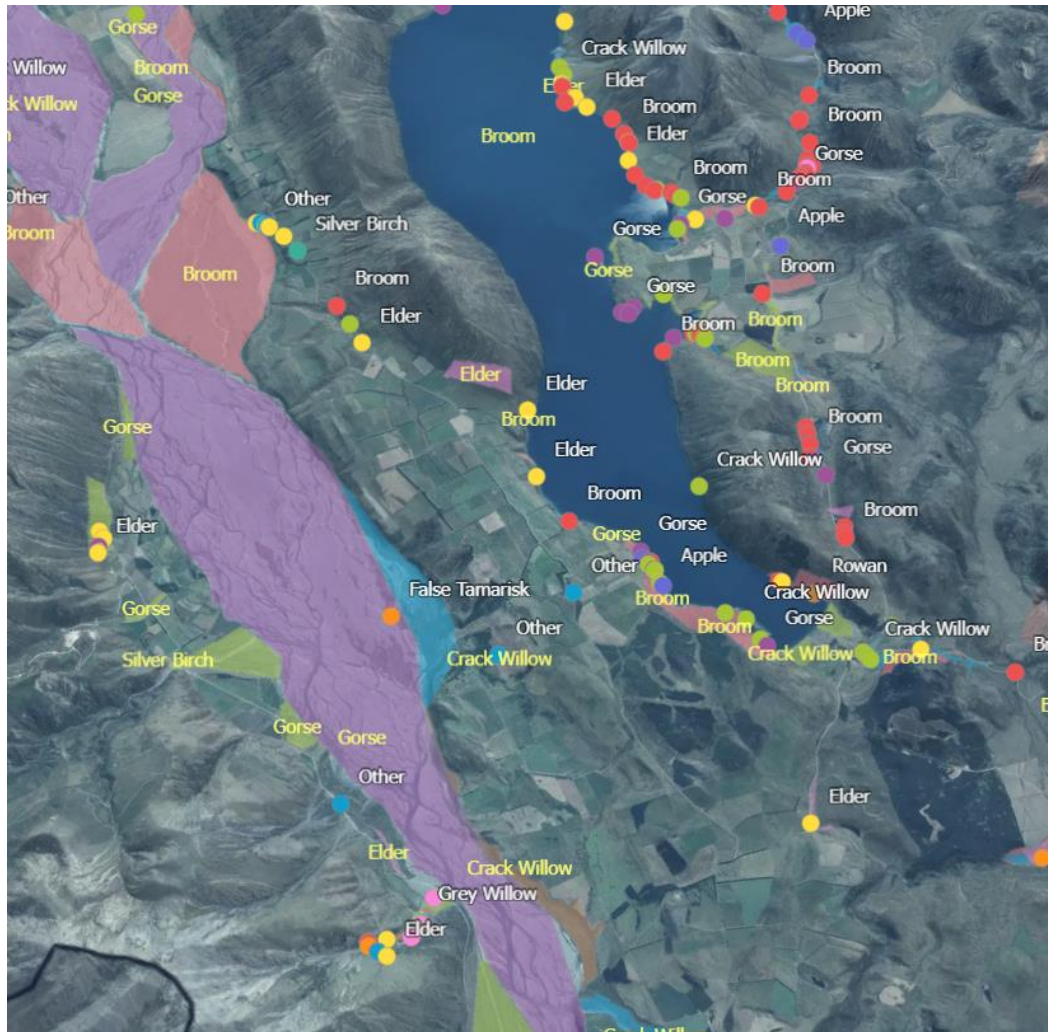
Will use information we already have and add to it with extensive surveys conducted on foot, by helicopter, done and by boat.

Green: areas that need to be surveyed

Yellow: less important areas in that can be driven and weeds mapped and/or described, but at a higher level than areas in green.

Pink: around Lake Benmore possibly done by boat and tied in with other projects for efficiency





Example of weed
mapping from
Boffa Miskell app

Relation to Waitaki Iwi Management Plan 2019

5.4 Springs, Wetlands, Swamps and Seepages:

Policy 6. Protect and restore, as a priority: a. ...wetlands in good condition including: Raupō Lagoon, Swan Lagoon, other shallow depressions in Ōhau catchment , wetlands in Ahuriri catchment and the remaining wetlands in Irishman's Creek and Grays area.

Policy 12. Require the removal of pest species from wetlands (including crack willow, gorse, broom and boxthorn)

6.5 Ecosystem Wellbeing:

Objectives:

3. Biodiversity management is integrated across land-ownership and land-use boundaries

6. Russell lupins are eradicated from waterways

7. Area of indigenous vegetation and habitat that are of significant value to Manawhenua are protected including wetlands, lakes, riparian areas and the river mouth.

8. Habitat for Mahika kai species within wetlands is enhanced and restored.

Policies:

7. Collaborate with agencies on pest removal priorities

14. Russell lupins and other pest species affecting nesting habitat and braided river character are eradicated.

Relation to Zone Committee's 2021-24 Action Plan

- Recommending biodiversity funding with a priority focus on mahinga kai sites.

Waitaki District Council Priorities:

- Native and indigenous wildlife associated with waterways have adequate habitats.
- Rivers and wetlands have healthy ecological flows and high water quality.
- The objectives of the Mackenzie Basin Alignment Programme are supported and strengthened through the above.
- Also relates to Waitaki Iwi management plan and the UW Zone Implementation Plan

Ecosystem health and biodiversity targets

- increased riparian management to protect aquatic ecosystems
- protection and enhancement of named wetlands.

Relation to UW Zone Implementation Plan

ZIP Addendum 2015 Outcomes:

- The biodiversity of the Zone's water bodies and high-quality drylands is protected and enhanced
- There is improved mahinga kai gathering in the Zone

Key Principles

- A 'whole of waterway' approach is taken to integrate the management of resources from the mountains to the sea and beyond – Ki Uta Ki Tai. The Zone Committee wishes to see activities integrated across agencies and groups working together in an outcome-based approach.
- The braided river systems support ecosystems, and the rivers are protected as outstanding recreation resource and natural habitat.

Recommendations:

- 1.9. Cross boundary or interrelated biodiversity protection and enhancement projects

Braided Rivers

- Develop programmes to complement Project River Recovery for the protection and enhancement of braided river ecosystems, including predator and weed control and further investigation into the impacts and management of didymo

Relation to Zone Implementation Plan

Biodiversity and Braided Rivers:

3.2. Include braided rivers as a priority in the preparation of MEP – Management and Enhancement Plans

3.3. Develop programmes to complement Project River Recovery for the protection and enhancement of braided river ecosystems, including predator and weed control and further investigation into the impacts and management of didymo

3.4. Assess whether district plans and regional plans could provide greater support/ enabling of initiatives that are part of Project River Recovery

3.9. In restoration efforts involving weed control, priority be given to removing pest plants such as crack willows and broom, and removal of nitrogen fixing species such as elders from the top of the rivers/ catchment down to prevent re-infestation. All pest and weed control activity is coordinated for maximum effectiveness In restoration efforts involving weed control, priority should be given to prevention and early removal of high-risk weed species, newly establishing in the Upper Waitaki catchment; for example – buddleia, tree lupin and false tamarisk

4.1. Support initiatives for protection of indigenous dryland ecosystems from further loss or degradation, and seek innovative funding mechanisms Support initiatives to identify and prioritise for action high quality or significant dryland indigenous ecosystems, including those that are important due to the continuity and range of interconnected habitat Support co-ordination of work across agencies, community/interest groups and landowners to maintain dryland habitat and ecosystems

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Application for funding – CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 (for the Upper Waitaki Water Zone)

The purpose of the CWMS Action Plan Budget is:

- To allow Zone Committees to **focus on implementing their action plan and leverage other funding opportunities to achieve the CWMS priorities.**

The funding is administered, distributed, and monitored by Environment Canterbury.

Applicant details

Organisation (if applicable):	Environment Canterbury – Biodiversity
Contact name:	Jenna Hughes-Games
Contact email:	
Contact phone number:	
Postal address:	75 Church Street, Timaru 7910
Other address:	N/A
Are you GST registered? (if yes, please provide number)	N/A
NZBN (NZ Business Number, if applicable)	N/A

About your project

The amount of information and detail we would like you to provide is in proportion to the amount of funding you are requesting. If it is smaller amount, then a simple description of your project, who's involved and what you will be doing, along with a simple budget is sufficient.

Project name:	<i>Mackenzie Basin Weed Strategy</i>
CWMS zone where the activity will occur:	<i>Upper Waitaki Water Zone</i>
Provide a brief project description (in two sentences):	
A joint weed strategy for the whole of the Mackenzie basin to the Benmore Dam including ECan, Doc and LINZ. The strategy will define all the weeds deemed problematic, the	

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spread of the weed and management goals of that weed. Boffa Miskell will be conducting much of the weed surveys and will be writing the Strategy. An example is attached.

Explain what the grant will be used for - what the money is mainly being spent on/what activities are involved in the project (in two sentences):

Boffa Miskell will be developing their weed app for the Basin, doing ground surveys with input of information from Doc, Linz and ECan and writing the weed strategy. The funding provided by the Zone Committee will be for the kick off of the project with funding from LINZ.

Describe the problem or opportunity the project will address:

A whole basin weed strategy working together between organizations to maximize funding and weed control efficiency. The strategy can be used in District plans to ensure new developments/ enhancements are not introducing weed species that we are spending money controlling.

Describe the outcomes or impacts of this project:

Outcomes or impacts are what will change or who will benefit from this work, including enduring benefits. For example, fencing off springheads will improve biodiversity and improve stream health.

Better knowledge of the weeds in the basin and working with a weed control strategy will allow for more efficient weed control, financially and operationally. A weed control strategy can be used as a tool for District Councils, LINZ, Doc and ECan for strategic planning. The strategy will provide better protection of mahinga kai in braided rivers, wetlands, springs and significant indigenous biodiversity from weed infestations and hopefully keep weeds that have not become a problem from doing so in the basin.

List the key outputs of the project:

An output describes what your group is proposing to do and is measurable. For example, install 250 m of fencing, or train 25 volunteers. Outputs are important and may be used as deliverables in a funding agreement.

A whole weed strategy report for the Mackenzie Basin in agreement with Doc, LINZ and ECan.

App and online mapping of weed species with abundance and habitat (possibly more detail)

Please state how the project aligns with the relevant Zone Committee's 2021-24 Action Plan:

Waimakariri – [Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024 | Environment Canterbury \(ecan.govt.nz\)](#)

Alternatively, contact the Zone Facilitator (Murray Griffin) who can email you a copy.

- Recommending biodiversity funding with a priority focus on mahinga kai sites.

Waitaki District Council Priorities:

- Native and indigenous wildlife associated with waterways have adequate habitats.

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- Rivers and wetlands have healthy ecological flows and high water quality.
- The objectives of the Mackenzie Basin Alignment Programme are supported and strengthened through the above.
- Also relates to Waitaki Iwi management plan and the UW Zone Implementation Plan

Ecosystem health and biodiversity targets

- increased riparian management to protect aquatic ecosystems
- protection and enhancement of named wetlands.

Tell us when you can start the project and when you intend to have the project completed (timeline):

15 May 2024 is approximate start and we estimate the project to take about 2 years, depending on funding

Tell us why you think your project is feasible/realistic:

A joint project between ECan, Doc and LINZ will hold others accountable and have agreement to work together to tackle weed issues together. Weed strategies have been successfully completed in the Upper Clarence, Upper Rangitata, Upper Rakaia, Upper Waimakariri and Dart/ Reece River valleys. The Mackenzie Basin will tie in nicely to ensure we manage weeds to maintain our pristine environments.

Tell us about the project management, including leadership and financial oversight:

ECAN will be working closely with Boffa Miskell on this project with input from Doc. Boffa Miskell has been leading the Strategies in other River Valley's and will be filling in the gaps with ground truthing weed spread. LINZ will most likely be fronting a lot of the finances but there will be input from Doc Project River Recovery and Environment Canterbury.

List any other groups or organisations you are partnering with on this project, such as community groups, schools etc:

Land Information New Zealand and Department of Conservation are the main players but will be working with community groups for ground surveys and weed control.

How will you engage the community on the project:

Getting volunteers and community groups involved in weed surveys with an app available to everyone to be able to map weeds infestation using the same method and system.

Do you know of any cultural values associated with this site?

YES many

If yes, what engagement has occurred or is planned (if any) with local Papatipu Rūnanga about this project?

Addressed the Waitaki Iwi Management Plan to ensure we include Rūnanga objectives into the plan (see powerpoint). How would the Papatipu Rūnanga like to be involved?

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Please provide an accurate location with grid references and a map (if relevant to your project – please contact the Zone Facilitator who can assist with this if required):
NZTM Grid Ref X (Easting): *All of Mackenzie Basin to Benmore Dam
NZTM Grid Ref Y (Northing):
Who owns the land? LINZ, DOC, private landowners, ECan
<i>Attach evidence of permission from the landowner, or their representative (if you are undertaking a project on land that you do not own)</i>
N/A will be working with locals if we need to get onto private land for surveys

Funding details

How much funding are you requesting?	\$40,000
If you are successful with this application, what components of your project will you spend the money on?	
<i>*Please include below or attach your budget to your application.</i>	
Project Initiation, app development (already exists but to localize it to the basin), initial weed surveys in prioritized areas	
Have you applied to, or received funding from other organisations for this project?	YES
If YES, please provide details below or note if it is included in your attached budget.	
<i>The CWMS Action Plan Budget is seed funding or leverage for partnering and collaboration, so it is positive if you have received or are applying for other funding.</i>	
Environment Canterbury biodiversity, Doc PRR, LINZ will be contributing – unsure of amounts yet but LINZ will be significant	
Is the project receiving any other monetary or “in-kind” contributions (volunteer hours, resources, equipment, facilities) from your organisation or others?	YES
If YES, please provide details below or note if it is included in your attached budget:	
Nothing has been worked out but we will work with community groups on helping with weed surveys and collating existing data	

Working with Environment Canterbury

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In the last three years have you received funding or other support from Environment Canterbury for this, or any other project? If yes, what was the funding/support for, and when did you receive it?	
We are Environment Canterbury	
Are you intending on applying to another Environment Canterbury fund/budget this financial year for this, or any other project? If yes, what fund are you applying to?	YES
ECan Regional Biodiversity Project Fund	
Do you give permission for your application for the CWMS Action Plan Budget to be shared with the ECan staff who coordinate the Waitaha Wai Action to Impact Fund (we prefer to share information between the two to get best use of both)	YES
Total project cost: Approximately \$200,000 The funding will dictate how in depth weed surveys will be, with priority areas being surveyed first. The project may take a number of years due to the large scale of the basin.	

Additional information you would like to provide?

Do you have supporting information you would like to provide (optional)?

Please see attached power point and example weed strategy

Once completed, please send this application form to Zone Facilitator, Murray Griffin, murray.griffin@ecan.govt.nz

The Zone Facilitator will keep in touch with you about timeframes, whether the Committee would like you to give them a presentation, and whether there are any questions.

5.5 CWMS Facilitator's Report

Author:

Attachments:

1. UWZC 2024 04 19 1 7 1 CRPS update and sch [5.5.1 - 3 pages]

Recommendation

That the report be received.

Purpose of Report

This report is from Murray Griffin, interim CWMS Facilitator, Environment Canterbury.

This report provides information of interest to the Zone Committee not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

1 Omarama / Twizel Demonstration Plots Project

An update will be provided at the meeting from Richard Subtil and Cr Scott Aronsen who met with Felicity McMillan (Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa Ltd) on Wednesday 10 April to review the proposed native planting demonstration plots in Omarama and Twizel respectively.

An application to the 17 May UWZC meeting for the second stage of establishing this project is expected to support plot and planting maintenance to ensure the successful establishment of this project.

2. Love our Lakes - Facebook training and guidelines

As noted at the committee's previous meeting, nominated zone committee members are receiving training and assistance with administrating the Love our Lakes Facebook page from Environment Canterbury staff, who will continue to provide support as needed. Some guidelines for the Love Our Lakes Facebook page are recommended for the zone committee members. These will be sent to the committee, as a primary reference for this trial.

3. Canterbury Regional Policy Statement update for all CWMS Zone Committees

From Mick

4. Twizel Groundwater investigation

ECan CWMS Facilitator, Murray Griffin, will provide an update at the meeting on his follow up with the ECan Science Team on this matter, raised at the previous committee meeting in February.

5. CWMS Upper Waitaki Action Plan 2021-2024

Noting the committee will confirm any changes, or no changes, to it's 2021-2024 Action Plan at the 17 May meeting if not confirmed at this meeting.



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Memo

Date	03 April 2024
To	CWMS Zone Committees
CC	
From	Andrew Parrish, Regional Planning Manager, Environment Canterbury

This memo is an update for our Zone Committees on where we are in the Regional Policy Statement drafting process and to let you know when you will have an opportunity to review a draft replacement Canterbury Regional Policy Statement, prior to its notification.

Canterbury Regional Policy Statement review

Environment Canterbury is responsible for helping support the wellbeing of our region by delivering environmental management, public transport services and helping build community resilience.

We have several plans to update, including the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS), a powerful tool that sets the direction for all district and regional plans. The CRPS is especially important for territorial authorities, which are required by law to give effect to the relevant regional policy statement through their district plans.

The CRPS 2013 has been operative since 2013 and Environment Canterbury began working towards reviewing it in 2021. You will recall we briefed both southern and northern “superzones” in February last year and indicated that we intended to begin public engagement soon after.

In mid-2023 a public and stakeholder engagement campaign called “What’s our future, Canterbury?” sought views throughout the region on the outcomes people want to see over a range of topics, under the headings Land, Water, Air, Natural Hazards, Climate Change and Urban Development. These subtopics include key concerns, such as biodiversity and coastal issues. Later in 2023, a second engagement campaign called “Pick a Path” sought community input on their relative priorities and the policy options that might achieve the outcomes we had identified previously.

Community and stakeholder feedback indicated a strong appetite for community-led actions that will improve environmental outcomes. There is also strong desire to work together to ensure everyone has access to clean, safe water and that our rivers, lakes, streams and land environments are resilient, healthy and thriving.

We also heard strong views on the importance of economic certainty and how it is key to providing for social wellbeing. There were conflicting views on how far improvements should go and the pace at which they should occur through changing land-use patterns, regulation or enforcement, or by enabling/encouraging good practice.

Reports summarising the feedback from the 2023 engagement are available here:

[What’s our future, Canterbury? - community reflections report](#)

[Let’s Pick a Path - community reflections report](#)

[Let's Pick a Path, Climate Change community reflections](#)

Preparation of a draft CRPS is currently underway, with input derived from:

- Feedback during engagement campaigns described above;
- Existing knowledge on the [current state of the Canterbury environment](#);
- Changes in legislation and national policy direction; and
- Feedback from Te Rōpū Tuia¹ at wānanga held in September and December 2023.

Completion of the draft CRPS is scheduled for mid-late April and endorsement to consult with key stakeholders on the draft will be sought from Te Rōpū Tuia¹ at their hui in May 2024. Assuming the draft CRPS can then be shared more widely, Environment Canterbury will then undertake consultation before preparing a **proposed CRPS 2024/25** for notification.

The third phase of consultation on a proposed Canterbury Regional Policy Statement will occur during June and July 2024 and will follow RMA Schedule 1, Clause 3, which specifies that Ministers of the Crown and local authorities are consulted during preparation of a proposed policy statement or plan – but we intend to go much and wider in canvassing input, including yours.

The draft CRPS will be entirely open for revision by key stakeholders during this consultation period and we encourage Zone Committee members to help us refine the proposed CRPS (pCRPS) prior to formal notification. This pre-notification consultation in June/July is a valuable opportunity for you to inform our drafting of the pCRPS, along with the RMA section 32 analysis of:

- policy options;
- appropriateness of achieving the purpose of the RMA; and the
- benefits, costs and risks on the community, economy and the environment.

As joint committees of Canterbury Regional Council and your respective TA, Zone Committees can influence the pCRPS through your councillor. Zone Committee members are of course also welcome to participate as individuals through the formal Schedule 1 processes after pCRPS notification, including by making submissions and being heard by an independent hearing panel.

We look forward to hearing from you in June/July. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Sam Leonard, by phone 027 801 7849, or email Sam.Leonard@ecan.govt.nz

Yours faithfully

Andrew Parrish

¹ Te Rōpū Tuia is the governance group formed out of partnership between Ngāi Tahu and Environment Canterbury, with membership consisting of the Chairs of ngā Papatipu Rūnanga and all Environment Canterbury Councillors. Te Rōpū has agreed to work alongside Environment Canterbury staff on a new Regional Policy Statement up to its notification.

Regional Planning Manager

