

AGENDA

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 4 November 2024

Date Monday, 4 November 2024

Time 1pm

Location Council Chamber, Council Building, King George
Place, Timaru

File Reference 1716395

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru, on Monday 4 November 2024, at 1pm.

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Members

Suzanne Eddington, John Henry, Glen Smith (Chairperson), Bailey Lissington, Chris Konings (Deputy Chairperson), Michelle Pye, Deon Swiggs, Phillipa Guerin, Sharyn Cain and Trudy Heath.

Quorum – no less than 5 members

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- 1 Opening Karakia**
- 2 Apologies**
- 3 Public Forum**
- 4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**
- 5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**
- 6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**
- 7 Chairperson's Report**

8 Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 2 September 2024

Author: Steph Forde, Corporate and Strategic Planner

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 2 September 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Attachments

- 1. Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 2 September 2024**

MINUTES

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 2 September 2024

**Minutes of Timaru District Council
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting
Held in the Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Monday, 2 September 2024 at 1pm**

Present: Suzanne Eddington, Glen Smith (Chairperson), Chris Konings (Deputy Chairperson), Michelle Pye, Deon Swiggs, Phillipa Guerin, Sharyn Cain

In Attendance: Nigel Bowen, Grant Hall, Paul Cooper, Zella Smith, Steph Forde, Steve Compton

1 Opening Karakia

Dave Moore conducted the opening Karakia.

The passing of past OTOP Zone Committee member and Waimate District Councillor Dave Anderson was noted. He will be greatly missed in the Waimate District, and a moments silence was observed.

2 Apologies

Rynee de Garnham (Te Rūnanga o Waihao).

3 Public Forum

There were no public forum items.

4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

There were no Urgent Business items.

5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

Reference was made to the email from Cameron Smith which will be discussed under item 9.2.

6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

7 Chairperson's Report

No report was provided.

8 Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2024

Resolution 2024/17

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Chris Konings

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

9 Reports

9.1 OTOP Environmental Flow and Allocation

To update the Committee on the Flow and Allocation limits and described in the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan for the OTOP Zone.

Refer to the Report presented by Zella Smith (ECan)

Discussion around the report held and noted that we are currently in the midst of developing an integrated Regional plan, with the Regional Policy Statement scheduled to be notified in 2024/25. PC7 was recently made operative so no results are available as yet.

Confirmation that new Allocations and Flow Limits are set at either the renewal of consent stage, or if a consent is being reviewed.

New flow limits are mostly due from the 1/1/2025, although for the Opihi FMU, Consent renewals are mostly due anywhere out to October 2030.

Questions

Query: Is data on actual usage available?

Response (Zella Smith): Users are required to provide data as part of their consent agreement, but quality of data varies considerably, but is considered (along with environmental and social factors) during the consent renewal process.

Query: about visibility of any long term trends in data

Response (Zella Smith): responded that difficult to see with such patchy data.

Request for actual usage data to be made available for the committee, over a period of time, and perhaps for one FMU only initially to gauge the value of the report – suggested that they focus on usage in Opihi FMU

ACTION POINT: ECan to provide Usage data for one FMU, possibly Opihi FMU

Query about availability of data on water quality, and correlation noted between Health of a body of water and Flow rate.

Response (Zella Smith): Referred to LAWA website, and noted that ECAN Science teams monitor this, and reports show trends and identify issues. Dave Moore suggested the *Water quality for contact recreation: Annual summary* report also has useful water quality information.

ACTION POINT: Dave Moore to circulate report

Query: What is the reason behind different limits above and below Pareora Huts?

Response (Zella Smith): To do with the Dam and local administrative boundaries.

Glen Smith thanked Zella for the presentation of the report.

Clr Deon Swiggs requested an update on the Dry Strategy be provided to the Committee to understand the impact on water allocation.

Resolution 2024/18

Moved: Clr Deon Swiggs

Seconded: Clr Michelle Pye

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

Carried

9.2 Action Plan Fund

To provide an update on the 2024/25 Action Plan fund and propose the timetable for considering funding requests.

Dave Moore referred to the email from Cameron Smith outlining the \$50,000 available in the Action Plan Budget, to be ideally distributed by the end of the calendar year.

Dave Moore proposed getting as many applications as possible by Mid-September to be reviewed in October's meeting. The Committee's general feeling was that this time frame was too short and they recommended that the closing date for applications be the 14th October, to be reviewed in the November 4th meeting.

This was agreed, and further discussion occurred around advertising and communications.

Dave Moore then referred to the previous meetings request for plan to show money spent and opportunities and referred to the supplied plan. It was noted that the first Action Plan objective was favoured, and there was no context for why other plans were not. An example was given where money was set aside for a Rock Art project, but it turned out that a similar project was being run by a separate body (ECan) so the funds were held over - it was noted that more context would assist with any public enquiries, and Dave Moore agreed to update.

ACTION POINT: Dave Moore to update Spending Plan as discussed.

Resolution 2024/19

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Clr Phillipa Guerin

That the OTOP Zone Committee receive this report and agrees a timetable for recommending funding requests.

Carried

9.3 Committee Updates

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

Discussion around Catchment Groups - It was noted that some Catchment Groups were at risk of being turned into Zoning Committees, undermining their purpose to operate in a deregulated space, which was generally seen as their greatest strength. This gave scope for their main

positive attribute of being tailored to local groups able to effect non-statutory changes beyond legislation frameworks (without straying into illegality).

Resolution 2024/20

Moved: Sharyn Cain

Seconded: Chris Konings

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report and provides feedback.

Carried

10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

No items of urgent business were received.

11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

12 Closure Karakia

Dave Moore conducted the closing Karakia

The Meeting closed at 1.56pm.

.....
Chairperson

9 Reports

9.1 Chairpersons Report

Author: Steph Forde, Corporate and Strategic Planner

Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the Committee receive the Chairpersons Report

Attachments

Nil

9.2 Action Plan Fund Applicant Presentations

Author: Steph Forde, Corporate and Strategic Planner

Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee receives the applicants' presentations

Purpose of Report

For the Zone Committee to receive presentations from applications for Ashburton Water Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY 2024/25.

Introduction

As part of their Long-Term Plan 2021-2031, Environment Canterbury established the Zone Committee Action Plan (ZCAP) Budget. The purpose of the budget is to allow Zone Committees to focus on implementing their Action Plan and leverage other funding opportunities to achieve the CWMS priorities. This financial year, an allocation of \$50,000 for ZCAP Budgets for each CWMS water zone was confirmed. Applicants have been invited to present their funding applications to the OTOP Zone Committee and take questions.

Presentations

Applicants will present a five-minute summary of their projects and take questions from the committee. Summaries of the applications can be found in Agenda Item 10.2.

Applications

| Appn: | Project name | Applicant | Presenter | Funding requested |
|-------|---|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Craigmore Basins Planting 2024 | Craigmore Station | John Brownlie (to be confirmed) | 9,499 |
| 2 | Tengawai (Te Ana a Wai) River Plantings into DOC land | Kathryn Fortescue | Kathryn Fortescue (online) | 8,169 |
| 3 | Native planting | Normanby Lagoon | Andrew Fraser | 31,725 |
| 4 | Strathconan Stream Restoration Project | Strathconan Stream Catchment Group | John Wright | 13,592 |
| 5 | Kakahu Robinson Wetland Restoration Project | Port Blakely Forestry NZ | Alice Mitchell – (Zolve) and Jack Burgess (Port Blakely) | 104,000 |

Attachments

Nil

9.3 Consideration of Action Plan Funding applications

Author: Steph Forde, Corporate and Strategic Planner

Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee:

1. **Receives** the applications and;
2. For each application, confirms whether it:
 - 2.1 **Supports** the project being recommended for x amount of funding using the Ashburton Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY 2023/24, or
 - 2.2 **Does not support** the project being recommended for funding using the Ashburton Zone Committee Action Pan Budget for FY2023/24, or
 - 2.3 **Requests further information on the project before making a decision**

Purpose of Report

For the Zone Committee to consider applications received for funding using their Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY 2024/25

Introduction

As part of their Long-Term Plan 2021-2031, Environment Canterbury established the Zone Committee Action Plan (ZCAP) Budget. The purpose of the budget is to allow Zone Committees to focus on implementing their Action Plan and leverage other funding opportunities to achieve the CWMS priorities. This financial year, an allocation of **\$50,000** for ZCAP Budgets for each CWMS water zone was confirmed.

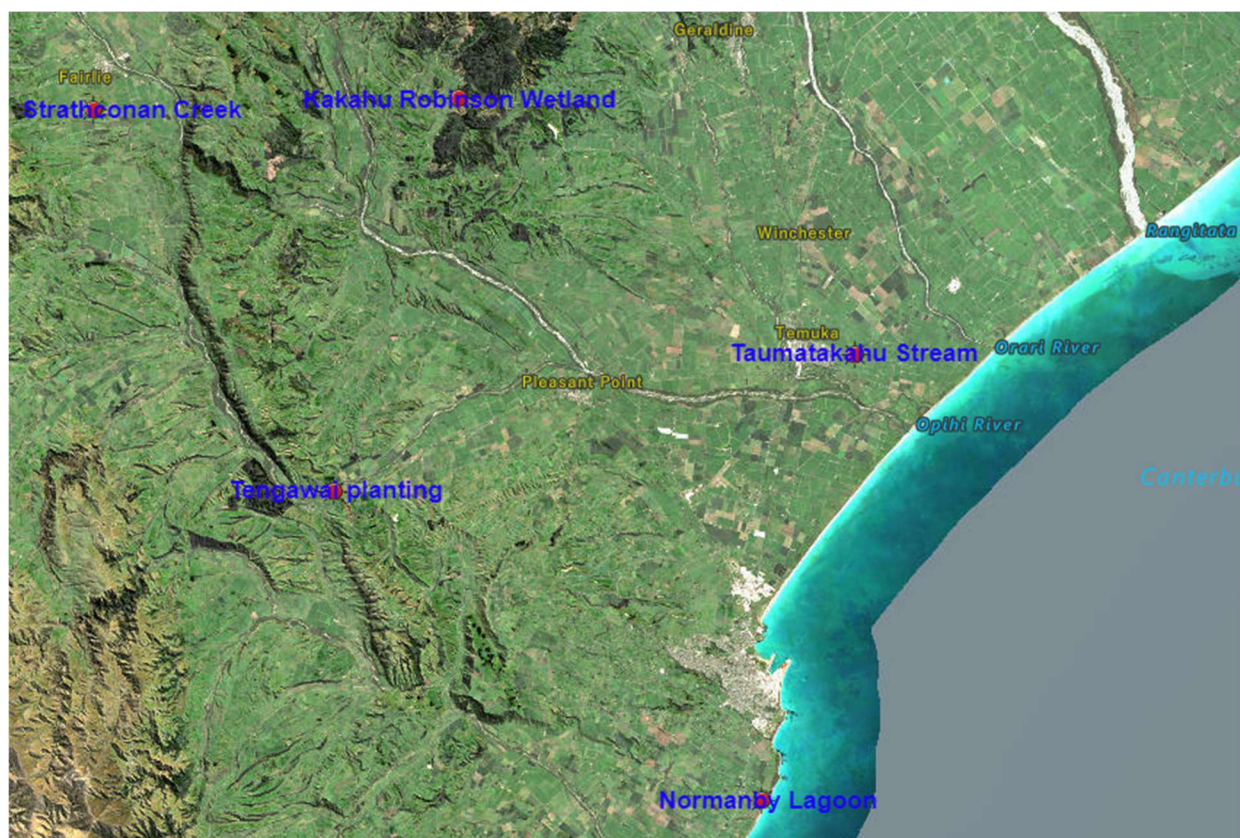
To date, the Committee have not recommended any funding for the 2024-25 financial year which means **\$50,000** (excl. GST) of the ZCAP Budget is available to be allocated.

Applications

Applications have been received from the following parties and summaries of the projects have been provided. Copies of the applications were sent to the Zone Committee prior to this meeting.

| Appn: | Project name | Applicant | Funding requested |
|-------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Craigmore Basins Planting 2024 | Craigmore Station | 9,499 |
| 2. | Native planting | Normanby Lagoon | 31,725 |
| 3. | Strathconan Stream Restoration Project | Strathconan Stream Catchment Group | 13,592 |

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| | | | |
| 4. | Tengawai (Te Ana a Wai) River Plantings into DOC land | Kathryn Fortescue | 8,168.52 |
| 5. | Kakahu Robinson Wetland Restoration Project | Port Blakely Forestry NZ | 104,000 |



| Application 001: Craigmore Basins Planting | |
|--|---|
| Applicant | Craigmore Station Ltd |
| Funds requested | 9,499 |
| Project summary | Planting of Native plants in critical source area and seasonal water course to slow down and filter run off and spring water and improve biodiversity and create a wild life corridor from the Hillside to the Valley Floor. |
| Action Plan alignment | <p>Enhancement and Restoration of mahinga kai. By planting natives and creating a native corridor from hillside native bush patches to the valley floor. Protect water quality by slowing down and filtering run off and spring water with native species in a critical source area</p> <p>ECan – Increase riparian management and protect aquatic ecosystems, protect and enhance wetlands</p> <p>Waimate DC – Native and indigenous wildlife associated with waterways have adequate habitats.</p> |
| How funding will be used | The grant will be used to purchase plants, mats, guards, stakes and labour for planting. |

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| In-kind contributions and project partners | <p>Craigmore Station (the landowner) will contribute 50% of labour cost for planting and all labour costs associated with the ongoing maintenance, use of resources, facilities and equipment including supplying chemical for spot spraying.</p> <p>Installation of deer fencing has already been completed at the expense of the landowner.</p> |
| Community engagement | Local youth helping with planting. |
| Application 2: Normanby Lagoon Native Planting | |
| Applicant | Normanby Catchment Group |
| Funds requested | 31,725 |
| Project summary | <p>Plant an area of lagoon with eco-sourced natives of approximately 4,850 sqm.</p> <p>This riparian planting will provide a native vegetation buffer around most of the lagoon to protect the riparian and bed from stock and sediment/contaminant run off and provide improved habitat for fish and waterfowl. It will also provide nesting habitat for wetland birds and an invertebrate source for fish and waterfowl. There are six areas, in the riparian of the lagoon, identified under the District Plan as Significant Natural Areas. Riparian wetland plant communities are now highly threatened and include herb field on the mudflats and sedgeland. The open water body supports the critically threatened black billed gull and there is a breeding population of pied shag. Black swans are commonly seen grazing in the water along with a variety of other waterfowl.</p> |
| Action Plan alignment | <p>We commit to assist with the protection, enhancement and restoration of mahinga kai</p> <p>We commit to providing opportunities to engage and collaborate with Rūnanga</p> <p>We engage with the community and raise awareness of the impacts of human activity on land and water</p> |
| How funding will be used | Provision of plants and mats and plant guards for a series of community planting days |
| In-kind contribution and project partners | <p>In kind contributions are being received from the landowners. This includes the full cost of fencing and the labour to plant and maintain the plantings.</p> <p>The first planting which occurred on the north side along the arable farm edge was funded by the TDC Biodiversity Category 1 Fund.</p> |
| Community engagement | <p>The catchment group has a wide network of community members.</p> <p>This is an area well-known for early Māori settlement and nearby is an early Rapuwai pā site, Te Wharetawhiti. The catchment group has invited rūnaka to attend the meetings and planting days and will continue to do</p> |

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| | so. The mahinga kai values associated with this site and the wider coastal area will benefit from the plantings and improved habitat. |
| Application 3: Strathconan Stream Restoration Project | |
| Applicant | Strathconan Stream Catchment Group |
| Funds requested | 13,592 |
| Project summary | <p>We will reintroduce locally absent native species to natural wetlands and other riparian areas in Strathconan Stream. Key sites were identified during a stream walk, farm plan workshop, and other activities completed by the catchment group over the winter of 2024.</p> <p>This will be a catchment group project so we would like to join up to other restoration sites and areas of native habitat at the top and bottom of Strathconan Stream.</p> |
| Action Plan alignment | <p>Increased riparian management to protect aquatic ecosystems. ECan – Increase riparian management and protect aquatic ecosystems, protect and enhance wetlands Waimate DC – Native and indigenous wildlife associated with waterways have adequate habitats It is very important that native vegetation is bought back to landscapes where it is missing and where changing farming practices create the opportunity for restoration; especially where there opportunities to link from the foothills to the main stem of the Opihi River.</p> |
| How funding will be used | Restoration planting and maintenance in riparian areas and wetlands. |
| In-kind contributions and project partners | <p>Living Landscapes South Canterbury have supported the Strathconan Stream Community through mapping services, eDNA sampling, and facilitation to a undertake stream walk and write farm plans. This work was originally funded by MPI.</p> <p>There has been a substantial amount of community effort associated with this work in terms of hosting field days, provision of venues, and chairing or coordinating activity</p> |
| Community engagement | We will host a catchment group field day to communicate what we have done once plants are in the ground and let everyone see what we have been up to. We would welcome the opportunity to do this in partnership with the Zone Committee |
| Application 4: Tengawai River Plantings | |
| Applicant | Kathryn Fortescue |
| Funds requested | Planting \$7382.00 (exc. GST) Traps \$786.52 (exc. GST) \$904 (inc. GST) |
| Project summary | <p>To plant native habitat into a section of (mainly) Department of Conservation land to improve the biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>The area was cleared of large exotic trees - pines and poplars - in April 2024 which provides an excellent opportunity to create indigenous habitat in this section of unproductive public land.</p> <p>The Central South (cycle) Trail has recently been built adjacent to the stop bank. They have undertaken to plant 380 indigenous trees along a 160m</p> |

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| | <p>section of the track. This project seeks to augment their plantings to improve the ecosystem of this section of riverbed land. The grant applicant will also be planting approximately 200 indigenous plants this spring. The combined plantings aim to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • insect habitat along a migration corridor for pekapeka (long-tailed bats) • an attractive amenity for cyclists and the broader community. • Food/habitat for indigenous birds |
| Action Plan alignment | <p>The project links to the OTOP Zone Action plan to advocate for indigenous biodiversity. There is an existing ECan initiative relating to pekapeka i.e. access the link. Collaborating a win for native bats Environment Canterbury (ecan.govt.nz) :</p> <p>A bat survey conducted by DOC before a group of large, exotic trees were felled in early April 2024 showed 53 bat passes over the 7-night survey. DOC has agreed to supply three bat boxes to install in trees on the applicant's property.</p> |
| How funding will be used | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare ground for planting • Provision of native plants and guards • Spraying costs during pre-plant and establishment phases. • Provision of traps to control/manage pests i.e. mustelids, hedgehogs, rats and possums. |
| In-kind contributions and project partners | <p>Volunteers for planting day(s). Landowner and family coordinate the planting project and will monitor and maintain a pest trapping schedule along her property boundary and the DOC reserve. This will include management of rabbits (not been included in the budget).</p> |
| Community engagement | <p>Informal partnerships to be made: South Canterbury Eco Centre, neighbours, friends, family, Pleasant Point Lions Club, Pleasant Point Scouts, and Cave community members.</p> |
| Other: | <p>Supported by DOC, but will require a DOC Community Agreement.</p> |
| Application 5: Kakahu Robinson wetland Restoration Project | |
| Applicant | <p>Port Blakely Forestry NZ</p> |
| Funds requested | <p>\$104,000</p> |
| Project summary | <p>Reinstating the wetland (underway since 2020) to accommodate biodiversity, enhance water quality, support Mahinga Kai and social/recreational values to the district. Port Blakely retired this land from grazing and have undertaken several stages of planting. They are aiming to complete this restoration project over the next five-years; the project aims to restore, reinstate, and rehabilitate the area, making it accessible to the community within this timeframe. If we secure the necessary funding, we will expedite our plans and complete the project sooner.</p> <p>Establishing more native plants will improve biodiversity and native habitat. A significant proportion of these plants are for the standing water zone which will greatly improve water quality, limit erosion, filter sediment entering waterways downstream and provide habitat for a range of species. All plants have been specifically chosen for wetland rehabilitation and are mahinga kai species.</p> |

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| Action Plan alignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting, Enhancing and Restoring Mahinga Kai • Positive Runanga engagement • Raising Awareness of Te Mana O Te Wai • Community Engagement and Raising Awareness of the Impacts of Human Activity on Land and Water • Timaru District Council priorities of “Lowland Stream Health” (collaborating to reduce ecological damage to stream health) and “Indigenous Biodiversity” (advocating for indigenous biodiversity) • Environment Canterbury priorities of “Kaitiakitanga Wahi Taonga and Mahinga Kai Targets”, “Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Targets” and “Recreation and Amenity Targets” • |
| How funding will be used | To purchase plants and plant guards, and to pay for the labour required to prepare the area for planting, weed management and ongoing scheduled plant releasing. |
| In-kind contributions and project partners | <p>Partners: Kakahu Bush Trust, Kakahu Catchment Group, Geraldine High School, Ines Stager, Arowhenua Nursery, Zolve Environmental</p> <p>In kind - Zolve Environmental project management and planting volunteer day, Port Blakely volunteer planting day.</p> |
| Community engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Programs for hands-on activities • Partnerships with Local Organizations -schools, environmental groups, and local businesses. Port Blakely is currently part of the Geraldine School Primary Industries Academy and in this capacity can reach high school children to educate and engage. • Social Media and Online Platforms • Educational Workshops and tours |

Attachments

Nil

9.4 OTOP Water Zone Committee Update

Author: Steph Forde, Corporate and Strategic Planner

Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report and provides feedback.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on actions from the previous meeting, relevant information and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Report

Te Ana Rock Art Trust tour of Ōpihi Taniwha site.

Funding from the Zone Committee Action Plan fund for Te Ana Maori Rock Art education supported a tour of the Taniwha Gully rock art site at Ōpihi on 15 October.

Despite the cold weather, 19 people attended. Along with several farmers we had consultants, SC museum staff, interested locals, staff from Arowhenua Nursery and some ECan staff.

Rachel Solomon (Kaiwhakahaere, Te Ana Rock Art Trust) and Amanda Symon (Archaeologist) guided us on an historical journey down into the gully amongst the thriving native plants which are a result of massive mahi over the past few years.

We learned a lot about the history, how mana whenua used nature's supermarket there, some theories about what the art meant and how the paint was made. Our appreciation of this taonga reinforced the need to protect it. We learnt how fragile it is and what steps can help to preserve it, such as stock exclusion and care with irrigation. Amanda explained that landowners could take advantage of free consultation from Te Ana Rock Art Trust and that rock art protection areas do not necessarily exclude farming.

As we walked back up the valley there was a lot of conversation about the restoration. Back at the carpark the conversations continued, new connections were made, relationships formed and we all left knowing a lot more than we did earlier that morning.

Plan change 8 process underway

This plan change proposes

1. Introducing freshwater-related provisions for agricultural intensification and intensive winter grazing. This would limit new conversions to dairy and enable more targeted management of intensive winter grazing – to ensure added intensification doesn't further degrade water quality.
2. Introducing a permitted activity rule for wetland construction. This would remove some of the current consenting barriers to constructing new wetlands.

3. Providing low-cost, low-impact pathways to improved environmental outcomes by enabling stormwater management for infrastructure projects and allow changes in use for consented water.

There would also be consequential changes to the Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan and the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan, both of which relate to water allocation.

Perhaps the most important of the proposed changes would provide a pathway for the creation of stormwater collection basins, such as those needed to manage run-off and help prevent surface flooding near developments such as new roads or subdivisions - even in fully allocated groundwater zones.

As part of the same plan change process, we will also seek to make it easier for land-users to construct wetlands - to improve groundwater recharge, to achieve biodiversity outcomes, as a nature-based strategy, and for improving water quality or to mitigate flood-risk.

And finally, we would make other targeted changes relating to intensification, to ensure our plans continue to protect water quality.

Targeted plan changes (PC8) as part of a single process can address specific water issues effectively, thereby reducing the cost to ratepayers and respect people's time by consolidating consultation in one process.

We anticipate the first wider-public step of notifying the draft changes would be in November 2024, but the actual date will be a Council decision. Notification signals the start of a fully public consultation process where anyone can give us feedback by making a submission on our draft.

Te Rūnanga o Waihao representation on OTOP Water Zone Committee

Environment Canterbury has received correspondence from the Executive Board of Te Rūnanga o Waihao confirming their decision does not fill the representative position on the OTOP Water Zone Committee at this time. The Rūnanga would still like to be kept informed and up-to-date, and these communications can be emailed to Trudy Heath their Executive Officer.

Water allocation Report

At the September meeting the Facilitator was asked for a report on actual usage data to be made available for the committee, over a period of time, and perhaps for one FMU only initially to gauge the value of the report.

Environment Canterbury Science team are working on a report and aim to have this available for the next OTOP Water Zone Committee meeting which is scheduled for 25 November.

Attachments

Nil

10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

12 Closing Karakia