AGENDA

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting

Monday, 6 December 2021

Date	**Monday, 6 December 2021**
Time	**3.30 pm**
Location	**Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru**
File Reference	**1465627**

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 6 December 2021, at 1.00 pm.

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Members

Lucy Millar (Chairperson), Suzanne Eddington, John Henry, Cr Anne Munro, Cr Elizabeth McKenzie, Luke Reihana, Glen Smith, Cr Barbara Gilchrist, Cr Tom O'Connor and John Cruden

Quorum – no less than 5 members

Order Of Business

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 1 November 2021

Author: **Andrew Feary, Governance Advisor**

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 1 November 2021 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 1 November 2021**

MINUTES

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting

Monday, 1 November 2021

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, 1 November 2021 at 1.00 pm

Present: Lucy Millar (Chairperson), Suzanne Eddington, Cr Anne Munro, Cr Barbara Gilchrist, John Cruden

In Attendance: Janine Roux (Zone Facilitator), Bailey Lissington (Guest) Sophie McClenaghan (Land Management Advisor)

1 Opening Karakia

Cr Barbara Karakia gave an opening karakia

2 Apologies

Apology

Resolution 2021/5

That the apologies received from Cr Elizabeth McKenzie, Luke Reihana & Glen Smith be accepted and leave of absence granted. No apologies were received from Cr Tom O'Connor or John Henry.

3 Public Forum

Mr John DeWit addressed the Water Zone Committee regarding numerous perceived issues with role of the Water Zone Committee the Canterbury Water Strategy.

4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business to be received.

5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

There were no matters of minor nature.

6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

7 Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson advised that she had attended the Waitarakao / Washdyke Strategy working group meeting and advised that funding is now available in Environment Canterbury's Long Term Plan for the strategy and accordingly a project lead has been appointed.

There has been no further update from the Catchment Collective South Canterbury has been received since their presentation at the last Water Zone Committee meeting. Further information was sought from the Catchment Collective on the groups proposed aspirations and outcomes.

Cr Barbara Gilchrist was invited to address the committee on the Bird of the Year being the Long Tailed Bat / Pekapeka-toa-roa (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*). As the committee has been very supportive of the habitat restoration and protection for the endemic flock of bats in the Te Ngawai River area, the outcome of the competition was welcomed.

Cr Gilchrist discussed three student projects from St. Josephs School in Temuka that had been presented to the Timaru District Council in their Public Forum. Particularly a project addressing tree planting along the Temuka River and the farm fencing post-flood clean-up ideas which included installing open channels / swales to divert water to holding ponds before discharged.

Cr Gilchrist has received interest from the public in the planting & restoration of Taitarakihi creek, with a future project to develop a walking / biking track on the riverbank running past Grantlea Downs School.

8 Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 6 September 2021

Motion

Moved: Barbara Gilchrist
Seconded: Anne Munro

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 6 September 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

9 Reports

9.1 Election or Appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

1 Zone Committee members elect the following officers for 2021/22

1.1 Chair

1.2 Deputy Chair

Resolution 2021/6

Moved: Barbara Gilchrist
Seconded: Anne Munro

That The OTOP Zone Committee recommend that a person be elected as Chair and Deputy Chair by way of system A or system B.

That System B is the method chosen to elect the Chair & Deputy Chair.

Carried

Resolution 2021/7

Moved: Suzanne Eddington
Seconded: Barbara Gilchrist

That Lucy Millar is elected as Chair.

Carried

Resolution 2021/8

Moved: Lucy Millar
Seconded: Anne Munro

That Cr Barbara Gilchrist is elected as Deputy Chair.

Carried

9.2 Zone Facilitator's Report

The Zone Facilitator spoke to the committee to present their report providing information that may be of interest to the Zone Committee that is not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

John Cruden attended an Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) Communications webinar; the contents of which was aimed at Water Catchment Committees so they could get their message out into the public.

Cr Barbara Gilchrist will operate the OTOP Facebook page with the help of the Youth Representative appointee

The Southern Zones Chairs & Deputies Hui was well represented; especially by Ashburton based members.

The Water Zone Committee has been very supportive of initiatives involving long-tailed bat habitat rehabilitation. With the long-tailed bat being voted the Bird of the Year competition, the Water Zone Committee has partaken in several media appearances including in the Timaru Herald and on radio.

10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

There were no items of urgent business to be received.

11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

There were no matters of minor nature.

12 Exclusion of the Public

Motion

Moved: Barbara Gilchrist
Seconded: Anne Munro

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting on the grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Plain English Reason
13.1 - Appointing Zone Committee Youth Member	s7(2)(a) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	To protect a person's privacy

13 Public Excluded Reports

13.1 Appointing Zone Committee Youth Member

14 Readmittance of the Public

Motion

Moved: Lucy Millar
Seconded: Anne Munro

That the meeting moves out of Closed Meeting into Open Meeting.

15 Closure Karakia

Cr Barbara Gilchrist gave a closing karakia.

The Meeting closed at 1401.

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Lucy Millar
Chairperson

9 Reports

9.1 Mycofiltration Study

Author: **Janine Roux, Zone Facilitator**

Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora Water Zone Committee received the presentation.

Purpose of Report

1 This report is from Steve Martin and Ricardo Bello Mendoza, to inform the Zone Committee on a proposed study focusing of the mycofiltration within stormwater and farm effluent.

(Presentation to be presented at the Water Zone Committee)

Attachments

Nil

(Presentation to be presented at the Water Zone Committee)

9.2 Saltwater Creek Update

Author: **Janine Roux, Zone Facilitator**

Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora Water Zone Committee:

1. Receives the report
2. Agrees to write a letter of support for the "Water Education Citizen Science Project" discussed in the report.

Purpose of Report

1 This report is from Rhys Taylor, Community Engagement Coordinator, Environment Canterbury to update the Zone Committee on progress of the Otipua/Saltwater Creek project in relation to the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) recommendations.

Attachments

1. Saltwater Creek Project - Annual Progress Report 2021

Annual progress report 2021 – Saltwater Creek Project, OTOP Zone.

The OTOP Zone Committee received recommendations on Otipua-Saltwater Creek catchment from an officers working group convened in 2017-2018 year, many subsequently adopted in the ZIPA. Project progress was last reported in 2020. This is a November 2021 update.

It is a 47 square km mostly grassland rain-fed catchment. Activity has continued in 2021, although at a lower intensity, and has focused on addressing recommendations. Part-time Environment Canterbury Community Engagement contractor Rhys Taylor has coordinated.

RE: ZIPA Recommendation 5.4.6 II. Establishment of an Otipua/Saltwater Creek catchment group.

An informal group has been meeting for several years, with a mailing list of 80 interested contacts. Farmer and small block owner participation has been low, although the mixture of urban and rural residents has generated good insights and discussion and provided opportunity for visiting guest expertise to continue informing us. A farmer-led catchment group does not seem to be forming. This may be influenced by the lack of a River Rating district.

Holding meetings has been reliant on instigation by an Environment Canterbury-funded facilitator. Well supported catchment activities included a BioBlitz held on several dates during 2020 to catalogue plant and animal observations from the coast back into town, including Otipua Wetland (locations of observations recorded using *I-Naturalist* app appear on the aerial view below). The informal group and some schools have also been involved in stormwater education activities in collaboration with Timaru District Council (TDC), as reported to Zone Committee last year.

RE: ZIPA Recommendation 5.4.6 III. Investigate stream health and water quality.

As sampled monthly by Environment Canterbury at SH1 Bridge, The Creek water is, compared to other NZ lowland urban-influenced streams:

- relatively low in E-coli contamination,
- relatively high in suspended silt and algae (turbidity),
- relatively high in dissolved reactive Phosphorus (5yr median at 0.187 mg/l. Some of this phosphorus derives from natural volcanic rock layers underlying the loess),
- relatively high in nitrogen, particularly ammoniacal nitrogen (5yr median of 0.115mg/l), and
- overall, its water quality shows a worsening trend over the past ten years.

These nutrients feed algae blooms, particularly in warm weather. For summary see https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/canterbury-region/river-quality/saltwater-creek-timaru/

The Timaru District Council has commissioned sampling of wet weather storm-water quality by consultants PDP up and down-stream of road run-off at Coonoor Road bridge and in Centennial Park up and down- stream of a residential area storm water discharge, plus sites close to the Redruth industrial area, East landfill surface pond water and its pumped discharge to the Creek, as part of their preparation for a future resource consent application to Environment Canterbury for continuing discharges.

Pumped out flow to Saltwater Creek in operation from the retention pond at Timaru landfill, looking North towards railway bridge over the Creek mouth and Patiti Point.

This field work followed Laura Drummond's 2018 desk study *Characterising Saltwater Creek* at PDP. Urban stormwater can include toxic heavy metals such as zinc, copper and lead, also detergents, petroleum and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Arsenic residues have been found in historic Creek sediments (these may be from Timaru wool scour days)

PDP also prepared a *non-residential sites stormwater risk assessment* for TDC in March 2021. A joint 'on the ground' survey of businesses in the Redruth and Coonoor Road areas is underway this spring, to investigate their likely impacts on stormwater. It involves Incident Response and Consent Monitoring Officers from Environment Canterbury, alongside Timaru District Council colleagues, visiting to look at inputs to the stormwater reticulation, road surfaces and trade waste sewers. This builds upon a 2020 survey conducted for the two Councils (Tabled flyer being delivered to businesses)

During the past year Environment Canterbury scientists have confirmed a short-fin eel population plus a few long-fin eels (which are the more pollution sensitive species) and common bully, in the lower lagoon. We have used E-DNA sampling (at Wilderlabs) to identify some of the other species within or on the water, at sites both above and below the weir. The weir continues to provide a barrier to a wedge of salty sea water reaching very far upstream into rain-fed fresh water but there has been at least one occasion in the year when stormy high tides coincided with mouth opening and brought in a lot of salt in. Historically this was un-welcome for the surface-water-irrigating farmer, as salt damages pasture and riparian plantings.

Learning water sampling techniques with portable lab equipment from WaterWatch, on the Otipua at Centennial Park.

Some 'citizen science' water sampling further upstream has been undertaken on tributaries with the help of Water Watch (although less activity than planned, because of COVID restrictions on field work).

A secondary school student at Craighead has undertaken a winter investigation on water quality in Otipua-Saltwater Creek as a Science Fair project, with advice and assistance from Environment Canterbury scientists and Water Watch. Her project has been chosen to represent South Canterbury in the Wrybill Trophy competition for December 2021.

Future project proposal:

Participation in a proposed 'water education citizen science project', led from the new EcoCentre Timaru by Sustainable South Canterbury Trust, with scope for collaboration with Catchment Collective South Canterbury, Timaru District Council stormwater team and Water Watch, among others. An expression of interest is being submitted via Environment Hubs Aotearoa for two or more years of funding in 2022-24 to support a part-time worker and operating expenses. If this achieves December shortlisting, detailed project planning will follow this summer. Activity would include more frequent water quality observation and measurements in the Saltwater Creek catchment and other Timaru catchments, training of urban and rural volunteers in 'citizen science' water monitoring techniques and associated public education. **Endorsement in principle by the Zone Committee would assist the funding application.**

RE: ZIPA Recommendation 5.4.6 IV & VII. Improve water depth for rowing.

A first area for investigation was the impact of summer water abstraction by farming on water levels in the lower part of the catchment, as the irrigation demand would always coincide with low rainfall.

This year the Glenwillow dairy farm implemented, at considerable capital cost, a switch from surface irrigation water to groundwater, so we were interested to note that there is still a steady drop in Creek water level as measured at SH1 bridge, between some major rain inputs this spring. The drop from 1.81 m depth at 16 October 2021 to 1.57m at 13 November when there was no surface abstraction, suggests a steady rate of water loss over the 1.52m weir top as water naturally seeps out to sea through the permeable shingle ridge, and/or an un-consented water abstraction upstream, of which we are unaware. There are no other consented irrigation takes upstream.

The idea of raising the height of the Weir from current 1.5m to say 1.6m to hold back deeper water for recreational users has not gained support from Environment Canterbury River Engineers or TDC as it increases the risk of flooding upstream during heavy rain events, which are likely to become more frequent with climate warming.

The option of removing up to 30mm of silt depth to increase effective depth for water users is still being considered. It will require consent for riverbed operations from Environment Canterbury. The cost of such work would be challenging for the Timaru Rowing Club who, in consequence, have yet to initiate a request for consent. Silt removal is not at present a priority for the River Engineers. An analysis of potential historic toxins present in the silt has been made by Environment Canterbury and is available to support an application. Timaru District Council are showing interest in supporting the Rowing Club and have made a financial allocation in their long-term plan. **This will be discussed at the next meeting of the officers working group (Monday evening 6 Dec 2021)**.

RE: ZIPA Recommendation 5.4.6 V. Review the weir operation, consider silt flushing, and fish passage.

Three reports have been commissioned and completed, firstly modelling the water flows downstream through the 1995 Weir which including considering transport of silt (*Saltwater Creek Weir Assessment* Ben Throssell, Davis Ogilvie & RJ Hall June 2020) , secondly an engineer's

proposals for modification of the centre structure of the Weir to give more control over its opening and closing than is available using current fixed slots in wooden planks (RJ Hall & Associates, June 2020), and thirdly, an independent report on *Ecological Impacts of Altering Saltwater Creek Weir*, plus comments on fish passage (Instream Consulting, June 2021).

Future idea for seasonal interventions: aiding fish passage at the Creek mouth

We know more now about how the Creek mouth responds to artificial openings, usually becoming tidal for just a few days before the main flow in and out is blocked by shingle and sand. This was thanks to installing continuous water level monitoring below the weir for a year, to allow comparison with SH1 Bridge measured water levels (that equipment was subsequent removed). The impact of recent KiwRail stone reinforcement on shingle movement is unknown.

The proposed investigation is into improved inanaga ('whitebait' galaxid species) access and spawning potential and also access and egress of other migratory fish into the lower lagoon by matching waterway openings to appropriate full moons during their likely migration seasons, particularly in spring and autumn. Background information has included cataloguing the mouth openings in the past five years and their coincidence with full moon - these openings are largely artificial rather than natural in timing as they anticipate rather than follow heavy rainfall, triggered by when the water at SH1 bridge is above 1.8 m, to avert flooding in Redruth. These mouth openings by contractors to Environment Canterbury's river engineers, for flood avoidance are financed by the District Council on behalf of local ratepayers. Additional experimental mouth openings would be funded from biodiversity and fish passage funds if/when available with in Environment Canterbury, and involve some key consultees in design and monitoring.

Other key factors that influence/limit potential improvement of the habitat for fish include toxin – such as zinc and copper - levels in the water and the presence/suitability of overhanging water margin vegetation. Impact on water levels upstream of the weir of any full-moon timed openings for fish passage would also have to be considered, as they could affect rowers and other water users by accelerating drainage past the weir. **Comments welcome on this idea.**

RE: ZIPA Recommendation 5.4.6 VIII, consider sea level rise impacts.

In response to an acceleration in coastal erosion in storms which threatened the Main Trunk Rail Line. KiwiRail have made a large investment in stone 'armouring' of the coastal shingle and dunes on the seaward side of the main trunk rail line, which will also protect lower saltwater Creek and the Council landfill behind it.

A study conducted for the local councils on predicted impacts of sea level rise confirms vulnerability of this coastline. (*Timaru Coastal Erosion Assessment*, July 2020 by Kate McDonald at Jacobs, Christchurch, for ECan and TDC). They assess the potential impact thus: "The SI Main Trunk railway lines which runs parallel to the shoreline on the backshore of the barrier, approximately 50 m landward of the current vegetation line, is most likely to be compromised by erosion within the next 50 years under all SLR (sea level rise) scenarios. Within the 50 to 100-year period, it is likely that the back of the beach will be encroaching on the channel of Saltwater Creek to the northern outlet, which given that the channel position is fixed on the landward side by the landfill stop bank, is likely to impact on the drainage capacity of the channel and ability to continue to use the northern outlet to discharge the creek to the ocean." (quoting from page 42)

Aerial view of part of landfill site and the Creek north mouth, beyond rail bridge. Also shows stormwater pond and TDC pump house in centre of picture, adjacent to Creek. The edge of Redruth Park is at top of picture.

RE: ZIPA Recommendation 5.4.6 III, reduce silt sources from farmland.

Environment Canterbury Land Management Advisory staff looked at potential silt sources from winter grazing on loess-based clay soils this winter and last winter, in the Downland upper catchment. We found that practices generally followed farm industry Good Management advice, with fewer examples found than previously of silt generation hotspots, soil pugging or stock observed standing on bare-grazed slopes.

There is still scope for improvement in grazing management so that gulley bottoms are either, not sown with a winter crop and left in grass, or are held back for grazing last by moving temporary fence lines in parallel down the slope contours, and generally keeping stock off gazing crops in hollows when it is raining. Bare land on arable farms in the catchment may be generating relatively more silt from slopes in the upper catchment, where sheep are more often grazed than cattle but paddocks can be bare over winter between crops.

Soil exposed after winter grazing by cattle on a steep paddock close to, but fortunately not muddying, one of the Otipua –Saltwater Creek tributaries, in August 2021. Most grazed paddocks we observed however were not waterlogged and trampled like this.

Example of soil erosion channels on exposed hillside loess soil which was winter-cultivated, on Downland inland from Timaru, Aug 2021 New growth was insufficiently advanced to bind the soil.

Funding has been secured from Fonterra Sustainable Catchments Fund for two projects within the catchment to demonstrate scope for riparian planting and silt control projects. One of these will be on a Downland arable farm to demonstrate silt trapping on ephemeral waterways - which tend to remove eroded soil in the winter but are dry in summer - and the second is proposed Creek-side (riparian) planting on a dairy farm further downstream, concentrating on low spots which receive surface flows from paddocks.

Discussion of the potential of an ephemeral stream route for silt trap construction, on an arable and sheep farm at the head of the catchment.

Implementation of these two demonstration projects on site is overdue – it has been disrupted by a shortage of plants from nurseries and by COVID-response restrictions on Environment Canterbury fieldwork.

A community and school education dimension to the whole Otipus-Saltwater Creek project will be a web-site published map linking to water quality data, photographs of influences on water quality, drone film clips and fly-over maps identifying the catchment tributaries.

Finally, a proposed visitor gift-donation scheme at motels and hotels to finance on-farm riparian plantings, and acknowledge associated carbon capture, along the lines of Kaikoura's *Trees for Travelers* has been shelved, following the arrival of Covid and current exclusion of the target audience of overseas visitors. It may be revisited later.

Contact for this project: Rhys Taylor rhys.taylor@ecan.govt.nz 021462260

9.3 Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Action Plan Budget

Author: **Janine Roux, Zone Facilitator**
Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora (OTOP) Water Zone Committee:

1. Recommends to Environment Canterbury that the budget is allocated to the six projects listed in the OTOP Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Action Plan Budget 2021/22.
2. Agrees that if any of the projects cannot go ahead in time, the committee will make further recommendations to reallocate that budget to other projects in April 2022.

Purpose of Report

1 This report is by Janine Roux, Zone Facilitator and follows on from Zone Committee workshops held in October and November. It provides recommendations on the allocation of the CWMS Action Plan Budget for the 2021/2022 financial year. This report outlines projects to the sum of $50,000.

Background

2 The CWMS Action Plan Budget was launched in 2021 with the purpose of the funding to allow Zone Committees to focus on implementing their action plan and leverage other funding opportunities to achieve the CWMS priorities.

3 Each of the ten water zones in Canterbury has $50,000 to recommend on projects that relate to their Zone Committee Action Plan 2021 - 2024. The budget is administered, allocated, and monitored by Environment Canterbury.

Attachments

1. CWMS Action Plan Budget 2021

OTOP CWMS Action Plan Budget 2021/22

Draft Budget – unconfirmed

What	Action from Action Plan	Priority	Estimate Cost
Field trip to Taniwha Gully – invitation to catchment groups (March 2022)	Zone committee to attend a session at the Te Ana Maori Rock Art Centre and host a field trip to Taniwha Gully with invited catchment group members.	We commit to protecting, enhancing, and restoring mahinga kai and tuhituhi neherā sites.	$2,500
Te Tiriti Course for members of zone committee and catchment groups – max 18 people for two day (April and June 2022)	Host an annual te tiriti o Waitangi workshop for community members to attend.	We commit to raising awareness of how to engage in a more positive manner with Runanga.	$6,500
Support South Canterbury Catchment Collective - *priority determined with SCCC* Possible option: offering seed funding to two of the projects already scoped for MFE funding (E.g. Barkers Creek and Milford Lagoon)	Support the Catchment Collective South Canterbury Society Incorporated	We engage with the community and raise awareness of the impacts of human activity on land and water	$10,000
Support community planting project and biodiversity projects: -St Joseph's School Temuka -Te Ahi Tarakihi	Protecting, enhancing, and restoring mahinga kai sites.	We commit to protecting, enhancing, and restoring mahinga kai and tuhituhi neherā sites.	$5,000
Host drinking water road show events (May/June)	Host at least one community session offering on-site indicative private drinking water testing. Include presentation of possible solutions and research on reducing high nutrient levels.	We champion safe and reliable drinking water for the OTOP community.	$6,000
Work with papatipu rūnanga and relevant landowners to host hikoi for the community and cover any consultancy and facilitation costs associated with the above projects.	Work with papatipu rūnanga and relevant landowners to host at least one hikoi for the community. Areas of interest include Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon, Te Ahi Tarakihi Reserve and Creek, and Milford Lagoon	We commit to raising awareness of how to engage in a more positive manner with Runanga.	$20,000
Potential total			**$50,000**

Funding Breakdown

Field trip to Taniwha Gully (March 2022)		
What	**Details**	**Cost / ZC contribution**
Tour of Ōpihi rock art sites	Approx. cost of $100 per person if Rock art centre tour is included 12 Zone Committee members 8 local catchment group members?	$2,000
Afternoon Tea	Approx $10 pp	$200
Invitations	Zone Committee members Catchment group members	
Transport if required	Approximate cost	$300
		$2,500

Te Tiriti Course (April 2022)		
What	**Details**	**Cost / ZC contribution**
Course costs (facilitator and course material)	$250 per person, Max 18 people	$4,500
Marae hire and pōwhiri (or venue hire)		$600
Morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea	Approx $36 pp (x two days)	$1,296
Invitations	Zone Committee members South Canterbury Catchment Group Collective	
		$6,396

Support Catchment Collective South Canterbury (TO BE DETERMINED)		
What	**Details**	**ZC contribution**
Raising awareness of Te mana o te Wai and Te mana o te awa and what it means to the Collective and communities, by encouraging participation in learning by catchment group leaders or their nominated representatives.	Catchment Collective host / organise training and contribute $2,000 towards the planned session. Zone Committee contribution to cover left over cost (Based on Te Tiriti Course costing of $6,400 – venue, food and facilitator for 18 people)	$4,400
Providing training and advice on Farm Environment Plans via FEP workshops, particularly with a catchment wide context approach.	Contribute to four FEP workshops around the OTOP Zone to cover independent facilitation and expertise. (approx. $1,400 per session)	$5,6000
		$10,000

Support community planting project and biodiversity projects		
What	**Details**	**ZC contribution**
St Joseph's School Temuka	Funding to support projects presented to Timaru District Council - Flooding and erosion mitigation with planting along rivers.	Approx $500 - $1,000
Te Ahi Tarakihi catchment restoration	Restore and plant wetland area at the lower end of Te Ahi Tarakihi creek as part whole catchment restoration. Help TDC install signage (8 signs being considered) - $800 Pest plant control (Phalaris control, willows etc) - $2000 Plants - $1200	$4,000
		$5,000

Host drinking water road show events		
What	**Details**	**ZC contribution**
External print (adverts)	$1000 (Timaru Courier, Pleasant Point Community paper etc)	$1300
Brochures / handouts	$350 for print and design	$350
Onsite testing and science support	?? Contact Freshwater Anglers If using Hills Laboratories – approx. $50 for E.coli OR full suite of contaminants $1000	Approx $2100?
Venue (x3 session)	Ask for contributions from District Councils to cover costs - Waipopo / Temuka - Fairlie - Pareora	$900
Facilitator and presenters koha (x 3 sessions)	Industry and or scientists (two to three per session @ $150pp)	$1350
		$6,000

9.4 Zone Facilitator's Report

Author: **Janine Roux, Zone Facilitator**

Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the report be received by the Zone Committee.

Purpose of Report

1 This report is from Janine Roux, Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury. It provides information that may be of interest to the Zone Committee that is not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Discussion

Cyanobacteria

2 On 23 November 2021 warnings were put in place for Pareora River at SH1.

Land and Water Regional Plan proposed Plan Change 7 update

3 An update has been received on Environment Canterbury's decisions on Plan Change 7 (PC7) to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (CLWRP) and Plan Change 2 (PC2) to the Waimakariri River Regional Plan (WRRP). See attached memo for details. If the Zone Committee would like a briefing, this can be held in 2022.

Correspondence

4 Letter received from Chair Hughey in response to the OTOP Zone Committees letter on nitrates in drinking water. Response circulated to the Zone Committee on 22 November 2021.

2022 Meetings

5 A field trip is pencilled in to visit Taniwha Gully on Monday 7 March. Further details to follow early next year.

Updated Action List

The Action List below updates the committee on progress on items identified at previous zone committee meetings in 2020 and 2021. Items that have now been completed are not included in this list.

OTOP Zone Committee – April 2021 Action list

Date of meeting	Action	Who	Status
Sept 2021	Follow up on figures of how many jobs were created through DOC Jobs for Nature funding.	John Benn (DOC)	In progress.
Sept 2021	Follow up whether remedial work has taken place at Rangitata Huts following high E.Coli results in ground water survey	Carlos Rosado / Janine Roux (ECan)	
Sept 2021	Provide map showing Nitrate nitrogen concentration trends with well depth and overlay drinking water protection zones.	Carlos Rosado / Janine Roux (ECan)	
Sept 2021	Circulate the arsenic report to the committee when available.	Carlos Rosado / Janine Roux (ECan)	
Sept 2021	Circulate the cadmium report to the committee when available.	Carlos Rosado / Janine Roux (ECan)	

Sept 2021	Letter of support to Dr Tim Chambers and letter or recommendation to Environment Canterbury relating to study on effects of nitrates in drinking water.	Cr Tom O'Connor / Lucy Millar	Completed. Correspondence received from Dr Chambers in facilitators report.

Attachments

1. Memo to Zone Committee - PC7 PC2 decisions OTOP

Environment Canterbury Regional Council
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

Memo

Date	24 November 2021
To	Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee
CC	Janine Roux (Zone Facilitator)
From	Lochiel McKellar (Senior Planner)

Council's decisions on Plan Change 7 and Plan Change 2

The purpose of this memo is to update the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora (OTOP) Zone Committee on the Council's decisions on Plan Change 7 (PC7) to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (CLWRP) and Plan Change 2 (PC2) to the Waimakariri River Regional Plan (WRRP).

Background

PC7 and PC2 were notified in July 2019. PC7 is made up of three parts:

- Part A (Omnibus) makes changes to region-wide provisions on a number of topics, including establishing new freshwater quality outcomes, limits and targets, providing an alternative nutrient management framework for commercial vegetable growing, amending plantation forestry provisions to better align with national standards,[1] and to enhance protection for indigenous freshwater biodiversity.
- Part B (OTOP) primarily makes changes to Section 14 of the CLWRP to insert new flow and allocation regimes, establish a new nutrient management framework and provide additional protection to rock art and mahinga kai sites around the existing mātaitai area.
- Part C (Waimakariri) primarily makes changes to Section 8 of the CLWRP to insert new flow and allocation regimes, establish a new nutrient management framework to reduce nitrate leeching into groundwater and provide additional protection to the Ashley Estuary Te Aka Aka.

PC2 is a consequential change to Part C of PC7 to amend the WRRP to remove provisions which relate to the area also covered by Section 8 (Waimakariri) of the CLWRP. The WRRP continues to apply to the main stem of the Waimakariri River, the upper catchment including its headwaters, and an area of land south of the Waimakariri River.

The Council received 560 submissions and 40 further submissions on PC7, and 28 submissions on PC2 (no further submissions). An Independent Hearing Panel (the Panel) was appointed to hear submissions and evidence and make recommendations to the Council on PC7 and PC2.

[1] Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017

Submissions and evidence from 124 submitters were heard over 24 hearing days. In addition, the Panel directed expert caucusing and received joint witness statements on five topics; Salmon Spawning Habitat (Omnibus), Hydrology (OTOP), Freshwater Quality/Ecology (OTOP), Groundwater Science (Waimakariri) and Planning (OTOP – to provide plan provisions for a specific part of the Opihi Freshwater Management Unit flow and allocation regime).

After the Council Officers' reply hearing (February 2021) the Panel completed its deliberations and delivered its Report and Recommendations to the Council.

Council's decision

In June 2021 the Council applied to the Minister for the Environment for an extension to make its decisions on PC7 and PC2 due to the timeframe for Council to make its decisions coinciding with the anticipated release of the Overseer Review Reports. The Minister granted the extension (until 9 December 2021) to allow the Council to receive the Overseer reports and determine whether they relate to the Council's responsibilities in respect of PC7 and PC2. After the release of the reports the Council accepted advice that the reports are not considered to be evidence for PC7 and PC2 and were not relevant considerations when making its decisions.

On 17 November 2021 the Council adopted the Panel's Report and Recommendations as its decisions on PC7 and PC2. The decision was publicly notified on 20 November 2021, submitters were contacted as part of this process.

PC7 and PC2 were promulgated under the ECan Act 2016, which limits the scope of appeals on the Council's decision(s) to questions of law only. Any submitter may lodge an appeal to the High Court within 15 working days of being notified.

Key changes for the OTOP Zone

The Panel's full Report and Recommendations that was adopted as the Council's decision on PC7 is available at www.ecan.govt.nz/LWRPPC7. The following points highlight some key changes to the provisions, but are a summary only and should not be considered a substitute for reading the Recommendation Report or new provisions (Appendix B to the report).

Opihi Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) flow regime

The decision inserts new tables (Tables 14(ma) and 14(mb)) setting out and capping the current allocation for waterbodies in the Opihi FMU. It also amends minimum flows for the Opuha River and Opihi River mainstem based on the Adaptive Management Working Group's submission, to take effect as soon as possible. The second stage of minimum flows (Table 14(w), to take effect in 2030) has been deleted. The Panel provides reasoning and further detail of the changes at Chapter 10 of the Recommendation Report.

Temuka FMU flow regime

The decision removes the cultural allocation for enhancement of mahinga kai and associated tangata whenua values (notified to be introduced in 2030) in the Temuka FMU. This recommendation was based on concerns that introducing new potentially extractive allocation is inconsistent with national direction[2] to provide for the mana (health and wellbeing) of waterbodies as a first priority. The decision also deletes the final staged increase in minimum flows (notified to come into effect in 2030) and introduces pro-rata partial restrictions from 2030 for A and B permits. The Panel provides reasoning and further detail of the changes at Chapters 6 and 11 of the Recommendation Report.

Nutrient management

The decision brings the first step of nitrogen loss reductions below GMP for mapped High Nitrogen Concentration Areas forward from 2030 to 2028. The Panel provides reasoning at Chapter 8 of the Recommendation Report.

Rock art and waipuna protection

The decision strengthens the protection provided to rock art, adverse effects on rock art must be avoided rather than minimised. It also inserts a new management area into FEPs and a corresponding objective and target to avoid adverse effects on sites within the Mātaitai and Waipuna Protection Zone.

Next steps

Following the appeals period any provisions in PC7 and PC2 which have not been appealed are considered beyond challenge and are treated as operative. When all appeals on PC7 and PC2 have been resolved, the Council will make PC7 and PC2 operative by way of a Council resolution. When PC7 is made operative the Council will revoke the Opihi River Regional Plan and the Pareora Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan.

Planning staff can provide a follow-up briefing to the Zone Committee at its next meeting in the new year.

[2] National Policy Statement Freshwater Management 2020

10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

12 Closing Karakia