

AGENDA

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 5 August 2019

Date Monday, 5 August 2019

Time 1pm

Location Meeting Room 1, Council Building, King George
Place, Timaru

File Reference 1270203

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 Meeting Room 1, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru, on Monday 5 August 2019, at 1pm.

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Members

Hamish McFarlane (Chairman), Lucy Millar, Luke Reihana, Lan Pham, Anne Munro, Richard Lyon, David Anderson, Suzanne Eddington, Glen Smith, Phil Driver, John Henry, Herstatt Ulrich and Mark Webb

Quorum – no less than 7 members

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- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**
- 3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**
- 4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**
- 5 Community Forum**

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2019

Author: Joanne Brownie, Council Secretary

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Attachments

- 1. Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2019**

MINUTES

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 1 July 2019

**Minutes of Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting
Held in Meeting Room 1, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Monday, 1 July 2019 at 1pm**

Present: Hamish McFarlane (Chairperson), David Anderson, Phil Driver, Suzanne Eddington, Clr Richard Lyon, Lucy Millar, Clr Lan Pham, Luke Reihana, Herstatt Ulrich, Mark Webb, and Karl Russell (deputising for Arowhenua representative)

In Attendance: Lesley Woudberg (Facilitator), Lyn Carmichael (Senior Planner and Community Lead), Rob Carson-Iles and Helen Risk (Land Management/Biodiversity Officers), Brian Reeves (Zone Delivery Lead), Tavisha Fernando (ECan), John Benn (Department of Conservation), Peter Shutt, Tom Henderson, John DeWit

Luke Reihana opened the meeting with a karakia.

1 Apologies

Committee Resolution 2019/4

Moved: Mr Phil Driver
Seconded: Mr Mark Webb

That apologies from Clr Anne Munro, Glen Smith and Mr John Henry be received and accepted.

Carried

2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

There were no urgent business items.

3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

There were no items of a minor nature.

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no items of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2019

Committee Resolution 2019/5

Moved: Mr Herstatt Ulrich
Seconded: Mr Phil Driver

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting, subject to a minor

alteration to clause 6.4 Regional Committee Report – the second sentence to read *‘The Regional Committee is unclear as to what the Regional Committee is achieving’*, rather than ‘He feels still somewhat unclear as to what the Regional Committee is achieving.’

Carried

5.2 Matters Arising

Temuka River Stopbank ECan Councillor Lan Pham advised that in regard to John Henry’s concerns at the lack of a stopbank on the southbank of the Temuka River, the matter has been raised with ECan’s South Canterbury Manager, who will respond to John Henry in due course.

Terms of Reference – Sue Eddington noted that the Terms of Reference recently circulated did not include the correct runanga representation as there was no mention of Waihao. The Terms of reference was meant to be updated to reflect both Arowhenua and Waihao representation. The Facilitator will follow this matter up.

6 Community Forum

Tom Henderson referred to an issue he had raised at a previous OTOP community forum in regard to reviewing efficiency of hydro operation on the larger rivers in the district. Reference was made to the response advised at the 6 May OTOP meeting and the Committee again noted there is an opportunity for Meridian to address the Committee. As the matter is more for the Upper Waitaki water zone committee, or possibly for discussion at a joint upper and lower Waitaki water zone meeting, it was suggested that OTOP write to these Committees supporting discussion being held on the issue.

7 Reports

7.1 Immediate Steps Biodiversity Funding Project Proposals

The Committee considered six Immediate Steps funding proposals. Land Management/Biodiversity Officers Helen Risk and Rob Carson-Isles presented the applications. All applications align with the ZIP and ZIPA.

With a budget of \$105,000, and the applications presented totally \$104,633, the committee has the ability, if it deems the projects meet the criteria, of approving all the projects presented. A number of enquiries are fielded for Immediate Steps funding, but applications need to have additional value other than riparian plantings - such as protecting native fish habitat, protecting at-risk landforms, supporting coastal wetlands, pest control, or protecting bat habitats - in order to receive maximum value from the limited funding. Biodiversity officers work with landowners and agencies (such as DOC, QE II National Trust) on an ongoing basis.

Rob explained the accountability process for recipients of IMS funding.

Committee Resolution 2019/6

Moved: Mr Hamish McFarlane

Seconded: Mr Mark Webb

That the Immediate Steps Funding projects be approved as presented.

Carried

7.2 Regional Committee Report

Phil Driver, OTOP's representative on the Regional Committee, gave a verbal report on that Committee noting his concern at the lack of measurable outputs. He had written to the Chief Executive of ECan regarding his concerns and received a reply, which was tabled and circulated at the meeting. The reply confirmed there are no criteria for objectively measuring the success of the Zone committees. However the Canterbury Water Management Strategy is measured by its achievement of the targets and goals. The collaborative approach has been recently reaffirmed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

7.3 Facilitator's Update

The Committee considered the Facilitator's report. The main item outstanding is work on the OTOP Committee strategy, which is planned for after this meeting. This will assist in where the Committee wants to focus its activities over the next 12 months and will drive ongoing actions.

The Facilitator's report was received and noted.

7.4 Matters for the Media

The Committee reflected on matters discussed at the meeting to check if any may be suitable for a media story.

Rangitata River

John Benn, Department of Conservation referred to an article on Stuff regarding DOC allocating money to Rangitata River restoration. Restoration work is planned for 14 rivers with the Rangitata one of those rivers. DOC has employed a consultant to prepare a report on what is known and what is not yet known about the river and what work needs to be done. It is planned to recruit a River Restoration ranger based at Geraldine, who will work across the Rangitata and Lower Waitaki catchments. The role will have quite a wide brief. One of the first jobs of the new ranger will be to make contact with the zone committees.

It was suggested that OTOP could hold meeting at the DOC Geraldine office sometime, potentially around a field trip in the area.

Immediate Steps

The Committee agreed that all Immediate Steps projects are worthy of media coverage especially the Rockburn bat habitat fencing project. Promotion of these types of projects make people more aware of the significance of the natural habitat in their area.

Pareora Incorporated Society – the activities of this society could be a useful media story also. As a catchment, the society hopes to look at an integrated package including wetlands, tussocks and predator control to manage and improve the catchment.

The Committee agreed that the Immediate Steps Projects and the Rangitata River restoration announcement are suitable for sharing in the media at the appropriate time.

8 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

There were no urgent business items to consider.

9 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

There were no minor items to consider.

The Meeting closed at 2.35pm.

.....
Chairperson

7 Reports

7.1 Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Update

Author: Rhys Taylor, Community Engagement Officer

Recommendation

That the OTOP Water Zone Committee

- Encourages residents in and around the catchment to find out more
- Shares the e-newsletter
- Shares photos resources on social media
- Joins the “wild day at the wetland” 14 Sept
- Volunteers to help with water quality monitoring
- Other.

Purpose of Report

To consider the attached report on the Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Group.

Attachments

1. Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Group report [↓](#) 
2. Otipua Saltwater Creek newsletter [↓](#) 

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI- PAREORA ZONE COMMITTEE	Agenda item:
TOPIC: Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Group	
AUTHOR: Rhys Taylor	DATE: 5 August 2019

Purpose:

- a) To update the committee on progress made to implement the ZIPA recommendation 5.4.6 that relate to Otipua/Saltwater Creek.
- b) To gain an understanding the challenges and opportunities the catchment group is facing.
- c) Agree on one key action that the OTOP ZC is going to do to support the Otipua/Saltwater Creek catchment group.

Staff Recommendation:

1. That the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora water zone committee will demonstrate support for the Otipua/Saltwater catchment Group by;
 - Encouraging residents in and around the catchment to find out more
 - Sharing the e-newsletter
 - Sharing photos resources on social media
 - Joining the “wild day at the wetland” 14 Sept
 - Volunteers to help with water quality monitoring
 - Other.

Report:**OTOP ZIPA Recommendations**

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The Otipua/Saltwater Creek catchment is mostly agricultural and developed land, and includes the Otipua Wetland. Due to the degraded nature of the catchment the area no longer provides for mahinga kai values, but does have amenity values for many local residents, particularly those using the walkways and cycle tracks and the water surface itself. Amenity values are affected by sluggish flows, low water levels and the presence of sediment in the waterway. A Saltwater Creek Working Party was formed to investigate the water quality and quantity issues in the catchment and the following recommendations were received and are supported by the Committee:

5.4.6 Recommendations: Non Statutory

1. Local authorities investigate establishment of a River Rating District for the Otipua/Saltwater Creek catchment. ?

II. Regional and district council support the establishment of an Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Group. *Underway reporting to the ZC 5 August*

III. Regional and district council investigate stream health and flow rates to provide baseline data to inform future decision-making. *Underway?*

IV. Regional council support Timaru Rowing Club to investigate cost and benefit of silt excavation from lower reaches. *?*

V. Regional council conduct a feasibility study and costing of weir modification to increase water level and improve fish passage. *Underway refer ECan media release 29 July*

VI. Regional council monitor water level below weir for comparison with above-weir data. *?*

VII. Regional council investigate catchment inflows and abstractions. *?*

VIII. Regional council assess coastal erosion processes to inform decision-making. *Underway – part of coastal hazard work programme*

Otipua Saltwater Creek Catchment Group

A working group set up jointly by Environment Canterbury and Timaru District Council staff and reporting to the zone committee, met for a year and a half, and generated recommendations for the ZIPA.

As a follow-up, community engagement coordinator Rhys Taylor was invited to facilitate a **catchment group** with open invitation to local farmers, small block owners and residents in the south-west fringe of Timaru whose land drains into the catchment.

A launch meeting was widely publicised October 2018, attracted 50 participants and agreed to create a group. Mailing list is now over 80, and several activities had been held by May 2019:

- An education field session on monitoring water quality organised jointly with Beef and Lamb New Zealand, with a guest ecologist. This was followed up by purchase of the stream health monitoring kit produced by NIWA and selection of sites in various tributaries which might be monitored on a quarterly basis, rainwater flows permitting. Chris Konings a Timaru-based educator with Water Watch has been assisting.
- A meeting attended by guests from Cashmere Stream Christchurch, who described their similarly urban and rural catchment group and its activities. ECan colleague Shelley Washington also contributed.
- a meeting attended by TDC infrastructure manager Ashley Harper about early stages of work on the District Council stormwater management plan. This is being followed up by designing activities for community and school engagement on labelling stormwater drains within the urban part of the catchment. New TDC staff member Uki Dele is contributing to this.

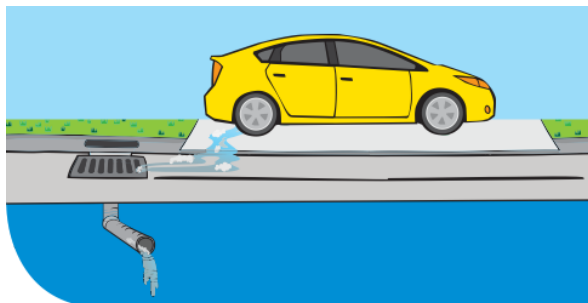
Plans for 2019 – 2020 year include:

1. A newsletter delivered to all households in the catchment by mid-August. Copy attached.
2. A technical study of the lagoon weir to design for greater water flow control at times of low rainfall, whilst retaining fish passage at most-significant times of year. This is being watched with particular interest by Timaru Rowing Club who seek deeper water for rowing in the summer.
3. Encouragement to swapping of farm water take(s) from surface to deep groundwater, within water allocation limits. One dairy farm has completed drilling and is seeking consents to achieve this ready for 2020.

4. A public educational event at Otipua wetland on Saturday 14 September 2019 '*wild day at the wetland*', with many partner contributors, as a launch event for Conservation Week. TDC, Department of Conservation, ARA Polytechnic, Forest and Bird (KCC), Fish and Game Council, ECan and others are involved - and this group is widening. Flyer to follow.
5. Education on good management practices devised to suit small block holders, encouraging adoption of farm environment plans and riparian planting: events from summer onwards.
6. computer simulated flyovers of the for tributaries (completed by Nathan McKinlay) followed by some drone filming of short sections of two tributaries, for educational use about protecting riparian margins, effects of different land uses, etc. Contractor chosen for this is Christchurch-based Vector Charlie Charlie (VCC) who have civil aviation authority approval. Filming will only be of the waterway, not private homes.
7. Citizen science activity - basic water quality monitoring by volunteers using observations and simple field equipment. A quarterly collaboration between Water Watch and Environment Canterbury. This would include some laboratory-standard water analyses but is *not* part of the formal water testing and reporting programme - which for Saltwater Creek is undertaken monthly at SH1 bridge by ECan and published on the Land and Water Aotearoa (LAWA) website. First volunteer training sessions are being held on 15 August daytime and evening.
8. Exploration of the contribution tourism visitors might make to care of this catchment, as well as use of it, through hosting a meeting with tourism practitioners on 13th August. This is in collaboration with a new staff member at Aoraki Tourism (TDC). It might be possible to emulate a scheme in Kaikoura called 'trees for travellers' where visitors are encouraged to donate the value of a tree which will be planted within the catchment; but we are open to other suggestions.
9. Farm-specific advice to the larger scale farmers in the catchment, led by Land Management Advisor Helen Risk. Particular interest in reducing 'hot spot' silt losses.
10. Follow-up activity on urban stormwater in collaboration with Timaru District Council. Particular interest in education for behavioural change which can affect stormwater quality. ECan has a small budget to contribute alongside the District Council. This is timely as TDC is seeking consents for stormwater discharges.

The catchment group does not have a formal or legal structure. Involvement is essentially voluntary and the focus on education, influencing behaviour. It may be appropriate by the end of the year to propose a formal structure for 2021 so this will be reviewed in the light of experience. Rhys Taylor is contracted to work about a day and a half a week on flexible hours with some limited additional time to assist other catchment groups within OTOP Zone. A small part of the project budget has been grant-aided by Fonterra, arranged through zone manager Chris Eccleston. Project supervision within ECan is by zone lead Brian Reeves, with advice from land management and biodiversity officers, zone facilitator and the communications team.

Rhys can be contacted by text on 021462260, messages 036938726 and email rhys.taylor@ecan.govt.nz



Next time you are changing the brake pads on your vehicle ask for a copper free option. It could make a world of difference!

Swap your copper brake linings to help our Creek

Did you know that when we use the brakes on our car, fine particles of copper and other metals within the pads flake off onto the roadway?

When it rains, these particles are then washed into the gutters and through the stormwater system, where they flow into our streams, rivers and bays. Because metals gradually dissolve in rainwater, they can have lethal impacts on aquatic life.

Other sources of metals in our waterways include zinc, dissolved in the run-off from galvanized roofs.

Here's a few tips to help reduce pollutants making their way into our waterways.

- Choose copper-free brake pads for your vehicle
- Reduce zinc pollution by ensuring your roofing iron is sealed by paint
- Pick up any rubbish (especially plastics) you see lying in a stormwater gutter or nearby.
- Wash vehicles on grass or at a commercial car wash.

Grab a handy free postcard with recommendations on brakes - to show your mechanic - at a Catchment Group meeting.



volunteers help out at a planting day near the Creek.

Check out what's been happening at our meetings

You can find out what's been happening at the Otipua-Saltwater Creek Catchment Group meetings at www.ecan.govt.nz/saltwatercreek. Recent topics and events have included:

- A presentation on the new stormwater management plan from Timaru District Council's Ashley Harper
- A planting day near the new EcoCentre being built by the Sustainable South Canterbury Trust.

We hope to see you at one of our next meetings:

Tuesday 13 August

Lunchtime event for tourism interests and businesses in and near the catchment in Timaru

Thursday 15 August

Water quality monitoring techniques training sessions

Saturday 14 September

'Wild day at the wetland'

Details will be circulated to our email list and announced in local newspapers.



The Otipua-Saltwater Creek Catchment Group shares its information and recommendations with the Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora Water Zone Committee.

[fb.com/canterburywater](https://www.facebook.com/canterburywater)

E19/7525



Otipua-Saltwater Creek Catchment Group

Winter 2019 update

Kia ora koutou,

As a neighbour of Otipua- Saltwater Creek, we'd like to update you on what's been happening to enhance this popular waterway, which so many of us enjoy and value.

The Otipua-Saltwater Creek Catchment Group was established last year to provide an opportunity for local people to connect and contribute to the improvement of this unique urban and rural waterway.

Whether you're a cyclist, dog-walker, farmer or an interested community member, you're always welcome to come along to events and find out more about the Catchment Group. You don't need to have a scientific or environmental background - just an interest in Otipua-Saltwater Creek's future. If you're keen to get involved or want to receive our regular e-newsletter - please get in touch.

Rhys Taylor, group facilitator.

Email Rhys.taylor@ecan.govt.nz or text **021462260** or visit www.ecan.govt.nz/saltwatercreek



Screenshot of one of the new 'flyover' videos of the Creek.

Take a virtual flight over Otipua-Saltwater Creek

Get online and experience Otipua-Saltwater Creek from above!

Many Timaruvians are familiar with the lower part of Otipua-Saltwater Creek, with its walking tracks and Otipua Wetland near town – but how aware are you of the rainwater-fed upper parts of this catchment, often dry in summer?

Now, you can take a YouTube virtual fly-over of four different tributary streams, each time starting at the sea near Redruth and travelling inland, thanks to a computer simulation created for the Catchment Group by Environment Canterbury.

The short videos are a great resource to help us to better understand the catchment, including potential sources of erosion of silt and sediment into the creek. We can also add more information later to the flyovers – such as traditional names, project sites and places of interest to the Group.

Head to www.ecan.govt.nz/saltwatercreek to view the flyovers.



A drone camera, with relevant permissions from the Civil Aviation Authority, will be taking footage of small parts of Otipua-Saltwater Creek over the next few months, to contribute to our project outcomes. For more information you can contact Vector Charlie Charlie on 0210722113



Chris Konings from Water Watch is helping the Group to select extra monitoring sites along Otipua-Saltwater Creek

Volunteers get involved in new water sampling sites

You won't need a degree in science, but a passion for protecting water quality and wildlife would be an advantage, if you're interested in being one of our volunteer water monitors.

Additional water monitoring sites are being set up along Otipua-Saltwater Creek to better understand how water quality varies over time and you could help out!

Chris Konings from Water Watch is helping to select water sampling sites on several tributaries of the Creek, which can be checked seasonally by volunteers.

We have a kit of simple equipment and training on water monitoring techniques ready to share with volunteers for this 'citizen science' opportunity. Contact Rhys (see details overleaf) to find out more about the next training opportunity.

What does the current water monitoring show?

The extra sites will add detail to the monthly monitoring by Environment Canterbury upstream of Highway One bridge, Redruth. This data is published (with past five year trends) on the Land and Water Aotearoa website – www.lawa.org.nz

Recent data from this site shows:

- relatively high turbidity (cloudiness)
- low bacteria and improving;
- poor quality for ammonia nitrogen and worsening;
- poor quality for dissolved reactive phosphorus and worsening

Weir study included in projects

Environment Canterbury has approved funding for new projects for Otipua-Saltwater Creek for 2019-2020, including an engineering study into the weir.

The study will assess scope for modifying the centre structure of the 20 year-old weir near the coast, below Otipua Wetland.

The aim of modification would be to allow greater control of the rate of water flow into the lower lagoon in mid to late summer, whilst retaining fish passage between flood flows in spring and autumn.

Brian Reeves, Environment Canterbury Zone Lead for Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora, says: "This project could offer some help to recreational water users such as Timaru Rowing Club, who find levels too shallow at that time of year.

"It won't make up for lack of summer rainfall, however, as this catchment is not spring-fed and is dependent on rainfall for its flow."

A second new project is a survey of plants and animal life at Otipua Wetland, to help guide future management options. This will begin with 'Wild day at the wetland' observations day for the public on Saturday 14 September, at the start of NZ Conservation Week. The Aqua-van from University of Otago will visit that day too.

In addition, support from Environment Canterbury will continue to be available for farmers who are developing Farm Environment Plans, for example to consider how to reduce surface run-off from steep paddocks in the catchment. The Catchment Group is also planning to work this year with groups of smaller block owners to encourage good practice in riparian fencing, planting and septic tank management.

The projects are funded out of Environment Canterbury's regional support to deliver local outcomes within the wider Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Join our newsletter mailing list if you'd like to be kept up-to-date about these projects and events (see overleaf for contacts).

7.2 Catchment Groups Update

Author: Committee Members - Cllr Anne Munro, Phil Driver, Glen Smith

Recommendation

That the verbal reports be received and noted.

Purpose of Report

To receive verbal updates on the activities of the Catchment Groups (other than the Otupua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Group).

Attachments

Nil

7.3 Education and Awareness

Author: Hannah Dunlop – Team Leader Youth Engagement

Recommendation

That the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee receives the overview provided and engages with the Youth Engagement and Education Team to shape future education and youth engagement opportunities.

Attachments

1. Youth Engagement and Education report  

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI- PAREORA ZONE COMMITTEE	Agenda item:
TOPIC: Youth Engagement and Education	
AUTHOR: Hannah Dunlop	DATE: 5 August 2019

Purpose:

- a) To provide an overview of Youth Engagement and Education at ECan

Staff Recommendation:

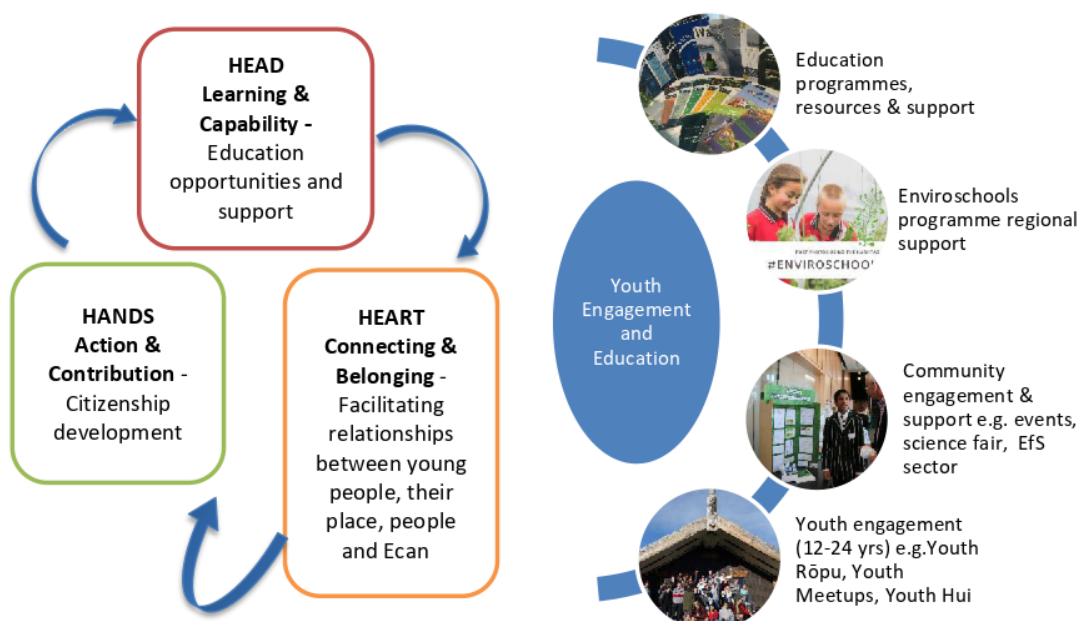
That the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora water zone committee receives the overview provided and engages with the Youth Engagement and Education Team to shape future education and youth engagement opportunities.

Report:

The purpose of the Youth Engagement Team at is to connect youth and education communities with the Kaupapa of Environment Canterbury (Ecan).

Below is a visual representation of our approach to youth engagement and education and an overview of what we do.

If you are interested in engaging with youth and education communities then please contact us education@ecan.govt.nz or visit <https://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/youth-engagement-and-education/>



7.4 Chairpersons/Deputy Chairperson Report on July Meeting

Author: Chairperson Hamish McFarlane

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

Purpose of Report

The Chairperson will report on the CWMS Zone Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons meeting held on 10 July.

Attachments

Nil

7.5 Facilitator's Report

Author: Lesley Woudberg, Facilitator

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Purpose of Report

The Facilitator's report is attached for consideration.

Attachments

1. Facilitator's Report [!\[\]\(c33cb967c8fc4f5e27188a389b621c8e_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(38e1383487ca0f0e9e2c9378b9dbcae7_img.jpg\)](#)

• ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI- PAREORA ZONE COMMITTEE	• Agenda item:
• TOPIC: FACILITATORS UPDATE 1 JULY	
• AUTHOR: Lesley Woudberg (Facilitator)	• DATE: 5 August 2019

Purpose:

To provide the OTOP zone committee with information on;

- Upcoming events
- Progress on issues raised in previous meetings
- Media
 - 29 July Weir Study included in Otipua-Saltwater Creek projects
 - 24 July Comprehensive Overhaul of the Resource Management Act
 - 20 July Region-wide, Orari, Temuka, Opihi, Pareora and Waimakariri Plan Changes notified

Recommendation:

That the OTOP zone committee;

1. **Notes** the Facilitator's report

Report:

1. Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
2 September	OTOP ZC meeting
10-14 September	University of Otago Aquavan – Discovering our Coastal Connections <i>The Aquavan is heading inland and upstream, bringing live marine critters and touch pools to schools and communities. The aim of the project is to create awareness and understanding of the connectivity between river health and the coastal environment in a dynamic and hands on way.</i> 10 September – Fairlie, Mackenzie College Hall (TBC) 11 September – Geraldine Primary School Hall (TBC) 12 September – Geraldine or Temuka (TBC) 13 September – Saltwater Creek, Fairview Hall (TBC) 14 September – Conservation Week launch Otipua

	Contact: Debbie Eddington, ECan Youth Engagement Adviser
7 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTOP ZC meeting or • Option – Field Trip • Catch up with the Orari Catchment Group and Orari River Protection Group • <i>"On behalf of the Orari River Protection Group, I would like to invite the OTOZ zone committee for a field trip to the Orari gorge in Oct or Nov this year, to see the native vegetation in bloom and show them what we've been able to achieve with our weed control & predator trapping in the gorge".</i> • Adele Coombs Orari River Protection Group 0210 236 9674
Election closes midday 12 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Elections
4 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTOZ ZC meeting (TBC)
2 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTOZ ZC meeting (TBC)

2. Progress on Issues raised in previous meetings

• DATE	• ISSUE	• STATUS
• 4 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for strategic discussion on ZC priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 6 May and scheduled for 1 July
• 6 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on stormwater consents • District Plan Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action yet • No action yet
• 1 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a letter to Upper Waitaki ZC advising them of the issue of water efficiency in the Waitaki system needed to be reviewed • Department of Conservation • Offered to host a meeting of the cmtt in the Geraldine office followed by a field trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter drafted • No action yet

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media – suggestions - Immediate Steps projects - DOC more effort on restoration in Rangitata and Lower Waitaki 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate Steps funding • https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/zone-news/orari-temuka-opihi-pareroa/local-environmental-projects-boosted-with-105000-of-new-funding/
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Media

Weir study included in new Otipua-Saltwater Creek projects

Date: 29 Jul 2019

Environment Canterbury has approved several new projects for Otipua-Saltwater Creek, including an engineering study of its weir.

Expertise is being sought to assess scope for modifying the centre structure of the 20 year-old weir, located near the coast below Otipua Wetland.

The aim of any modification would be to allow greater control of the rate of water flow into the lower lagoon in mid to late summer, whilst retaining fish passage up and downstream between flood flows in spring and autumn.

Environment Canterbury zone lead for Orari Temuka Pareora Opihi, Brian Reeves, says: "This project could offer some help to recreational water users such as Timaru Rowing Club, who find levels too shallow at that time of year.

"It would not make up for lack of summer rainfall, however, as this catchment is not spring-fed and is dependent on rainfall for its flow."

Survey of plants and animals

A second new project, in collaboration with the Timaru District Council, is a survey of plants and animal life at Otipua Wetland, to help guide future management options. This will begin with an I-Naturalist field observations day for the public on Saturday 14 September, at the start of NZ Conservation Week. The educational 'Aqua-Van' from the University of Otago will also visit that day, which will be promoted as 'A wild day at the wetland'.

Mr Reeves said: "Much of the activity for this natural values survey will take place in spring and summer. There will be lots of opportunity for volunteers to get involved as citizen scientists. We will collaborate with wildlife experts, Department of Conservation, Timaru District Council and the Catchment Group, to maximise the value of the study."

Encouraging best practice farming

In addition, support will continue to be available from Environment Canterbury staff for farmers who are developing Farm Environment Plans, for example on how to reduce silt run-off from steep paddocks in the catchment.

Environment Canterbury advisors can visit free of charge to help farm landowners with actions to reduce soil, phosphorus and bacteria loss into waterways, support greater biodiversity on the farm and/or develop local potential to support traditional food or materials gathering (mahinga kai).

The Catchment Group is also planning to work this year with groups of smaller block owners to encourage good practice in riparian fencing, planting and septic tank management. About a third of the land area of the catchment is in small block ownership and, although under a sixth of the area is urban, the slopes below Otipua and Glen-Iti Roads include more than 1000 households.

Education for Timaruvians on where the stormwater goes and how to keep it cleaner will be a project activity as well. As an example, students at Timaru Boys' High School have shown interest in being involved this spring. "Road drains are only for rain" will be a theme.

The projects are funded out of Environment Canterbury's regional support to deliver local outcomes within the wider Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

24 July 2019

Comprehensive overhaul of the RMA

Hon David Parker

Environment

The Government has today launched a comprehensive overhaul of the Resource Management Act (RMA) to cut complexity and costs and better enable urban development, while also improving protection of the environment.

Environment Minister David Parker said that close to 30 years after it was passed the country's main law managing built and natural environments was not working as well as intended.

"It is unacceptable for this cornerstone law to be underperforming in a country that values protection of the environment while properly housing its people," David Parker said. "Our aim is to produce a revamped law fit for purpose in the 21st century that will cut complexity and cost while better protecting our environment.

"While not the sole cause of the housing crisis, planning rules are partly to blame. Environmental outcomes have been disappointing. Freshwater quality has been going

backwards.”

Amendments to the RMA since 1991 have added complexity.

“It’s close to twice its original length, making the RMA more and more unwieldy to interpret, and hampering its effective implementation.”

There had also been too little spatial planning in and around growing urban areas.

“We need to create a system that better enables economic growth within environmental limits and which aligns the economy with the environment. Further ad hoc patch-ups and work-arounds are not the answer. We need a thorough overhaul of the law.”

David Parker said a reform project initiated by the Environmental Defence Society with input from Infrastructure NZ, the Property Council and the Employers and Manufacturers Association (Northern) had highlighted the need for change and how to address it.

“The review needs to address urban development, environmental bottom lines, and effective – but not overly complex – participation, including by Māori.”

Also in scope is whether the crucial Part 2 – or its equivalent – should sit in the RMA or in a separate piece of law. Part 2 sets out the principles and purposes of the RMA and sets the objective of “sustainable management”.

“Subsequent legal cases have helped clarify what it means. We will take care not to unnecessarily discard those legal precedents,” David Parker said.

The overhaul will be led by a panel chaired by retired Appeal Court Judge Tony Randerson, who brings extensive legal and resource management expertise to the task.

It is expected to produce a proposal for reform, including drafts of key legislative provisions, by mid-2020.

Meanwhile, the Government will press ahead with work to improve freshwater quality and urban development, protect highly productive land and indigenous biodiversity, and reduce waste, because these are urgent and cannot wait for the comprehensive reform plan.

David Parker said a Bill to amend the current RMA will be introduced in the next few months to address urgent issues, pending the comprehensive rewrite.

Region-wide, Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora and Waimakariri Plan Changes notified

Date: 20 Jul 2019

Environment Canterbury has notified [Plan Change 7](#) to the Land & Water Regional Plan (LWRP) and [Plan Change 2](#) to the Waimakariri River Regional Plan for [public submissions](#). Submissions close on 13 September 2019.

The [proposed changes](#) build on the operative Nutrient Management and Waitaki Plan Change ([Plan Change 5 to the LWRP](#)), which set industry agreed “Good Management Practice” as the minimum standard for all farming activities.

Councillor Peter Skelton said the region-wide part of Plan Change 7 aims to improve freshwater outcomes for the whole of Canterbury.

“It provides greater protection to habitats of freshwater species, enables consideration of Ngāi Tahu values in more activities, enables the use of managed aquifer recharge (a technique to improve river flows) across the region, and provides a revised nutrient management framework for commercial vegetable growing.”

Freshwater management in OTOP and Waimakariri zones

Plan Change 7 also proposes new frameworks for freshwater management in the Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora (OTOP) and Waimakariri zones.

“These changes will help with delivery of recommendations in each Zone Committee’s Zone Implementation Programme Addendum, which Council received late last year,” Professor Skelton said. “The Plan Change introduces requirements for some farms in these zones to further reduce their nitrogen losses and to exclude stock from more waterbodies.

“This even stronger focus on water quality will be good news for the environment in these catchments and achievable for the farming community,” Professor Skelton said.

“Resource consent, including audited [Farm Environment Plans](#), is already required of farmers if they irrigate more than 50 hectares or have more than 20 hectares for winter grazing of cattle.

“The nutrient management rules, which have been in place for several years now, are intended to address the effects of changing land use and promote improved water quality outcomes throughout the region. Plan Change 7 will enhance this approach.”

Addressing water quantity issues

Plan Change 7 also has a focus on water quantity issues in OTOP and Waimakariri. It proposes to increase minimum flows for rivers and streams where community outcomes are not being met, and introduces new limits on the volume of water available for allocation.

[Plan Change 2](#) to the Waimakariri River Regional Plan (WRRP) is the first step towards bringing rules relating to this zone into the Land & Water Regional Plan.

“It is proposed that the main stem of the Waimakariri River, its upper catchment and tributaries south of the mainstem will continue to be managed by the WRRP,” Professor Skelton said.

What happens next?

The rules have immediate legal effect, meaning that for OTOP and Waimakariri a number of different rules are “live” at the same time. Professor Skelton encouraged all Cantabrians to familiarise themselves with the proposals and to consider making a submission.

“We are now getting towards the end of the planning process that started in 2012. In partnership with the community, we are well on the way towards completing catchment-focused rules for the whole region.”

Submissions on the plan changes close on 13 September. “It is important to take the opportunity to have your say,” Peter Skelton concluded. “This will contribute to certainty about the paths we wish to take towards what we all seek – improved water quality throughout Canterbury.”

Plan Change 7 and Plan Change 2 - What you need to know

[Find out more about what these might mean for you.](#)

Background

The [Land & Water Regional Plan](#) became largely operative in September 2015. It sets the framework to implement community aspirations for water through the [Canterbury Water Management Strategy](#), a community led, collaborative approach to improve water outcomes throughout the region.

The Land & Water Regional Plan operates at two levels – a region-wide section and 10 sub-region sections.

The policies and rules in the sub-region sections can apply instead of, or in addition to, policies and rules in the region-wide section.

The sub-region sections implement the region-wide objectives in the plan in the most appropriate way for the catchment.

Sub-region sections of the Land & Water Regional Plan that are now legally effective cover [Selwyn-Te Waihora](#), [Wairewa/Lake Forsyth](#), [Hinds Plains](#) and [Waitaki - South Coastal Canterbury catchments](#).

There is also a separate plan for the Hurunui-Waiau zone – the [Hurunui Waiau River Regional Plan](#).

Make a submission

Submissions for both Plan Changes can be made by:

- email to mailroom@ecan.govt.nz with “Plan Change 7 to the LWRP Submission” or “Plan Change 2 to the WRRP Submission” in the subject line
- post to PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140

- [Or via the ePlan portal](#)

The period for submissions on Proposed Plan Change 7 to the LWRP and Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Waimakariri River Regional Plan closes on 13 September 2019.

7.6 Our Strategy

Author: Cllr Lan Pham and Senior Planner/Community Lead Lyn Carmichael

Recommendation

For consideration.

Purpose of Report

Cllr Lan Pham and the Senior Planner and Community Lead Lyn Carmichael will provide a follow up on the Committee's Strategy for the work plan going forward.

Attachments

Nil

7.7 Possible Media Stories

Author: Lesley Woudberg, Facilitator

Recommendation

That suitable items be promoted through the media.

Purpose of Report

To reflect on matters discussed that could possibly be suitable for a media story.

Attachments

Nil

- 8 Consideration of Urgent Business Items**
- 9 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**