

CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 – 2025

15 April 2025

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Purpose

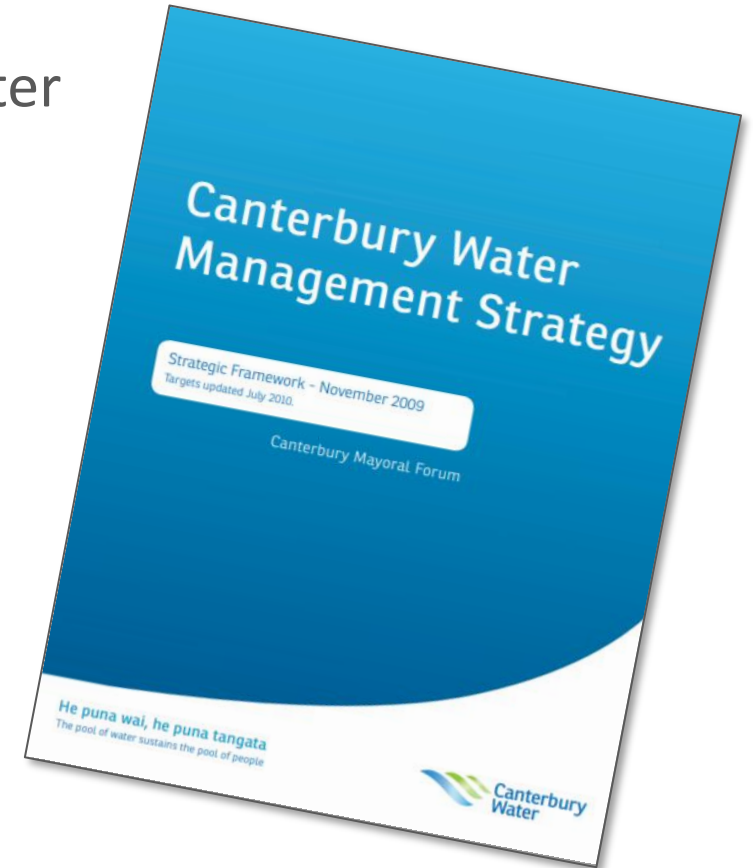
To provide an overview of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee Review 2024 – 2025, including:

- Review outcomes and Canterbury Mayoral Forum endorsement in November 2024
- Current work programme to refine proposed local leadership group model
- Next steps to July 2025

Setting the Scene

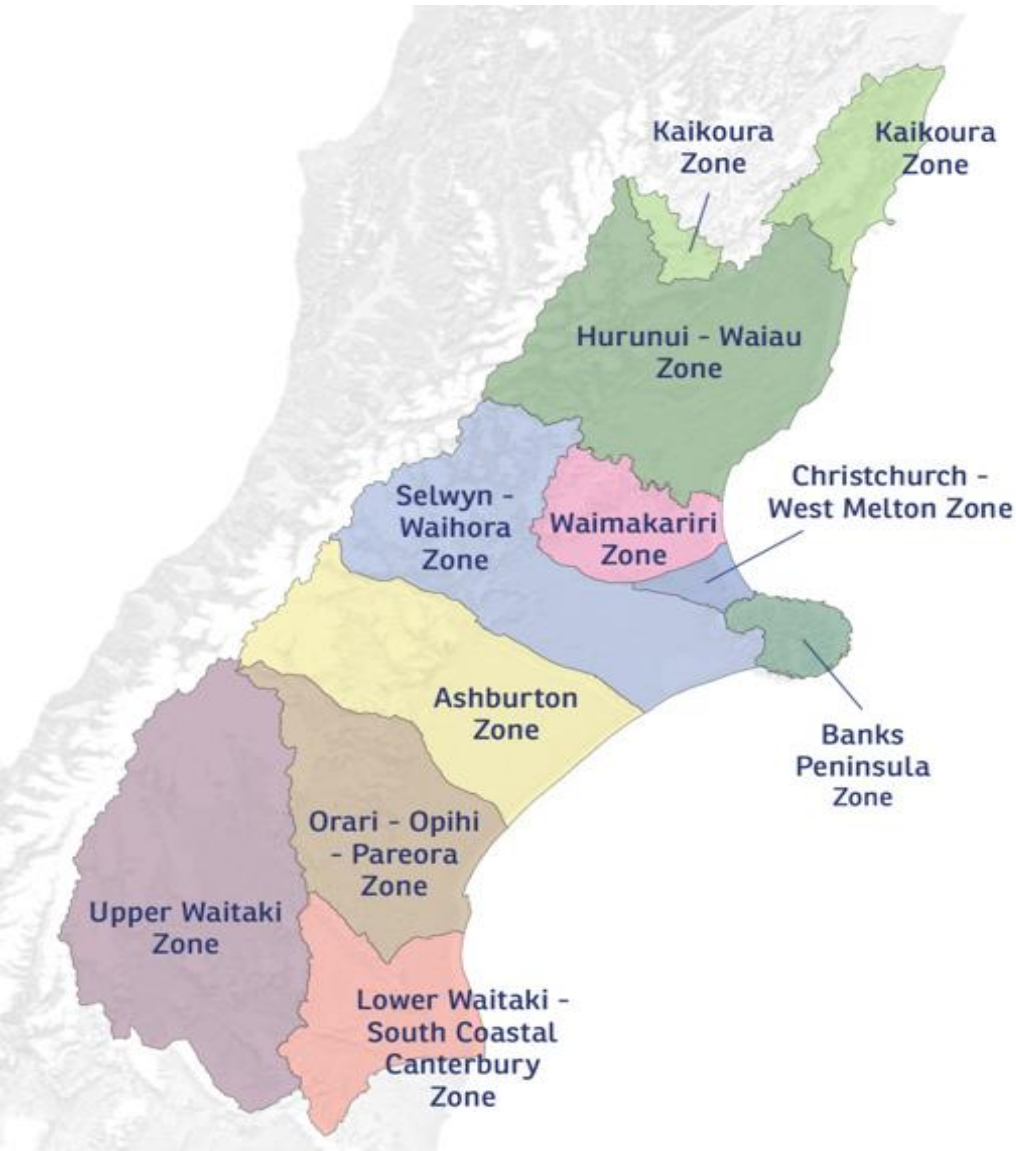
Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) – A new paradigm

- Strategy emerged as a response to severe droughts, no operative freshwater planning framework, and strategic water studies (early 2000's)
- Adopted by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in 2009
- Key partners:
 - Territorial authorities
 - Ngāi Tahu
 - Environment Canterbury
 - Community and organisations with interests in water
- Several key principles, including collaboration, consensus, subsidiarity/local decision making, and representativeness



Setting the Scene

CWMS – Empowering local communities



- Established ten zone committees and regional committee in 2010/11 to continue collaborative approach of CWMS
- Joint Committees of TAs and ECan: elected members from each council, rūnanga appointee(s), 4–7 community members and some youth representatives
- Facilitated by ECan to enhance delivery capability and coalition of the willing to implement CWMS target
- Engaged communities to develop solutions to local water issues with broad stakeholder support, e.g. Zone Implementation Programmes
- However, known challenges shifting from strategic ‘first half’ of RMA plan development to implementation

Zone Committee Review 2024

Initiation and process of the Review

- Evolving freshwater management policies led to concerns for effectiveness and relevance of some committees
- Opportunity to assess structure, function and resourcing needed to support community leadership shown by zone committees
- Review initiated on behalf of Mayoral Forum in early 2024, led by Environment Canterbury
- Engagements with Canterbury Mayors, Zone Committees, Rūnanga representatives in 2024
- Working group of Mayors, Rūnanga Chairs and Environment Canterbury Councillors

Zone Committee Review 2024

Outcomes of Zone Committee Review in 2024

- First stage completed with Mayoral Forum November briefing – report^{*} sent to key parties
- The Canterbury Mayoral Forum endorsed:
 - zone committees no longer preferred approach in some areas, while others work well
 - base model that locally connects councils and mana whenua at leadership level
 - CWMS fundamentals and guiding plans remain critical
 - further work to refine base model, supported by existing working group of Mayors, Rūnanga representatives and Environment Canterbury Chair
 - final reporting to Mayoral Forum May 2025
- Zone committees and staff at territorial authorities updated on outcomes and next steps

^{*}<https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=5562967>

Zone Committee Review 2024

Proposed base model – Local Leadership Groups

- Locally connects councils and mana whenua at leadership level
- Core membership and function regionally consistent
- Confirm local action plan – priority setting and promotion/oversight of action
- Community engagement, priorities, and investment support determined locally

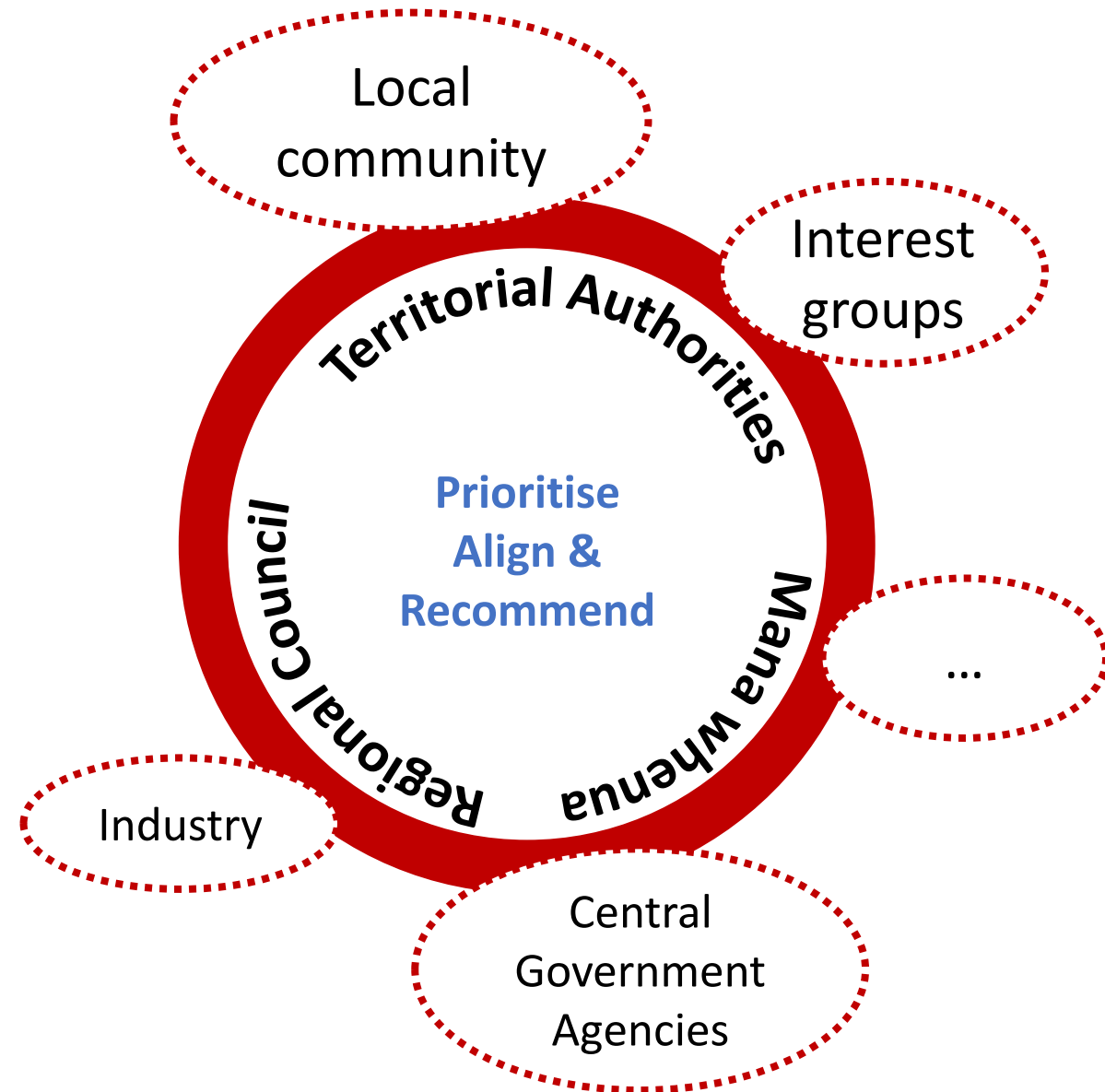


Purpose of Proposed Local Leadership Groups

The groups' core purpose would be to **connect** councils and mana whenua to support collaborative and strategic freshwater management on key priorities.

Their proposed primary function will be to **prioritise**, **align**, and **recommend** actions crucial for improving local freshwater outcomes. This will include connecting with communities and interest groups to align work with community-driven action.

Draft statement of purpose attached

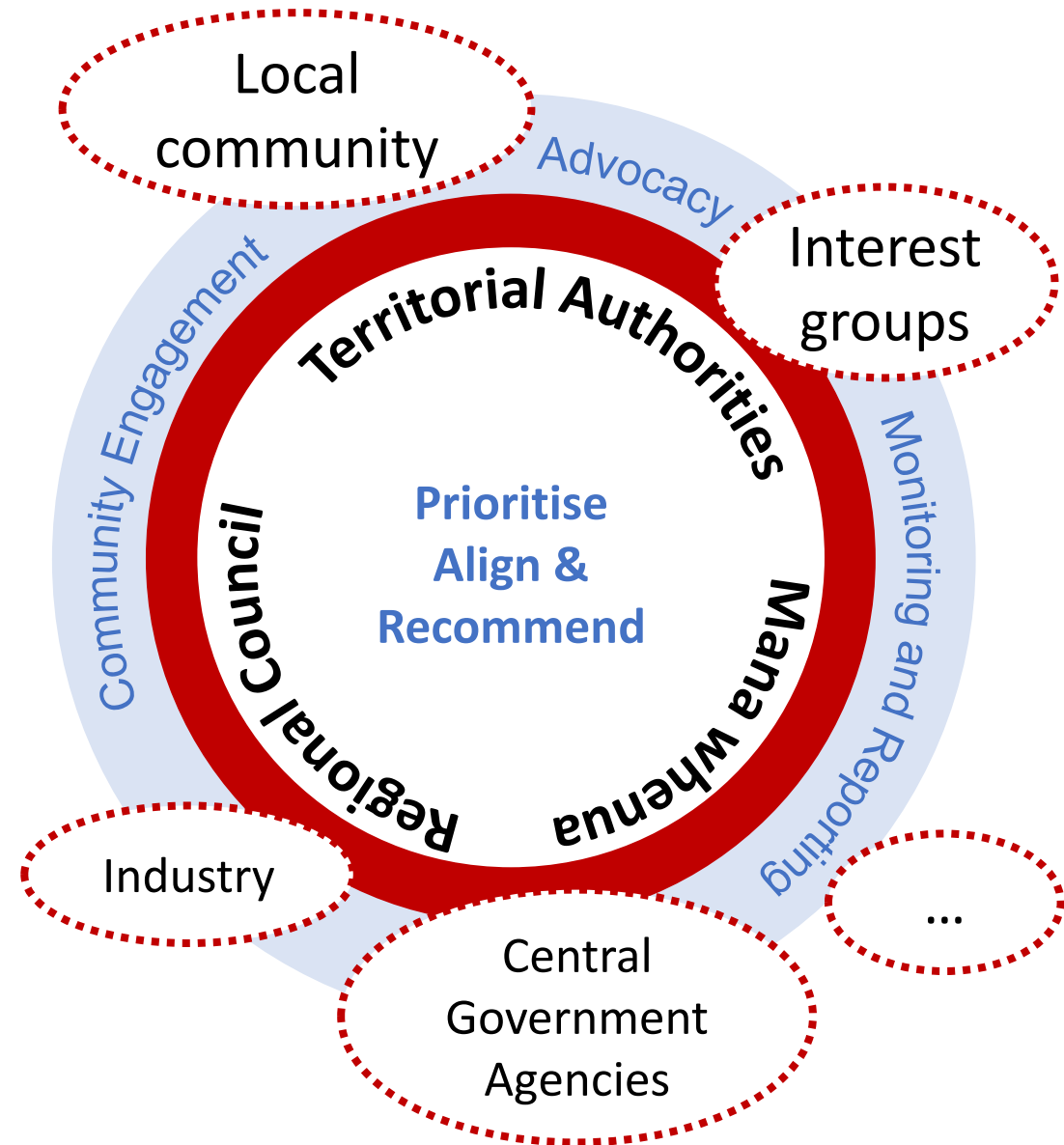


Diving into Purpose

Prioritise: numerous water management challenges need to be addressed, and resources are limited. Doing fewer things well.

Align: consistent with existing regional frameworks (Targets, ZIPs & Action Plans) and ensure alignment with efforts of agencies and catchment groups in the community.

Recommend: role is to provide strategic guidance and recommendations to councils, not to engage directly in the implementation of water management projects.



Work programme to June 2025 – Refine proposed model

- **Scale** – should groups operate to existing CWMS zones, district boundaries, proposed freshwater management units or other areas?
- **Scope** – should groups focus on freshwater management or also land use, biodiversity, biosecurity, natural hazards etc.?
- **Mandate & structure** – should groups remain joint committees of councils or based on voluntary partnership or co-governance arrangements (e.g. Whakaraupō Whaka-Ora)?
- **Operation** – how should groups set wider (community) membership, meeting frequency etc.?

Work programme to June 2025 – Process and engagements

- Two workshops with working group of Mayors, Rūnanga representatives, and Environment Canterbury Chair
- Discussions with each territorial authority council and Papatipu Rūnanga
- Staff engagements across all Councils via the Canterbury Policy Forum
- Zone committees to continue work in current form until decisions made in June, e.g.
 - finalise 2024/25 CWMS Action Plan budget allocation
 - inform the CWMS 2025 Targets Progress report
 - advise on local priorities proposed local leadership could focused on

Work programme to June 2025 – Timeline

Timeline	Tasks
Feb/Mar 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First workshop with the Mayoral and Rūnanga representative working group to test draft design
Mar 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion with each Council• Discussion with Papatipu Rūnanga
Apr 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second workshop with the Mayoral and Rūnanga representative working group to finalise design• Test final advice and recommendations with Environment Canterbury Councillors ahead of May meeting of Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF)
May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations to CMF on model for new local leadership groups
June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ZC disestablishment/new group establishment decisions sought from each territorial authority and regional council• If agreed, progress implementation of new local leadership groups

For further questions and comments, please contact:

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Supplement: Local Leadership Groups – Draft Purpose Statement

Purpose: The Local Leadership Groups will serve as a strategic body focused on prioritising key water management issues in Canterbury, providing clear recommendations to Environment Canterbury and territorial authorities. These groups will achieve connections between key partners to collaboratively facilitate community-driven decision-making and ensure that urgent water management priorities are addressed in alignment with the CWMS.

Function: Their primary function will be to **prioritise**, **align**, and **recommend** actions crucial for improving local freshwater outcomes. This will include connecting with local communities and interest groups to align work with community-driven action. They will focus on setting clear, actionable priorities based on local needs and CWMS targets, and making formal recommendations to councils on which priorities should be scoped, resourced, and implemented.