

AGENDA

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

Date Monday, 1 July 2019

Time 1pm

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

File Reference 1261115

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 1 July 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 10 June 2019

Author: Joanne Brownie, Council Secretary

Recommendation

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.

Attachments

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

MINUTES

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 10 June 2019

**Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting
held in Meeting Room 1, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Monday, 10 June 2019 at 1pm**

Present: Herstatt Ulrich (Acting Chairperson), Lucy Millar, Luke Reihana, Mark Webb, Cr Lan Pham, Cr Anne Munro, Cr Richard Lyon, Glen Smith, Phil Driver, John Henry

In Attendance: Facilitator (Lesley Woudberg), John Benn (Department of Conservation)

1 Karakia

John Henry opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 Apologies

Committee Resolution 2019/1

Moved: Mr Mark Webb

Seconded: Mr John Henry

That the apologies from Hamish McFarlane, Clr David Anderson, and Sue Eddington be accepted.

Carried

2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

Phil Driver tabled an email on the possibility of expanding the Terms of Reference for the OTOP Committee and the Regional Committee. The issue will be considered later in the meeting

3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

Phil Driver raised the issue of how the water zone committee's success will be judged and how success will be measured. He has emailed Environment Canterbury's Chief Executive and is awaiting a reply.

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Community Forum

John Benn of the Department of Conservation, alerted the Committee to an incident in Christchurch, where weed clearance had resulted in eels being removed from the stream and unfortunately left to die. While there are rules in place around drainage clearance, there is not the same regulation around weed clearance. DOC wants to raise awareness around the correct process for weed clearance which would ideally involve advisors to be on hand to protect fish life during clearing. Cllr Lan Pham advised that ECan is aware of the issue and steps are being taken to prevent an incident such as the Christchurch one, occurring again. There was discussion about whether Plan Change 7 will or will not have rules to cover such situations.

It was agreed that the weed clearance issue be discussed later in the meeting as an item for education through the media.

5 Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's report, due to the Chairperson being absent.

6 Reports

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Committee Resolution 2019/2

Moved: Mr Phil Driver

Seconded: Mr Mark Webb

That the minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee meeting held on 6 May 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6.2 Correspondence from Waimate District Council - Annual Report

The Committee considered a letter from the Waimate District Council on the OTOP Annual Report presentation.

Committee Resolution 2019/3

Moved: Mr Herstatt Ulrich

Seconded: Cllr Lan Pham

That the letter be received and noted.

Carried

6.3 Facilitator's Report

The Committee considered the Facilitator's report. The Facilitator highlighted upcoming events of note including the catchment group workshop, the establishment of biodiversity groups, aquavan visit and the Committee's priorities for the next 12 months.

Biodiversity Groups - Biodiversity groups are intended to replace the numerous Pest Management Groups, with four biodiversity groups planned – South Canterbury, Mid Canterbury, North

Canterbury and Christchurch/Banks Peninsula – to address changing needs, respond to threats, and with some funding flexibility to tackle pest issues. It is hoped that biodiversity champions will come forward to be on these groups.

Priorities – two incorporated societies have so far been formed – for the Temuka catchment and for the Pareora catchment. It was suggested that work could begin on identifying, protecting and enhancing springs – linking in with willing landowners to protect and enhance springs. The Zone Committee could have a role to play in working with willing landowners, to provide a bridge between Rūnanga and agencies to undertake 2-3 pilot projects. This could start with a stream-walk to identify any stock access, bank collapse, drains contributing sediment, and/or riparian planting needed. Utilising existing catchment groups could be an effective way of undertaking the project and also providing appropriate work for the catchment groups who are motivated to make a difference in their catchments.

Related to the spring enhancement issue, is the situation of no stopbank on the south side of the Temuka River which results in access to the marae and neighbouring lands being cut off in times of flood. If a south side stopbank is erected, the north bank would have to be moved north. Clr Lan Pham agreed to find out where ECan currently stands on the stopbank issue.

Discussion on the priorities for the Committee lead into discussion on the need to have a strategy session at the next meeting setting aside time to work through and agree on what OTOP will focus on.

Recommendation

That the Facilitator's Report be noted and a strategy session be scheduled for the next meeting.

6.4 Regional Committee Report

Phil Driver, OTOP's representative on the Regional Committee, gave a verbal report on the main meeting and strategy meeting he had attended. He feels still somewhat unclear as to what the Regional Committee is achieving. He shared his concerns and sought direction as to what OTOP would like him to feed back to the Regional Committee. The Committee agreed that the Regional Committee could be advised as to where OTOP is at in terms of the plan change process and the signing off of the ZIPA.

It was pointed out that the Committee is not completely dependent on the plan change as there are issues that can be worked on outside of the statutory matters, in order to assist on the ground actions.

The issue can be further discussed at the workshop following the meeting.

Recommendation

The report was noted.

6.5 Matters for the Media

The Committee reflected on matters discussed at the meeting and agreed that the weed clearance issue could be a suitable topic to share through the media to create more awareness on how to avoid any harmful effects of weed clearance along the lines of advising that it is important to seek advice before embarking on weed clearance and drainage cleaning.

7 Immediate Steps Programme - Reporting Back

Feedback on progress with the various projects approved by the Committee under the Immediate Steps Programme was discussed. The Committee requested a report on progress with each approved project (brief summary and photo).

A request was also made for applications to be presented to the Committee at an earlier stage than in the past.

8 Consideration of Urgent Business –Possible Expansion of Terms of Reference

The Committee considered the tabled papers from Phil Driver regarding the possibility of broadening the Terms of Reference for the Committee and the scope of its activity to encompass climate change.

The Facilitator provided context for handling such issues within the Zone Committee structure, reminding the Committee that it is a joint committee of four Councils, formed 10 years ago with Terms of Reference, to take on the task of implementing the CWMS (vision, principles and targets) in the OTOP Zone. This is the task members agreed they wished to take on when they applied and were appointed to the Zone Committee.

It was agreed that the issue be part of the strategy discussion at next month's meeting. Should it be agreed to expand the Committee's role, a proposal would then have to be submitted to the four councils and then if approved, it would have to be submitted to the mayoral forum.

9 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

There were no minor nature matters for discussion.

The Meeting closed at 2.23pm.

.....

Chairperson

7 Reports

7.1 Immediate Steps Funding Project Proposals

Author: Robert Carson-Iles, Biodiversity Officer, Environment Canterbury

Recommendation

That the staff recommendations on the projects be considered.

Purpose of Report

To consider Immediate Steps funding proposals.

Attachments

1. Immediate Steps Funding Proposals  

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI- PAREORA ZONE COMMITTEE	Agenda item:
TOPIC: Biodiversity – Project applications for Immediate Steps Funding 2019/20	
AUTHOR: Robert Carson-Iles (Biodiversity Officer, Environment Canterbury) Helen Risk (Land Management/Biodiversity Officer, Environment Canterbury)	DATE: 1 July 2019

Purpose:

- a) To provide an opportunity for the zone committee to check the applications for 2019/20 Immediate Steps funding to ensure they are consistent with local priorities the committee has set out in the OTOP ZIP and ZIPA.
- b) To recommend funding projects that are consistent with the local priorities.

Staff Recommendation:**1. That the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora water zone committee;**

Recommends 2019/20 Immediate Steps Funding is granted to the following projects as they align with the Committee's priorities;

- Waihi Peak Spanish Heath - \$15,000
- Waihi River Biodiversity Corridor - \$12,200
- North Opuha Weed Control - \$7,500
- Rockburn Bat Habitat Fencing – \$1,800
- Prattley Road Wetland Protection - \$27,800
- Black Birch QEII Covenant Protection Stage 3 - \$21,000

2. That the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora water zone committee;

Notes the Committee has previously granted funding to the following projects;

- Upper Rangitata Predator Control - \$13,333 in 2019/20 and again in 2020/21
- Ellis Road Wetland - \$6,000 in 2019/20

Background:

The Immediate Steps Fund was established under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy to help protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem health and to work with nature to improve water quality in short to medium term.

Immediate Steps complements the longer-term planning processes of limit setting and improving water quality and quantity through Resource Management Act rules and consents.

The Immediate Steps Fund was established in 2010 by Environment Canterbury. Environment Canterbury allocated \$100,000 per annum to each of the 10 zone committees established under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Each zone committee recommends to Environment Canterbury Immediate Steps funding to projects that align with local priorities committees have set out in the Zone Implementation Plan (ZIP) and Zone Implementation Plan Addendum (ZIPA).

Successful applicants to the Immediate Steps Fund must be able to cover up to a third of the total cost of the project which maybe cash or in-kind work. Applicants granted funding enter into a contract with Environment Canterbury to ensure the delivery of the project.

Summary - OTOP Fund Applications for 2019/20 year

- Six new projects seeking total funding of \$85,300
- Two existing projects that were previously granted multiyear funding of \$19,333

- Total funds recommended in 2019/20 equals \$104,633 across 8 projects

The task of the OTOP zone committee is to review the project proposal to ensure they are aligned with local priorities as set out in the OTOP ZIP and ZIPA.

Project: Waihi Peak Spanish Heath.

Location: Head of the Waihi River below Waihi Peak and Blue Mountain.

Description: The head of the Waihi River is a largely native dominated ecosystem from riparian mixed hardwood forest into dracophyllum scrub, mixed tussock grasslands and up into alpine habitats. The area is home to threatened lizard species, a threatened nationally critical broom and an uncommon pimelia. The site borders onto the Blue Mountain public conservation land.

The key threat to this ecosystem is a small area of Spanish heath. This is a woody invasive plant which grows vigorously and can displace both grass and shrubland ecosystems. It has the potential to spread extensively from this site. Although this plant is not subject to any control rules in the Regional Pest Management Plan, the landowner is highly motivated to protect the native ecosystems present on their property.

If any control is to be carried out then now is the time to do it.

Ecological Assessment Score: 26 / 45 This project scores slightly lower than perhaps it could because it does not contain a wetland and is not listed as a threatened environment (on national scale).

Aim: To reduce the density of Spanish heath at the site to prevent spread downstream and into the surrounding area.

Works: Helicopter boom spraying of dense areas and spot spraying of scattered and individual plants. Both helicopter and ground control will be used for follow up control in subsequent years.

Funding breakdown: It is planned that Immediate Steps funding will be used to cover the cost of the helicopter in the first year. This has an estimated cost of **\$15,000**. The landowner will assume the costs of the follow up work which will take place over the next 2 to 3 years and then keep a maintenance brief. It is difficult to estimate this cost but it will be at least as much as the initial work.

ZIP: The project aligns strongly with the outcomes set in the Zone Implementation Plan including:

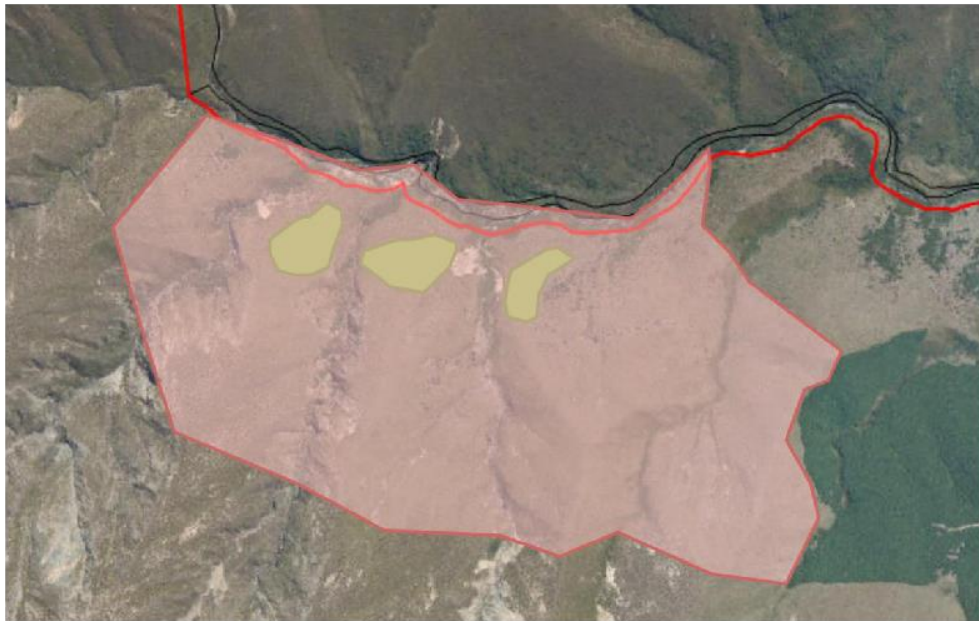
2.3.1: "Immediate Steps Funding – Invest in projects that ... have sufficient scale to make a long term impact, protect and enhance ecosystem integrity and function... priorities are...weed control that enhances biodiversity habitat."

ZIPA: The project aligns with the recommendations set in the Zone Implementation Plan Addendum including:

4.5.9.x.d: "opportunities to protect high value species, sites or habitats in the zone, especially in the upper catchments."



Spanish Heath is the dark green shrub amongst the tussock. This is one of the larger patches.



Pink is scattered/ occasional and green is dense patches

Project: Waihi River Biodiversity Corridor

Location: Waihi River from the gorge to Woodbury.

Description: There are a number of areas classified as a Significant Natural Areas under the Timaru District Plan and QEII covenants in the project area. The SNAs and covenants are linked by both the river and remnants of tōtara. Weed invasion (particularly sycamore) and stock browsing are the key threats to the values. A community group is seeking to protect and enhance the biodiversity values in this area. The project has three goals: habitat restoration through weed control and stock exclusion, predator control and building community support for the restoration of biodiversity in the area. The group has been active since 2017 and has successfully carried out sycamore control, pest control, planting and stock exclusion. Their work has reduced sycamore seedling invasion into nearby Conway's bush and enhanced natural riparian regeneration along the river.

Ecological Assessment Score: 32 / 45 The high values that are present in the area combined with the threat posed by weed invasion make this project score highly.

Aim: To protect the high existing biodiversity values while strengthening and retaining the linkages as part of a biodiversity corridor.

Works: Consolidate existing weed control gains, extend weed control area, extend trapping area, stock exclusion where possible and build community support.

Funding breakdown: Funding is sought to help carry out the aims of the group and build community support and momentum. It will be spent on weed control, predator trapping hardware and stock exclusion. The funding sought for this work is **\$12,200**.

The community group will be contributing time to the project including weekly working bees, contractor management and landowner / community liaison. It is hard to put a figure on this except to say that it will be considerable and at least equivalent to the amount of funding sought.

ZIP: The project aligns strongly with the outcomes set in the Zone Implementation Plan including:

2.3.1: "Immediate Steps Funding – Invest in projects that ... have sufficient scale to make a long term impact, protect and enhance ecosystem integrity and function... priorities are... remnant habitats."

2.3.8: "Significant indigenous vegetation and indigenous fauna – Support initiatives to protect and manage remnant habitats..."

ZIPA: The project aligns with the recommendations set in the Zone Implementation Plan Addendum including:

4.5.9.x.d: "opportunities to protect high value species, sites or habitats in the zone, especially in the upper catchments."



Looking west towards the foothills showing Conway's bush in the foreground. Note the sycamores along the river.

Project: North Opuha weed control

Location: North Opuha River and tributaries on Lilydale Station

Description: Lilydale Station is an extensive high country station that is largely weed free and dominated by native vegetation. Grazing is light and restricted to cattle down low. This leaves a native dominated ecosystem extending up from the braided North Opuha River into wetlands, tussock grasslands, diverse shrublands, alpine herb fields all the way the main ridgeline of the Sherwood Range. The station is home to a number of threatened species including NZ falcon, Black fronted tern, Alpine glaxiids and a nationally critical buttercup. The key threat to this ecosystem is habitat modification from weed invasion. Weeds present in localised areas and the target of this project are grey and crack willow, rowan, alder, silver birch and elderberry. All of these are easily treatable at this stage.

Ecological Assessment Score: 36 / 45 The property scores highly due to its size, connectivity, diverse range of intact ecosystems, presence of threatened species and the threat presented by weed invasion.

Aim: To control ecosystem changing weed species while they are still low down on the invasion curve.

Works: Helicopter and ground crew control of key areas of weeds. This will then enable the landowner to effectively carry out follow up control to zero density in subsequent years.

Funding breakdown: Funding is sought to employ weed control contractors to use a gun and hose to target areas of weeds along the ski field road, around the lodge building and in riparian shrublands. After this has been done a helicopter will spot spray the areas that they could not reach. The funding sought for this work is **\$7,500**.

The landowner is also going to control an area of Douglas fir with the helicopter while it is there and then carry out all follow up control himself. Over the next three years this is likely to be a contribution of around \$6,000.

ZIP: The project aligns strongly with the outcomes set in the Zone Implementation Plan including:

2.3.1: "Immediate Steps Funding – Invest in projects that ... have sufficient scale to make a long term impact, protect and enhance ecosystem integrity and function... priorities are...weed control that enhances biodiversity habitat."

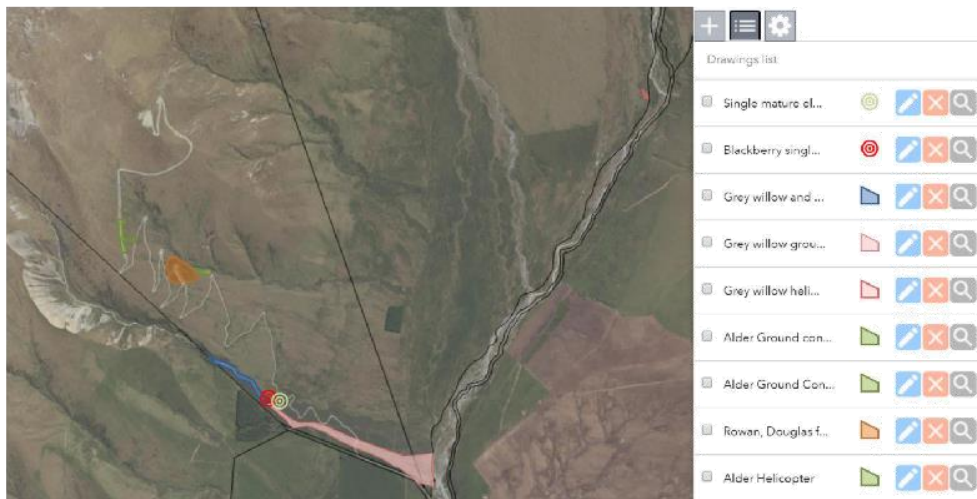
2.3.8: "ensure good quality habitat for braided river birds."

ZIPA: The project aligns with the recommendations set in the Zone Implementation Plan Addendum including:

4.5.9.x.d: "opportunities to protect high value species, sites or habitats in the zone, especially in the upper catchments."



Areas of wetland adjacent to the North Opuha River with grey willow seedlings (red tinged bushes) starting to get established.



Overview map showing weed distribution.

Project: Rockburn bat habitat fencing.

Location: Stand of mature willow near Waitohi Bush.

Description: This stand of mature willows is located in a small valley near Waitohi Bush. The landowner was going to chop them down to make fencing off the stream to exclude stock easier, however contacted Environment Canterbury to see if they were important habitat for the Longtailed bat. Environment Canterbury and the Department of Conservation placed six automatic bat detectors along the line of trees for six weeks around April. Analysis of the data collected showed very consistent and high levels of bat activity over the duration of the detectors being out. Bats generally first appeared just on dusk and foraged through the night. Given that bats move roost trees every 2 – 4 nights, their continued presence over the six weeks means that they must be living in the very near geographic area and potentially may be a new colony distinct from the nearest colonies of Kakahu and Hanging Rock. Although the detector data cannot definitively prove that the willow trees have any roosts in them, they are important feeding habitat. Following this work the landowner is motivated to retain and protect the trees.

Ecological Assessment Score: 26 / 45 Longtailed bats are classified as 'Threatened – Nationally critical'. Protection of existing and future roosts is critical to their survival.

Aim: Protect a key foraging and likely roosting habitat of Longtailed bats.

Works: Erect a stock fence well back from the waters edge so stock are excluded from the stream but allowing the willows to remain.

Funding breakdown:

Funding is sought to purchase fencing materials. Funding sought is **\$1,800**. The landowners contribution will be erecting the fence with an approximate cost of \$2,600.

ZIP: The project aligns with the outcomes set in the Zone Implementation Plan including:

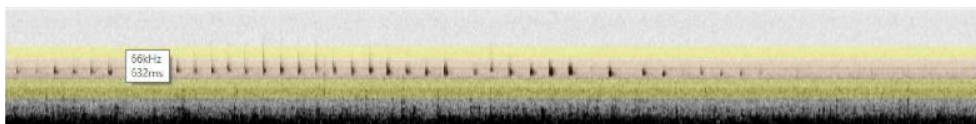
2.3.1: "Immediate Steps Funding – priorities are remnant habitats and their unique flora and fauna."

ZIPA: The project aligns with the recommendations set in the Zone Implementation Plan Addendum including:

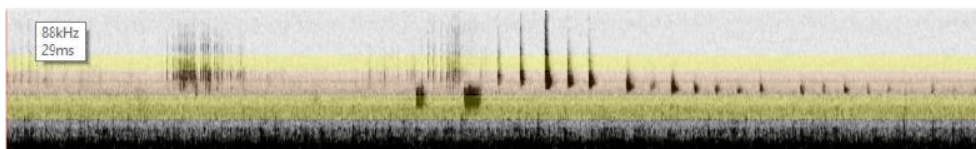
4.5.9.x.b: "The protection of Long tailed bat."



Photograph taken from a helicopter. Red line shows approximate fence line location. The Willow trees are in front of the line. The other side is already fenced.



Example of automatic bat detector data file showing a bat flying past.



Example of feeding – echolocation speeds up and shifts to a lower frequency for the capture of prey.

Project: Prattley Road Wetland Protection.

Location: Coastal wetland complex located between Prattley Road and Milford Lagoon, to the North of the Opihi River Mouth.

Description: This wetland is part of a larger interlinked coastal wetland system draining from the north into Milford Lagoon and the Opihi River mouth. The wetland system is dominated by native vegetation and provides important habitat for a range of threatened bird and fish species including black shag, bittern and inanga. The wetland is part of the chain or corridor of coastal wetlands along the South Canterbury Coast. It is important to protect these wetlands, both in terms of their habitat value and in terms of their ongoing existence. Excluding stock and carrying out weed control is integral achieving this goal.

The area is also important for flood management purposes. Water has historically drained out via a coastal drain however coastal erosion has imperilled this. To remedy this Environment Canterbury river engineers are constructing a new outflow as shown in the map below. This is not a part of the proposed project.

Ecological Assessment Score: 36 / 45 The wetlands are large in size, dominated by native vegetation, connected to other ecosystems and provide habitat for threatened species. The project is aimed at protecting the ecological values.

Aim: To protect the wetland system from stock impacts including sedimentation, bank degradation and browsing, to reduce willow dominance in an area and to remove yellow flag iris to prevent its spread in the wetland.

Works: Construct over 2000m of stock fencing to fully exclude stock from the wetland system, remove yellow flag iris and control willows on the northern margin.

Funding breakdown: Funding is sought towards the cost of fencing. Funding sought is \$27,800. The landowners contribution will go towards the rest of the cost of fencing and the removal of willows and yellow flag iris. The approximate cost of this is \$14,400.

ZIP: The project aligns with the outcomes set in the Zone Implementation Plan including:

2.2.1: "Protect and enhance coastal lagoons" – Assist local groups to enhance and improve lagoon habitat through management and enhancement of lagoon margins and feeding tributaries/drains".

2.3.1: "Immediate Steps Funding – Invest in in projects that ... have sufficient scale to make a long term impact, protect and enhance ecosystem integrity and function... priorities are... wetlands."

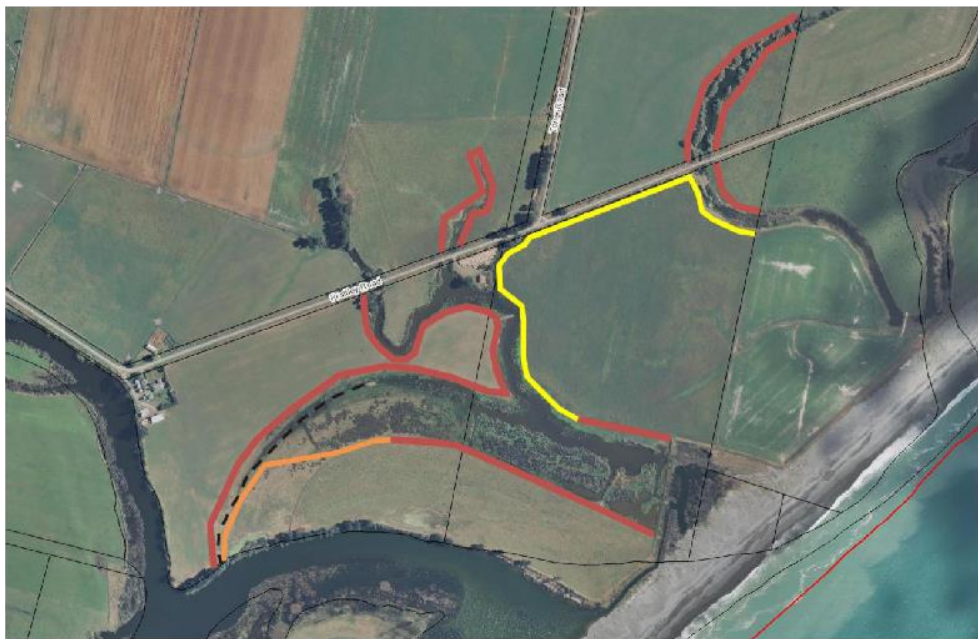
2.3.8: "Significant indigenous vegetation and indigenous fauna – Support initiatives to protect and manage remnant habitats..."

ZIPA: The project aligns with the recommendations set in the Zone Implementation Plan Addendum including:

4.5.9.x.a: "coastal margins and lagoons."



Looking towards Prattley road, far bank fenced and near bank to be done.



Fencing layout, red is proposed, yellow is just completed, orange is to be done by river engineering and the dashed line shows the new outflow drain to be constructed this summer.

Project: Black Birch QEII covenant protection stage 3.

Location: Black Birch Stream, a tributary of the Orari River.

Description: This is the third QEII covenant to be placed on an area of regenerating native forest up Black Birch Stream, the previous two being done in 2019 and 2018, totalling 148ha being protected for perpetuity. This block is 56 ha and covers the southern slopes from the ridge top down to the stream. Included in the area are areas of rough pasture which are reverting to fern and seral vegetation species.

The forest can be classified as a mixed hardwood – podocarp, with dominant canopy species including Totara, Matai, Kahikatea, Kowhai, Broadleaf, Mahoe, Lancewood, and Tree fuchsia. It has good species diversity, and low levels of exotics, both in terms of the species and numbers.

This area has been classified as a Significant Natural Area under the Timaru District Plan.

Ecological Assessment Score: 29 / 45 This project scores slightly lower than perhaps it could because it does not contain a wetland, has no nationally endangered flora or fauna and is not listed as a threatened environment (on national scale).

Aim: To protect in perpetuity this area of regenerating native forest from modification, stock damage and weed invasion.

Works: Construct over 1600m of stock fencing to fully exclude stock and control ash and grey willow.

Funding breakdown: Funding is sought towards the cost of fencing and weed control. Funding sought is **\$21,000**. Additional funding will come from the Timaru District Council SNA fund, the landowner and the QEII Trust for the remainder of fencing weed control and survey costs. The approximate cost of this is \$36,146. Fencing costs are high due to the extremely challenging nature of the site.

ZIP: The project aligns with the outcomes set in the Zone Implementation Plan including:

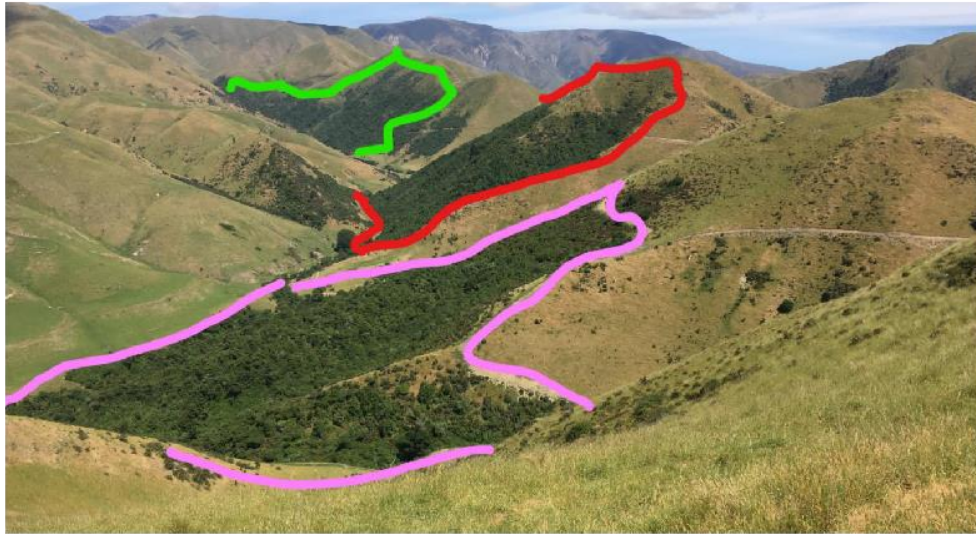
2.1.10: “Protect water yield from upper catchments – work with landowners ... to retain tussock, shrubland and forest cover in upper catchments”

2.3.1: “Immediate Steps Funding – Invest in in projects that ... have sufficient scale to make a long term impact, protect and enhance ecosystem integrity and function... priorities are... remnant habitats.”

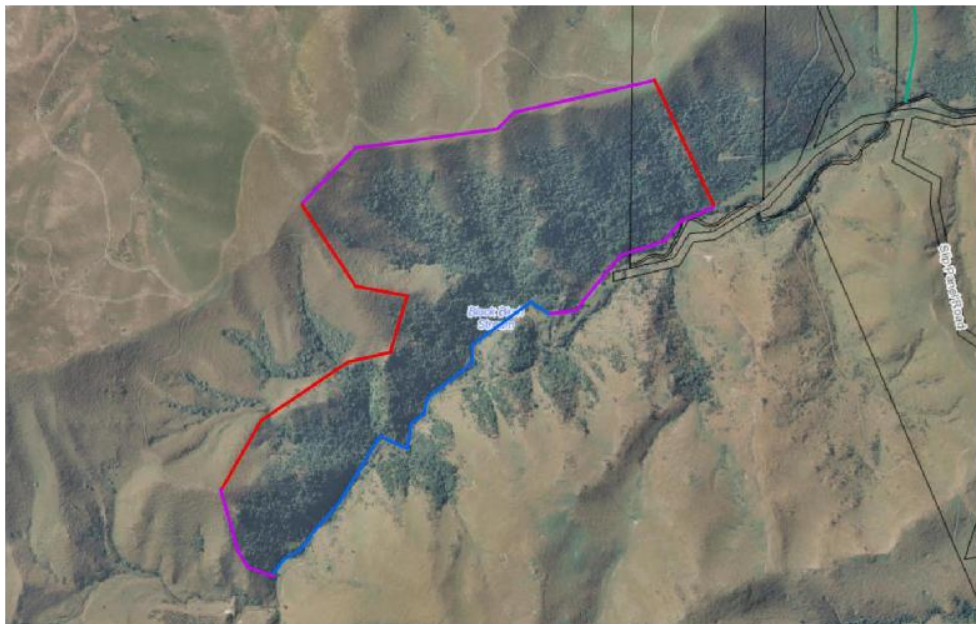
2.3.8: “Significant indigenous vegetation and indigenous fauna – Support initiatives to protect and manage remnant habitats...”

ZIPA: The project aligns with the recommendations set in the Zone Implementation Plan Addendum including:

4.5.9.x.d: “opportunities to protect high value species, sites or habitats in the zone, especially in the upper catchments.”



Looking south across the three QEII covenants. Stage 3 shown in green.



Red line is fence to be constructed, purple is existing and blue is inaccessible cliff.

FUNDING SUMMARY

2019-2020 Financial year		
PROJECT	STATUS	AMMOUNT
North Opuha weed control	TBC	\$7,500
Waihi River biodiversity corridor	TBC	\$12,200
Prattley Road wetland protection	TBC	\$27,800
Rockburn bat habitat fencing	TBC	\$1,800
Black Birch QEII stage 3	TBC	\$21,000
Waihi Peak Spanish Heath	TBC	\$15,000
Upper Rangitata Predator Control	granted	\$13,333
Ellis Road Wetland	granted	\$6,000
TOTAL:		\$104,633

2020-2021 Financial year		
PROJECT	STATUS	AMMOUNT
Upper Rangitata Predator Control	granted	\$13,333
TOTAL:		\$13,333

7.2 Regional Committee Report

Author: Phil Driver, Regional Committee representative

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Purpose of Report

To update OTOP on the Regional Committee issues/activities.

Phil Driver, OTOP's representative on the Regional Committee, will give a verbal report.

Attachments

Nil

7.3 Facilitator's Update

Author: Lesley Woudberg, Facilitator

Recommendation

That the Facilitator's report be received and noted.

Purpose of Report

The Facilitator's report is attached.

Attachments

1. **Facilitator's Report**  

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI- PAREORA ZONE COMMITTEE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda item:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOPIC: FACILITATORS UPDATE 1 JULY 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUTHOR: Lesley Woudberg (Facilitator) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DATE: 1 July 2019

Purpose:

To provide the OTOP zone committee with information on;

- Upcoming events
- Progress on issues raised in previous meetings
- Regional Committee Report 11 June
- Media
 - 13 June, ref Hurunui ZC, Collaboration and water management
 - 18 June, Ashburton Guardian, Market Report
 - 19 June, ref Waimakariri ZC, Fernside Stream restoration project kicks off

Recommendation:

That the OTOP zone committee;

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

Report:

1. Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
1 July	OTOP ZC meeting
10 July	CWMS Zone Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs meeting
20 July	Notification of Plan Change 7 (OTOP, Waimakariri, Omnibus) <i>Land and Water Regional Plan</i>
5 August	OTOP ZC meeting
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
Oct/Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On behalf of the Orari River Protection Group, I would like to invite the OTOP 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. 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"> OTOP ZC meeting (TBC)
2 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OTOP ZC meeting (TBC)

2. Progress on Issues raised in previous meetings

• DATE	• ISSUE	• STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft OTOP Section <i>Land and Water Regional Plan</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop discussion scheduled 10 June and 1 July
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystem Health & Biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions/recommendation on Immediate Steps funding scheduled 1 July
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on stormwater consents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action yet
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Plan Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action yet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extending TOR to include climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on ZC priorities 1 July

3. Regional Committee Report 11 June

• **CWMS REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

- Summary of Committee 11 June Meeting 2019

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1. Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and Mitigating Climate Change The Pohatu/Flea Bay Story

- The committee heard from Frances and Shireen Helps from Pohatu/Flea Bay on Banks Peninsula about the work they had been undertaking over the last 30 years to protect and enhance biodiversity on their property while maintaining the property as a viable sheep and beef farm.
- And the frustration they felt with the government's proposed Climate Change Bill that currently does not recognise the positive contribution of native revegetation.
- This promoted a discussion about the motivation of landowners and how we needed to provide incentives/reduce barriers - rules were needed but we also need to be more aware of the motivations of landowners, how we go about things matters, the way neighbours play an important role in influencing others, local ownership/empowerment is important, collective wisdom of catchment groups and supporting local champions.

2. CWMS Fit for Future

- The Committee heard that the Mayoral Forum had approved the interim goals for 2025 and 2030 and had agreed that Environment Canterbury work with district/city councils, Ngāi Tahu, industry and community partners on work programmes to achieve the goals and improve the monitoring framework.
- The Mayoral forum also agreed that more effort was needed to address four strategic issues;
 - Collective leadership and accountability of the CWMS
 - Resources and funding
 - Monitoring and review
 - Developing understanding and support for what the CWMS is trying to do
- **Summary of CWMS 2025 and 2030 Goals**

Target	Target area	Comment on proposed goals for 2025 and 2030
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1	Environmental limits	Goals largely maintain the direction set in 2010 – with emphasis on review of limits and attention to how these will be achieved
2	Ecosystem health and biodiversity	Range of ambitious new goals are proposed to prompt change in this area
3	Natural character of braided rivers	Range of ambitious new goals are proposed to prompt change in this area
4	Kaitiakitanga	Goals represent a move away from process objectives, with a greater focus on desired outcomes
5	Drinking water	Goals are mix of maintaining direction set in 2010 and new goal relating to untreated community drinking water supplies
6	Recreational and amenity opportunities	Goals largely maintain the direction set in 2010, with inclusion of new goals relating to recreational water quality
7	Water-use efficiency	Goals largely maintain the direction set in 2010
8	Irrigated land area	Shift in emphasis, with more focus on reliable and efficient use of water, than on irrigated land area (for which an indicative target was set for 2040)
9	Energy security and efficiency	Goals largely maintain the direction set in 2010
10	Indicators of regional and national economies	Range of more measurable goals are proposed to better reflect the links between water and economic resilience, and to better incorporate externalities

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3. Update – CWMS Targets Report 2019

- The committee had a brief discussion on the update of the CWMS Targets Report that tracks progress toward the CWMS targets every two years. A sub group of members will help Environment Canterbury complete the update.

4. Requests Next meeting

- ZC representatives give updates on their Immediate Steps projects
- Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council provide briefings on their Climate Change (and CCC Ecological) Emergencies and through the lens of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
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5. Media

Collaboration and water management

Date: 13 Jun 2019 | Author: Hurunui Waiau Water Zone Committee Deputy Chair Ken Hughey

CATEGORY: [NEWS](#) | [Zone Committee](#) | [Biodiversity](#) | [Environment](#) | [Water Quality](#) | [Water](#)

ZONE(S): [HURUNUI WAIU](#)



Hurunui Waiau Water Zone Committee Deputy Chair Ken Hughey

Hurunui Waiau Water Zone Committee Deputy Chair [Ken Hughey](#) reflects on what it means to participate in water resource management.

I've been thinking about collaboration and how it works in water management. I've also been thinking about where the [zone committee](#) and the community fit into the process.

What collaboration means to me

Collaboration doesn't mean:

- I get what I want, all the time.
- One interest always dominates or gets priority over another.

To me, collaboration includes:

- Willingness to work together
- Empathy with others' views
- Willingness to participate in a "gifting and gaining" approach.

My time on the committee

During my time on the committee, this has meant:

- Expanding my knowledge of ecological and recreational needs into other areas
- Better understanding farmer needs and aspirations, including dryland and irrigated farmers
- Better understanding and appreciation of Māori needs and aspirations
- Looking hard for win-win opportunities, especially in relation to farming – biodiversity and conservation, natural resources / mahinga kai and recreation opportunities.

Operating in this contested space is hard work, challenging - and at times mentally draining. But it can lead to great opportunities.

Minimum flows

Amuri Irrigation (AIC) recently gifted a voluntary increase in the minimum flows of the Waiau Uwha River of 1 cumec.

The company gained from that gifting: recognition and thanks from the broader community and they are committing to biodiversity conservation and recreation opportunities.

That gifting is part of a package the zone committee has negotiated in principle with AIC which aims to help address multiple challenges. It's not perfect - but it is progress.

Package negotiation has exposed the inherent challenge of the collaborative approach – we cannot please all of the people all of the time. But should we?

The "living riverbed" project

Another example we are working on is what I call the "living riverbed" project, linked with [Environment Canterbury's braided rivers work](#).

The zone committee has in the past pointed out deficiencies in this work, and with part of it no longer progressing there are nevertheless still opportunities for the zone committee to take a lead.

Specifically, we are keen to progress a management plan concentrating on a short reach of the Waiau Uwha River near Spotswood.

We understand the active braided riverbed is a key habitat for nationally threatened and at-risk bird species like the black-fronted tern and wrybill.

We acknowledge it provides recreational opportunities for anglers, jet boaters and kayakers. And we know the water in these channels is fundamental to providing for irrigation needs.

We understand the overall area of active riverbed is declining due to exotic weed growth and incremental encroachment of intensive farming and urban land use protection needs. And above all, we acknowledge that the active river and its margins (and whole catchments) are fundamental to the mauri of the rivers.

We want to address these needs and issues, and see where the opportunities lie. If we could remove exotic vegetation growth from the central, more active riverbeds, we will gain essential bird nesting habitat that is increasingly predator free, enhanced capacity of the river to deliver flood waters to the sea and not over surrounding farmland, and improved mauri.

To do this we need people working together – not always agreeing, but adapting to new knowledge, and believing the process is a committed, mature approach to making things happen.

Making progress

To me, that is the role of the zone committee: to facilitate this collaborative approach. We won't always get it right but if we get it right most of the time, that's progress.

The challenge is how to keep some people who struggle with a collaborative approach to "stay in the tent", or if they won't, how to convince the remaining majority that it continues to be worth the effort.

About Ken

Ken Hughey is Professor of Environmental Management at Lincoln University and Chief Science Advisor at the Department of Conservation. He has been a member of the Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee since 2010.

He has long family links in the zone, fishes and kayaks there, and has studied key bird species in the Waiau Uwha, Conway and Hurunui rivers. The views expressed here are his own.

18 June Ashburton Guardian

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARKET REPORT • BY GUY TRAFFORD • Fish and Game have been making headlines • yet again with the news that Canterbury • has a water quality issue with nitrate • levels. • They're correct, it has. • Everybody, especially those in • Canterbury has known this for a long time. • The real issue is what should be done • about it. If Dr Mike Joy, among others, is • listened to, the average Kiwi would assume • that nothing is or has been done. • This couldn't be further from the truth. Is • it enough? Probably not and the problem • is likely to get worse before it gets better, • but to do what Dr Joy suggests and turn • back the clock and get rid of both irrigation • and dairying is plainly ridiculous. • It makes about as much sense as • suggesting that we should all adopt • riding bikes everywhere because cars are • polluting the atmosphere. • What would be a lot more helpful would • be starting a constructive conversation • about how we get ourselves out of • this situation. And I say "we" because 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where we are now. • So, turning back the • clock is not going to happen and hopefully • we are smart enough to find more • constructive solutions. • Looking at the Canterbury situation may • be useful to see how we got here, at least • the recent history. Many people in the early • 2000s were voicing concerns about the • water quality in Canterbury and by 2007 • several people opposed to the way ECan • was conducting business in the allocation • of water rights stood for election. • Also, at this time farmer groups were • unhappy with ECan, mainly due to the • large numbers of unprocessed water • consent applications. Total unprocessed • resource consent applications peaked in • 2007-08 at about 2500 with water making • up a large proportion of these. • Due to the general dissatisfaction • after the 2008 general elections, the • Government set up an investigation (led • by Wyatt Creech) and in 2010 sacked the • then elected members and appointed • seven commissioners to address the • "urgent problems with water management
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canterbury is just the tip (quite a big one) • of the iceberg. We could be talking about • the Waikato catchment and the quality of • water in the Waikato and Waipa rivers, the • Bay of Plenty, Manawatu, parts of Hawke’s • Bay, Poverty Bay Otago, Southland and so • forth. • Not all are caused by dairying and • there are other contributors besides • other pastoral systems, although in some • form or another we do have to recognise • that many current and historical farming • practices have been the major reason the • waterways in New Zealand are in the state • they are. • The felling and burning of our native • forests were the first steps of getting to • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in Canterbury”. • The then Minister for the Environment • Dr Smith said efficient water management • was crucial to New Zealand’s competitive • advantage and “our clean green brand”. • And “Government leadership is needed • to address Canterbury’s lack of a proper • allocation plan, increasing problems with • water quality and the failure to progress • opportunities for water storage”. • Nearly 10 years on this makes it sound • like it was a ‘take-over’ by government, • however, almost all parties would agree • that pre-2010 ECan was a dysfunctional • organisation and some of the kinder • comments were that it was a “rudderless • ship”.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The felling and burning of our native • forests were the first steps of getting to • where we are now. So, turning back the • clock is not going to happen and hopefully • we are smart enough to find more • constructive solutions. • Looking at the Canterbury situation may • be useful to see how we got here, at least 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So, what this is getting at is that the • government set in place the body that • oversaw the setting up and completion of • many irrigation schemes and the rapid rise • in dairy cow numbers. • Under the commissioners ECan did not • sit back and do nothing regarding water • quality.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the recent history. Many people in the early • 2000s were voicing concerns about the • water quality in Canterbury and by 2007 • several people opposed to the way ECan • was conducting business in the allocation • of water rights stood for election. • Also, at this time farmer groups were • unhappy with ECan, mainly due to the • large numbers of unprocessed water • consent applications. Total unprocessed • resource consent applications peaked in • 2007-08 at about 2500 with water making • up a large proportion of these. • Due to the general dissatisfaction • after the 2008 general elections, the • Government set up an investigation (led • by Wyatt Creech) and in 2010 sacked the • then elected members and appointed • seven commissioners to address the • “urgent problems with water management • in Canterbury”. • The then Minister for the Environment • Dr Smith said efficient water management • was crucial to New Zealand’s competitive • advantage and “our clean green brand”. • And “Government leadership is needed • to address Canterbury’s lack of a proper • allocation plan, increasing problems with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten water zones within the ECan • region based upon water catchments, • have community-elected zone members • overseeing the use and quality of water • within their zone. • These zones are based upon existing • water quality trends and current land uses. • The first to be set up and the zone that has • received the most (negative) publicity is • the Selwyn Zone and this arguably has the • greatest problems with most catchment • water inside of the Rakaia and Waimakariri • rivers which form its boundaries ending • up in Lake Te Waihora/Ellesmere. • This is (largely) the region that Dr Joy is • suggesting all cows and irrigation need to • be removed from. The current regulations • that came in 2017 are based upon a • premise that the catchment overall can • sustain a loading of 15kg of nitrogen per • hectare. Given that most dairy farms are • operating at somewhere between 35-50 • (there are outliers at both ends) there is • quite a way to move. • However, it should be recognised that • not many years ago under (inefficient) • flood irrigation techniques there were • farms leaching at over 100kgN/ha. The
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water quality and the failure to progress • opportunities for water storage”. • Nearly 10 years on this makes it sound • like it was a ‘take-over’ by government, • however, almost all parties would agree • that pre-2010 ECan was a dysfunctional • organisation and some of the kinder • comments were that it was a “rudderless • ship”. • Probably what most people in • Canterbury have been upset about is the • time it has taken to get ECan back to a • democratically-elected body as, despite • promises these would occur in 2013, it • will not be until October this year that • elections finally take place. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current sprinkler systems are a far more • efficient use of water and have reduced • leaching due to better control over timing • and amounts of water applied. • Within the Selwyn District there is over • 100,000 hectares of irrigated land. • A shorten precis’ of the new rules • farmers in the zone now need to operate • under are: • Since 2017, any farm greater than • 10 hectares and using irrigation must • complete a Farm Environment Plan • (FEP) which requires farmers to use best • practice and keep nitrogen levels below • the baseline set by the 2009-13 average.
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Fernside stream restoration project kicks off

Date: 19 Jun 2019

CATEGORY: [NEWS](#) | [Zone Committee](#) | [Biodiversity](#) | [Zones](#) | [Environment](#)

ZONE(S): [WAIMAKARIRI](#)

- Work has begun on a collaborative stream restoration project with 15 Fernside landowners joining forces to improve a 1.8km waterway which flows from a springhead near the Number Four Drain to Fernside Road.
- A fence has been removed and sediment cleared from the stream to protect the springhead. Riparian planting will start in spring with a minimum setback of five metres from the stream to improve in-stream health and biodiversity.

Immediate Steps Funding provides a contribution

- The group of farmers and lifestyle block owners received \$49,710 of [Immediate Steps funding](#) from the Waimakariri Zone Committee for native plants, plant guards and maintenance. The landowners are contributing over \$125,000 of “in kind” resources to the riparian planting project.
- Riparian planting will provide shade which in turn reduces water temperature and decreases the amount of exotic weed growth. A wider range of plant species will increase habitat value and sediment traps will help to increase water flow and reduce run-off into the stream.
- [Waimakariri Zone Committee](#) chair David Ashby, whose farm borders the springhead, says due to the size of the project the work will be carried out in stages. He sees the project as a pilot to understand the best way for different groups of landowners to work together to improve local streams and rivers.

Making change happen

- “It’s a massive project and we’re all going to work together to make it happen. It’s about talking the talk and walking the walk to make change happen.
- “We’ve all got different roles to play in this project with one person setting aside a large paddock to create a wetland and everyone giving up a bit of their land to make this vision a reality.
- “Hopefully in the future, we’ll see a significant improvement in this waterway and the return of native species such as kēkēwai (freshwater crayfish).”

7.4 Matters for the Media

Author: Hamish McFarlane, Chairperson

Recommendation

That the Committee considers any issue discussed that may make a story for the media.

Purpose of Report

- 1 To reflect on matters discussed that may be suitable for a media story.

Attachments

Nil

8 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

9 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters