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Waitaki
DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

To the members of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee

MEMBERSHIP

Barry Shepherd (Chairman)
Mathew Bayliss
Jay Graybill
Lisa Anderson
Simon Cameron
Russell Armstrong
Sandra Hampstead Tipene

Moeraki Representative (vacant)
John Sunckell
John Wilkie
Richard Subtil
Craig Dawson

Notice is given of the Meeting of the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Management Committee to be held on Friday 16 December, 2016, at 9.30am

VENUE: Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel

BUSINESS: As per agenda attached

WAYNE BARNETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MICHAEL ROSS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

	Upper Waitaki Zone Committee Meeting Friday 16 December 2016 at 9:30am Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel	
9:00 am	Arrive / Cup of tea	
9:30	Standing Items: Apologies, Minutes, Correspondence, Regional Committee update, facilitator update	3 + 10
9:45	ZIP Delivery: Plan Change 5 reply	14 Devon Christensen
10:15	ZIP Delivery: Monthly verbal update on actions Summary of compliance monitoring 2015/2016	Michael Hide 16
10:35	Strategic Discussion: Wairepo Creek Managing visitor impacts	Nic Newman
11:00	Morning tea	
11:15	Zone Committee: Feedback on draft Annual Report Election of Chair, Deputy, and Regional Representative	Nic Newman 19 24
11:30	General Public General Business	
11:45	Meeting close	
12:00 – 1:30pm	Field Trip	

**ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY
MACKENZIE AND WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, HELD AT THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY INN,
TWIZEL, ON 18 NOVEMBER, 2016 AT 9.30 AM**

PRESENT:

Lisa Anderson
Russell Armstrong
Craig Dawson
Jay Graybill
Sandra Hampstead-Tipene
Barry Shepherd (Chair)
Richard Subtil
John Sunckell
John Wilkie

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nic Newman, Zone Committee Facilitator
Philippa Beckman, Acting Secretary, Environment Canterbury
Graham Sullivan, Biosecurity Manager (Timaru), Environment Canterbury
Michael Hide, Zone Manager, Environment Canterbury
Zella Smith, Team Leader Consents Planning (Timaru) Environment Canterbury
Murray Valentine (Private Sector)
Rob Young (Mackenzie Country Trust)
Mike Neilson (Mackenzie Country Trust)
John Benn (DOC)
6 members of the public

WELCOME:

The Chair welcomed all members and visitors to the meeting. He invited John Wilkie to open the meeting with a karakia.

The Chair welcomed back Mr Craig Dawson, Councillor Waitaki District Council, as Waitaki District Council Representative on the Zone Committee. He also welcomed Mr Russell Armstrong, Ms Jakki Guilford (absent from this meeting) and Mr John Sunckell onto the committee as representatives from the Mackenzie District Council, Waimate District Council, and Environment Canterbury respectively.

APOLOGIES:

Resolved: that apologies be received from Peter Ramsden and Matt Bayliss

Chair/ John Wilkie

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING:

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2016 be confirmed and adopted as a true record with the following corrections:

Page 5: First sentence should read:

The committee provided feedback regarding approaching the Department of Conservation (DOC) for any information they may have on galaxiids; in particular in the Omarama Stream and catchment.

Page 5: Strategic: Recreation and Amenity – Jet Boating.

The paragraph beginning “Jay Graybill” should be replaced with the following:

“Jay Graybill expressed his concern regarding sports and native fish life and braided river birds, particularly during their spawning and nesting periods. He also expressed concern about the disturbance and safety of recreational users affected by jet boats. He added that it is a primary function of the Zone Committee to monitor these risks; remaining informed and offering assistance.

Chair/ Craig Dawson

CORRESPONDENCE:

Nil

REGIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Barry Shepherd reported that the Regional Committee has not met since the previous update was given to this committee, but that he attended a Regional Committee field trip up the Rangitata. Among the points of interest on this trip, he noted in particular the excellent job carried out on weed eradication in a programme coordinated by DOC and involving ECan and landholders.

Further discussion on braided river weed eradication in the Upper Waitaki zone followed. Points raised included:

- A question regarding the plan for weed eradication around the “hot tub” area and in braided rivers lower down the catchment. WDC action is programmed at the hot tub area – Craig to follow up.
- Discussion around exploring what other sources of funding such as Intermediate Steps funding could be sought.
- A comment from John Benn (DOC attendee) that any weed eradication project requires long term commitment for control and maintenance. He suggested seven years of funding as a starting point.
- A suggestion that Robert Carson-Isles (ECan Biodiversity Officer for Southern Zones) be invited to meet with this committee to discuss a possible course of action and possible sources of funding.

COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATE

Barry Shepherd advised the committee that from the end of the year he wished to resign as Chair.

Action: Nic Newman will draw up a paper for the next meeting regarding selection of committee officers and representation on the Regional Committee.

Jay Graybill advised the committee that he has been having ongoing discussions between the Jetboating Association, Fish & Game, and DOC.

FACILITATOR UPDATE:

Nic Newman consulted the committee regarding the possibility of a field trip as part of to the December public meeting. Possible venues were suggested, including two Ruataniwha salmon farms. Nic will liaise with Rick Ramsey in planning this.

ZIP DELIVERY: Work Programme Development

Michael Hide provided a verbal report on recent activity:

1. Signage.
Three signs are expected to be up within the next two weeks in the DOC campground areas. Committee input was invited on what should be included. Discussion points included:
 - a. John Wilkie advised that he had held consultations with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, who will send a hikoi to the area to see what is needed regarding public education of its cultural significance.
 - b. Committee members suggested that to maximize the educational opportunities of the signs a QR code be included to enable access to a range of relevant site information.
2. Willowburn Stream
Willow and other weed tree species removal, stock removal and fencing are underway, and planting is planned. A timeline of approximately two years has been allowed for planting. It should be noted that this project does not qualify for Immediate Steps funding.
3. Omarama.
Omarama has the potential to get community groups organized for plantings and maintenance. Committee discussion was held regarding the campside area and problems causing by increasing numbers of Freedom Campers. Points raised included:
 - a. Is it possible to get data on the numbers of Freedom Campers?
 - b. What is the best method for public education on the importance of appropriate hygiene practice?
 - c. Could a storyboard of Maori history of the area (including moa sites) be added to encourage more respect for the area?
 - d. How can the donation boxes be best placed?

It was noted that MfE funding applications for Willowburn were declined, but other opportunities are expected.
4. Water Metering
 - a. Telemetry is ongoing and coverage increasing.
 - b. There will soon be a good coverage of meters through the region. There have been some problems with older meters, but it is the consent holder's responsibility to comply with regulations and maintain the equipment.
 - c. The next compliance stage is reviewing more complex water consents. This work has started on some properties and will increase.

WILDING CONIFER CONTROL PROGRAMME 2016/17 (Graeme Sullivan)

Refer pp 7-24 of the agenda.

Graeme Sullivan briefed the committee on the national wilding conifer programme and what it means for the Upper Waitaki region. In addition to the report in the agenda, Mr Sullivan provided further background information:

1. Wilding conifers are a pest of national significance. Canterbury has been allocated \$2.9 million for the wilding conifer control programme in 2016/17 out of a budget of \$4 million; the difference to be made up by landowners, ECan, DOC and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ).
2. The initial focus will be aerial spraying and physical clearing of young (pre-cone) trees. The Ministry for Primary Industry determines priority control areas.
3. In Upper Waitaki, good background work has been undertaken in Hakataramea and other areas since the 1990s.
4. Six priority areas are discussed in the report, along with funding partnerships.

Committee discussion raised some questions and observations:

- How can seed sources be controlled?
 - Shelter belts will need to be dealt with (phased programme)
 - A regulatory framework will need to be developed.
 - Pest species need to be more fully identified and defined as such.
 - More information and education is needed in towns. Amenity planting and home gardening are both sources of unwanted seed in wind pollinated plants.
 - This provides an opportunity for ECan's Communications to promote education.
 - A national political announcement is expected soon regarding pest declaration.
- One issue that needs resolving is the inequality of people's problems, with some very strongly impacted and others much less so. One way around this is the possibility of a rate, which would spread the responsibility.

CONSENT APPLICATION PROCESS (Zella Smith)

Refer pp 25-26 of the agenda.

Zella Smith briefed the committee on the process for interested parties in consent applications. Her report in the agenda explained with examples the difference in law between interested and affected parties; summarised below:

- To distinguish "affected" from "interested" parties the consenting authority refers to s95E of the Resource Management Act and RMA case law. The person must be "...affected in a manner different from the public generally." There must be sufficient information to demonstrate that a person will, or potentially will, be adversely affected (e.g. a dam failing); being "interested" differently from the general public is insufficient.
- Notwithstanding the above, the Supreme Court has emphasized that a consent authority must be cautious before deciding to exclude a party as "interested" only, because of natural justice implications. In identifying affected parties, the consent authority may only exclude very minor or very unlikely adverse effects.
- Potentially adversely affected parties include owners and occupiers of the land or adjacent/nearby/downstream/downgradient land; Tangata Whenua; Ministers of the Crown or the District Council with statutory responsibilities for the site, individuals or organizations whose use or enjoyment of the area

would be affected; adjoining owners/occupiers with sensitive activities; health authorities; or any others whom the consent authority considers is affected in a manner different from the public generally.

ECan has an “interested parties” list. Its Business Support team emails those who have registered their interest, providing the person or organisation the opportunity to explain why they may be affected. This information is considered when making notification decisions or requests for written approvals.

After her presentation, Ms Smith responded to clarifying questions from the committee.

MACKENZIE IRRIGATION COMPANY REPORT (Murray Valentine)

Refer pp 27-28 of the agenda.

Murray Valentine briefed the committee on the Mackenzie Irrigation Company (MIC) and its activity related to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, noting that the company's Board of Directors is elected by the shareholders, and that the 150m m³ referred to in item 1.2 of his report (p27 of the agenda) represents approximately 3% of what goes down the river. He then invited questions or comments from the committee.

- Key questions were around the transfer of shares outside of the Upper Waitaki Zone and how the agreement with Meridian (and Genesis) interfaced with the consenting authority.
- The committee requested a briefing from Environment Canterbury on the Waitaki Water Allocation Plan and on the role of the energy generators in water allocation in the zone.

MACKENZIE COUNTRY TRUST (Rob Young and Mike Neilson)

Refer pp 29-30 of the agenda.

Rob Young and Mike Neilson updated the committee on the work of the Mackenzie Country Trust and a discussion followed about the Trust's work and how to ensure synergy between the Trust and the Zone Committee's activities. In addition to the report (pp29-30 of the agenda), they provided further background information:

- In 2010 a workshop led to a shared vision forum involving 26 parties representing community, farming, tourism and other stakeholder interests. After several meetings the Mackenzie Shared Vision and Strategy, later called the Mackenzie Agreement, was developed and a request for funding and support sent to the Government. Special legislation and funding were turned down.
- The Trust evolved out of this, and in 2014 and 2015 DOC operational funding assistance was secured.
- The trust was launched in early 2016, and has been developing its Terms of Reference, has registered as a charitable trust and for G.S.T, is developing a joint management agreement, trademark and intellectual property rights, and secured some funding from DOC, MfE and Bluelake Investors. In the 18 months it has been underway its operation is secured, but it will need new funding sources.
- The aim of the trust is to secure large scale protection of landscape and biodiversity.
- An Eco-points scheme has been piloted, in which landholders doing environmental improvements such as maintaining tussock (e.g. through grazing only lightly if at all) can receive a financial benefit.
- Looking ahead, an eco-scheme for tourists in which they exchange a donation for e.g. airpoints; tour passes etc. can be explored. Companies may also be interested in exchanging donations for branding rights.

Following this introduction, the Chair invited suggestions on how the Zone Committee can help and how to establish synergies with its activities. He gave the examples of wilding pine clearing and re-establishing/maintaining tussock, which are part of the committee's work programme. Discussion followed:

- Large scale coverage is better than piecemeal. This requires coordination and exploration of joint ventures, as it involves both public and private land.
- Six levers that the zone committee has available to give effect to the agreement to work with the trust are outlined in the report (see bullet points, p29 of the agenda). An additional lever is tenure review. Tenure review is not controlled by the trust, and it cannot become involved in it or it would lose the confidence of farmers. Its intention is to add to not replace or compete with existing processes.
- The Zone Committee could help by:
 - Lobbying
 - Providing assistance with science, technology help, data
 - Assisting with administration

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Chair invited all the meeting participants including general members of the public to raise any areas of general business.

1. John Benn (DOC) advised the committee of an upcoming DOC publication called *Mackenzie Plant Me Instead*, which lists recommended native and undesirable introduced plant species. A draft of the list was circulated, and the final copy is expected to be on the DOC website within the next few weeks.
2. A member of the public representing the Ohau Conservation Trust advised the committee that it has Lake Middleton as a priority project and would like to work with other parties on this objective. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between this trust and DOC, ECan, and the Mackenzie District Council, which comes up for renewal in 2017.
3. Russell Armstrong advised the committee that a Government-established working party on freedom camping guidelines did not include a representative from Mackenzie District Council. Next meeting Mr Armstrong will report any update on this to the committee.
4. Rick Ramsey advised the committee that an aquaculture environmental plan has been submitted to ECan for review.
5. Jen Miller and Di Lucas (Forest and Bird Society) made a strong call for tenure review in the zone to allow restoration of contiguous tussock areas, and for the trust to focus on establishing a 100,000ha dryland park in the zone.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Friday 16 December 2016 at the Mackenzie Country Inn in Twizel.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1:10pm**

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____

AGENDA ITEM NO:	SUBJECT MATTER: Update from Upper Waitaki Zone
REPORT BY: Barry Shepherd, Chair and Nic Newman, Facilitator	
DATE OF MEETING: December 13 th , 2016	

Purpose: To update the regional committee on progress, current work, challenges and opportunities in Upper Waitaki.

Action Required: Receive the update.

Update from Upper Waitaki

1. The critical things needed to deliver the CWMS targets in the zone are:
 - Managing the cumulative effects of resource-use on water quality and the implementation of PC5 Waitaki
 - Continued community buy-in to CWMS and the collaborative way of working
 - Weed and Pest management
 - Integration of District planning, regional planning, and the work of the Mackenzie Country Trust
 - Managing the effects of visitors on the recreational experience in the zone

2. What has been achieved/advanced over the last 6 years are:
 - Community agreement on water quality limits and how to manage to these limits
 - Over \$500,000 of biodiversity projects funded in a zone with a small number of landowners with good landowner buy in
 - Innovative ways of using funding i.e. ring-fencing funding to give certainty to a pre-emptive weed control programme and pre-approving funding in a catchment for a finite time period to incentivise action
 - A whole of stream rehabilitation project underway with landowners and wider community
 - An Integrated Monitoring Framework (ongoing) that firstly brings together regional council, consent holder, and other agency monitoring data into a central portal that is accessible to the public, and secondly looks to best use this data by responding to gaps and redundancy.
 - The initial impetus and recommendations that ended in the split of the South Island long-fin eel quota.

3. We are currently working on/ will be working on, and the challenges are:

- Our stream rehabilitation programme in the Willowburn. The main challenge is maintaining momentum and bringing all parties along.
- Investigations in the zone into ground water and surface water interactions in a sensitive catchment and into lake re-connection. Challenge is how to advance findings re: potential planning changes and funding for catchment interventions.
- Integrated Monitoring Framework. The challenge is in catchments with complex consent conditions which are contrary to an integrated framework and how we resolve this in an equitable way.
- Plan Change 5 Waitaki is in the hearing phase. The challenge will be to ensure plan implementation – especially awareness, understanding and compliance is effectively carried out in a way that retains the integrity of what is trying to be achieved.
- Educating visitors to minimise their impact on our lakes. The challenge is around freedom camping and fragmented responsibility. There is a need for education, rules, facilities, and enforcement.

4. The regional committee could add value to the work of our zone by:

- Continuing to support the collaborative process and champion the CWMS
- Taking forward cross zone issues with central government, as in the long-fin eel quota example

UPPER WAITAKI ZONE COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

MEETING 13TH NOVEMBER 2016

- Two new members were welcomed onto the Committee, Russell Armstrong for the Mackenzie District Council and a re-cycled member Craig Dawson Waitaki District Council.
- The Committee inspected the lower Willowburn project site and Nohonga and were pleased with the outcomes of the Willow removal so far.
- The Zone manager reported a new strain of rabbit calicivirus to be released March 2017. He updated the work programs emphasising the Willowburn project, the Aquaculture environment plan and visitor impacts.
- The Zone manager reported with the establishment of the Zone teams, the teams are better placed to be able to help with the bureaucratic angle of any Environmental enhancement projects or parts of in various applications, as the cost and effort required for these has been identified as a barrier to them proceeding.
- The Committee received a report on smart watering from I.N.Z.
- The D.O.C representative reported that a non-notified consent issued in the Zone had failed to notify D.O.C. as affected party. The Zone Manager will follow up.
- Graeme Sullivan updated the Committee on the wilding conifer control program for 2017. The Government is to provide \$16 million over the next four years supplementing the current annual spend of \$11 million. Canterbury has been divided into Zones with the Godley Zone (137,256 ha) in the Upper Waitaki to attract nearly \$400k of funding. Wilding Conifers currently occupy almost 6% of N.Z. land area and at current spending this figure is expected to rise to 20% by 2035.
- The Mackenzie Country Trust reported on its progress. The Zone Committee supports the Trusts objectives and both parties encourage the synergies that exist and may be created. They reported some

funding has been received and that an Iwi Trustee is being sorted out and a joint management agreement is being drawn up.

It's been a great spring in the Upper Waitaki with amazing grass growth and all creeks and streams running.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM THE UPPER WAITAKI



AGENDA ITEM NO:	SUBJECT MATTER: Plan Change 5 Reply
REPORT BY: Devon Christensen	
DATE OF MEETING: December, 2016	

Purpose: To update the Waitaki Zone Committees on the PC5 Section 42A Reply Report

Action: The principal issues addressed in the Reply Report, that are relevant to the Waitaki, will be presented to the committees at their December meetings.

Background:

The PC5 hearing of submissions commenced on 22 of August and concluded on 6 October 2016. The hearing of submissions opened with the Hearing Officers presenting and responding to questions on the Section 42A Report¹. In the following weeks submitters were heard on their submissions.

After the hearing of submissions, the Hearing Officers developed a Reply Report which responds to matters raised in legal submissions and evidence presented to the Hearings Commissioner during the course of the hearing of submissions. The Reply Report recommends further amendments to PC5, on matters not addressed in the Section 42A Report or matters that have been reconsidered subsequent to the hearings of submissions. On 2 December 2016 the Reply Report was made available to the public and can be accessed at:

<http://ecan.govt.nz/publications/general/PC5LWRP-S42A-Reply-Report.pdf>

The recommended amendments included in the Reply Report are intended to assist the Hearing Commissioners in their deliberations on PC5. It should be noted that it is uncertain whether the Hearing Commissioners will choose to accept these recommendations in their final report and recommendations.

The principal issues addressed in the Reply Report, that are relevant to the Waitaki, will be presented to the committees at their December meetings. These issues included requested amendments to:

¹ The purpose of the Section 42A Report is to provide the Hearing Commissioners with a summary and analysis of the submissions made on PC5 and where appropriate, makes recommendations on possible amendments to PC5 in response to those submissions.

- the water quality outcomes and limits tables;
- PC5 policies relating to natural variation, adaptive management and freshwater biodiversity;
- tangata whenua provisions to provide for mahinga kai enhancement;
- permitted activity rule thresholds and permitted activity rules relating to existing water permits;
- reduce the complexity of the rule framework;
- the requirement to reduce to 90% of the GMP Loss Rate in the Hakataramea River Zone and the Greater Waikākahi Zone;
- to the PC5 maps relating to Lake Alexandrina and Benmore Station.

At the Reply Hearing on the 12 December 2016 the Hearing Commissioners will ask questions of the Hearing Officers regarding the content of the Reply Report. The Hearing Commissioners will then deliberate the final recommended amendments to PC5.

AGENDA ITEM NO:	SUBJECT MATTER: Compliance monitoring summary for 2015/2016
REPORT BY: Michael Hide, Zone Manager	
DATE OF MEETING: 16 th December, 2016	

Purpose:

To provide the zone committee with a summary of the monitoring results for the Upper Waitaki Zone for 2015/2016.

Attached: Upper Waitaki Zone monitoring report 2015/2016

Action:

The committee receive and provide feedback on the monitoring reports for 2015/2016.

Background

In June 2016 the zone committee established some compliance monitoring priorities for the zone. These priorities will guide how monitoring staff focus their efforts in 2016/2017. Given the timing, the attached monitoring results for the 2015/2016 season do not necessarily reflect the priority approach agreed by the zone committee in June 2016.

UPPER WAITAKI 2015-2016 Monitoring Results

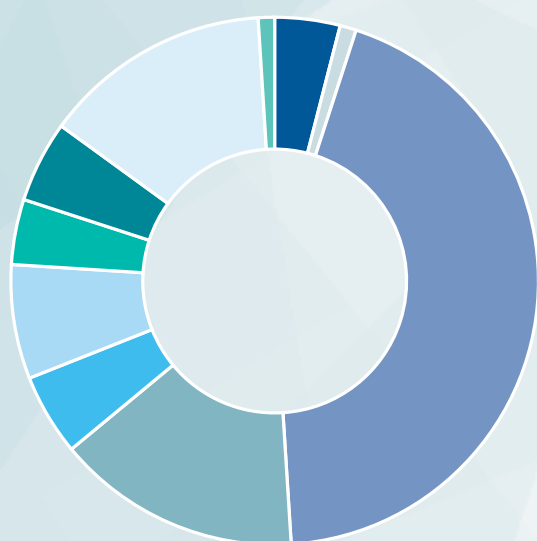
Our goal – to facilitate the sustainable development in the Canterbury Region

We use a range of regulatory and non-regulatory tools to achieve this outcome across land, air, water and coasts. It is everyone's responsibility to comply with the relevant regulatory rules and requirements. To enable this we:

- ◆ **MONITOR** compliance with relevant rules and resource consents in accordance with our statutory responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)
- ◆ **ASSESS** compliance with these requirements and
- ◆ **WORK** with property owner or consent holder to achieve compliance and
- ◆ **TAKE** enforcement action where required.

◆ *What we monitored...*

162 consents



Main types of events monitored

- Groundwater abstraction 4%
- Agricultural discharge 1%
- Surface Water abstraction 44%
- Industrial discharge (air, land and water) 15%
- Install a bore or gallery 5%
- Wastewater discharge 7%
- Works in waterways and coastal marine area 4%
- Stormwater discharge 5%
- Structures (waterways, coastal, other) 14%
- Gravel extraction 1%

What we found...

ACTIVITY	TOTAL CONSENTS MONITORED	PERCENTAGE	ASSESSMENT GRADE			
			A	B	C	D
Water	78	48%	69	5	4	0
Dairy Discharges	2	1%	0	0	0	2
Industrial discharges	43	27%	36	5	2	0
Landuse activities	39	24%	34	2	2	1
Coastal	0	0%	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	162	100%	139	12	8	3

Action Taken

A/B: Good Practice

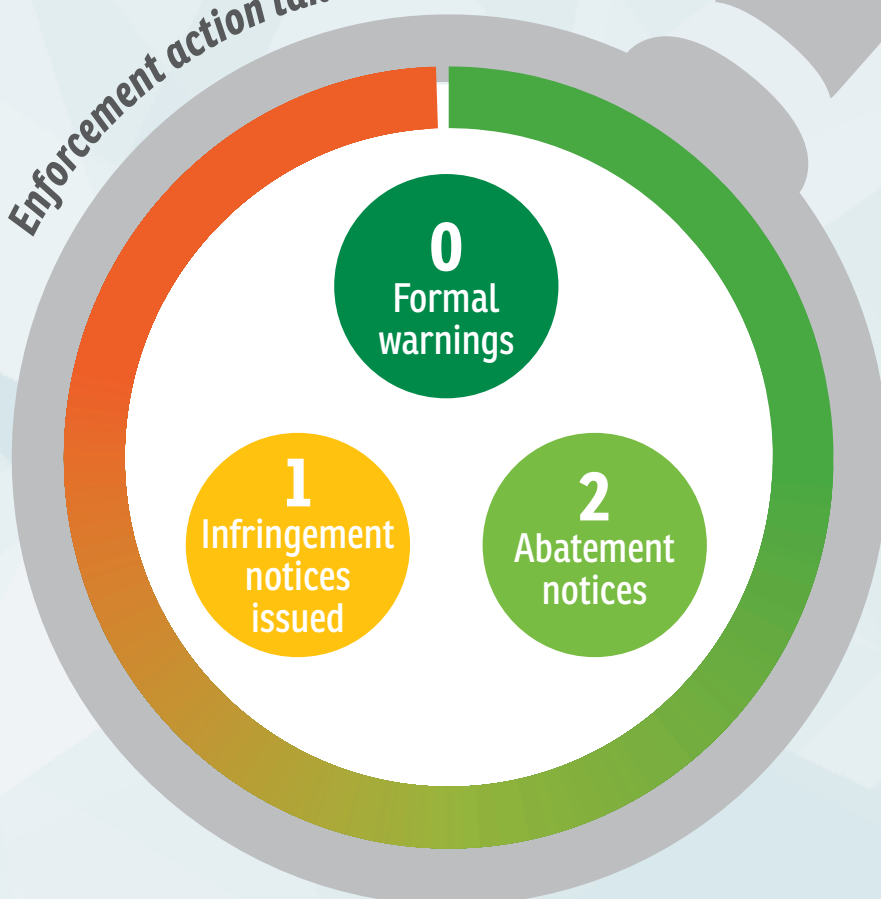
Working with consent holder towards continuous improvement and best practice.

C/D: Compliance issues

Providing advice and assistance and requiring action to be taken as part of an action plan. Actions may be wide ranging depending on the issue.

What we did...

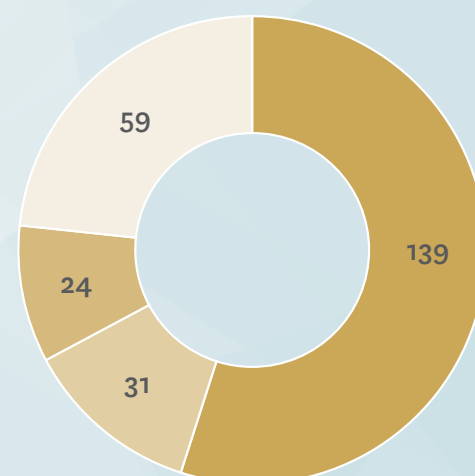
Enforcement action taken...



What our community reported...

Total Pollution Reports by Category

Air 50% Land 19%
Water 14% Other 17%



Of air related pollution reports the majority relate to odour and domestic chimneys

AGENDA ITEM NO:	SUBJECT MATTER: Committee draft annual report
REPORT BY: Nic Newman	
DATE OF MEETING: Friday, December 16 th , 2016	

Actions required

The committee provides feedback on the draft annual report

Attached: draft annual report

Background

Each CWMS committee produces an annual report which summarises highlights, progress, and challenges. The report is used as a way to provide an annual summary of activity to the relevant councils and to the wider community. Following committee feedback, changes will be made to the report.

Annual Report for the Community 2016

Delivering community freshwater aspirations

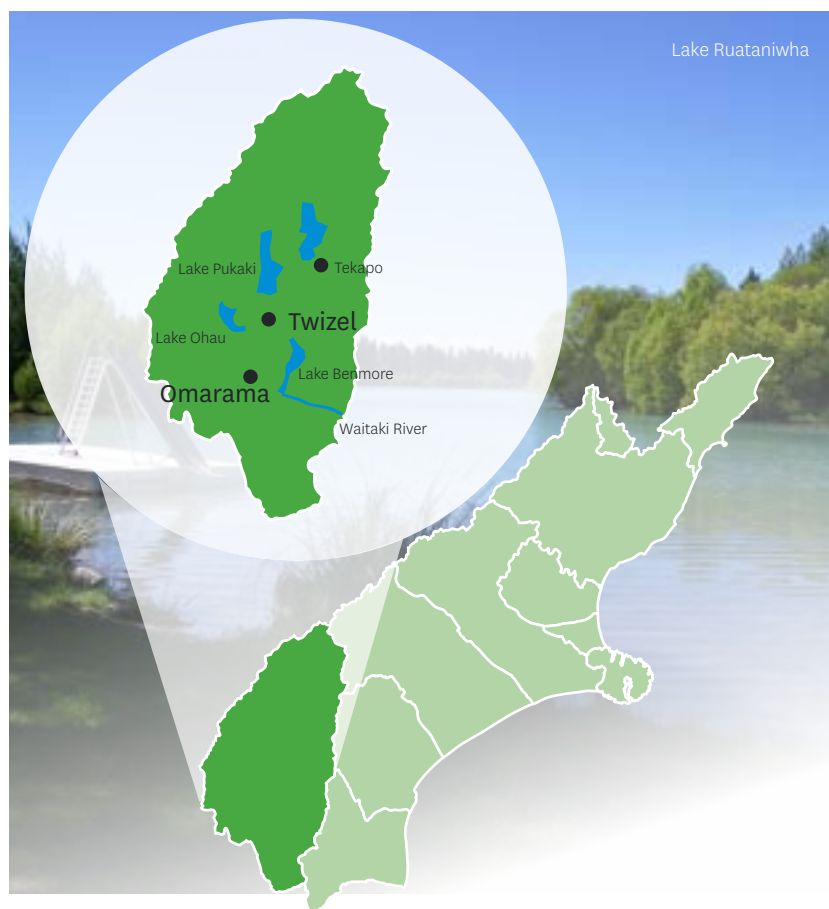
The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee develops actions and tactics to deliver on the 10 targets of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS). The committee was established in 2010 and has worked with the community to develop a Zone Implementation Programme and an Addendum, containing recommendations to deliver on the CWMS, including environmental limits.

This year, Plan Change 5 Waitaki was notified, and the Zone Delivery work programme developed, both of which give effect to the ZIP and Addendum.

Rigorous conversations are had by the committee's membership, which is refreshed regularly to ensure a wide-range of perspectives is reflected.

CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY VISION:

“To enable present and future generations to gain the greatest social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits from our water resources within an environmentally sustainable framework.”



Key achievements

- New science investigations have been secured to fill knowledge gaps
- More than \$500,000 of local community-driven biodiversity protection and enhancement projects have been funded since 2010
- A Willow Burn stream rehabilitation project is underway, involving the local community
- The splitting of the long-fin and short-fin South Island eel quota to enable better management and protection of the species

Upper Waitaki Zone

The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee covers the catchments upstream of the Waitaki Dam, from the Lindis Pass to Burkes Pass, including the Mackenzie Basin and straddles parts of the Waitaki, Waimate and Mackenzie Districts. The committee is a joint committee of the Mackenzie and Waitaki District Councils, and Environment Canterbury. The zone is in the rohe Arowhenua rūnanga, Moeraki rūnanga and Waihao rūnanga.

Zone Committee highlights

Community effort improves water quality in Willow Burn Stream



Willow Burn Stream

The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee recommended the restoration of the Willow Burn Stream as a high priority area and has invested \$170,000 over two years, working with local land owners to improve water quality in the stream.

The project involves working with farmers to exclude stock from the more sensitive reaches of the stream, which flows into the Ahuriri River, and removing willows that impede stream flow. Work will also be carried out to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the stream margins and wetlands associated with the catchment.

The first stage of the willow removal, to provide improved water flow and clarity, took place in August upstream from the confluence of the Willow Burn and Ahuriri with help from with local farmers, DoC, Rūnanga and Alps to Ocean.

Further work will take place over the next three or more years from the confluence with the Ahuriri to the Ohau Range, flowing through intensively and extensively farmed properties. The project is supported by the Benmore Irrigation Company with four of their shareholders owning property that the stream flows through.

Community planting and weed control events are planned for next year and some information signage will be installed on-site.

The zone committee has also allocated Immediate Steps biodiversity funding to a number of restoration projects in the area.

Improving scientific understanding

Gathering as much scientific information as we can is essential in filling knowledge gaps as well as aiding the Zone Committee to make decisions and monitor our effectiveness.

During the year we secured three new science investigations:

- Development of an Integrated Monitoring Framework to share data between Environment Canterbury and the community, providing a 'single source of truth' for data, measuring the effectiveness of the Waitaki Sub-regional plan, and providing data for future reviews of nutrient limits. This work is underway and ongoing.
- A hydrogeology investigation into groundwater movement in the Kellands Pond and Wairepo Catchments, to better understand and manage the movement of nutrients in this area.
- Modelling the feasibility of a re-connection between Lake Middleton and Lake Ohau to improve the state of Lake Middleton and its recreation values.



Lake Middleton



Progress towards achieving CWMS Targets

Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity	We have contributed more than \$500,000 towards biodiversity projects to protect and enhance biodiversity. We have begun a restoration project on our one impacted waterway and we have set water quality limits which will protect ecosystem health and provide habitat protection for vulnerable species.
Natural Character of Braided Rivers	
Kaitiakitanga	Our committee process has enabled the expression of Kaitiakitanga through mana whenua's role in decision making and our process has enabled a broader understanding of customary values associated with water, and we are supporting work at nohoanga (temporary campsites).
Drinking Water	We have set catchment limits for nitrates in our zone.
Recreational and Amenity Opportunities	We have an education campaign underway to encourage visitors to look after our waterways. For the one site in our zone that does not meet the contact recreational standard, we have an investigation underway into the source of the contaminant. Our catchment limits have been set to protect the recreational value of our lakes. Waitaki District Council has installed campsite holding tanks.
Water Use Efficiency	The zone committee supports industry led efforts to increase water use efficiency and the requirement for Good Management Practice will drive water use efficiency. Specific local training is planned for early 2017.
Irrigated Land Area	There is the opportunity to increase the irrigated land area in the zone through consented but non-implemented development and some further development within the catchment limits set.
Energy Security and Efficiency	Catchment water quality limits will protect energy security in the zone
Regional and National Economies	Current contributions to regional GDP from the zone's industries are: Hydro \$660M, Tourism \$90M, Agriculture \$190M, and Aquaculture \$25M . Our zone will contribute to new growth in regional and national economies through aquaculture, agriculture and tourism.
Environmental Limits	We have completed recommendations for water quality limits for all of our zone.

Protecting biodiversity

Critically endangered Bignose get a helping hand

A small spring-fed stream network at Clifton Downs is home to the critically threatened Bignose Galaxias, a small native fish only found in the Mackenzie Basin.

Highly vulnerable to predation by trout and other salmonids, these unique pencil shaped creatures burrow down into the springhead gravel to spawn, where they can become vulnerable to damage by stock.

Protecting the habitat and spawning areas of these tiny native fish is a priority of the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee, which has worked over the past winter to fence an area of the Twaddles Swamp as part of a large, high quality fencing project undertaken by the landowner.



Caption: Braemar Station Hamish Mackenzie boulders gully



Twaddles Swamp, Omarama

Maryburn stream environment enhanced

Simon Hills Station recently took some excellent steps to protect the natural ecosystems, including invertebrates and native plants, on their doorstep. The farm has been undertaking a comprehensive program to exclude stock from the entire length of their side of the Maryburn, with more than 2.5km of fencing installed, supported by Zone Committee funding. Removing stock will eliminate any stock damage to the bed and banks of the stream and reduce sediment inputs.

As the nearby wetland has also been fenced, and weeds removed along the stream margins, this project is benefiting the entire length of stream and its surrounds.

Unique tarn protected

The glacial landform features are evident at the Boltens Gully Lagoon, which has unique features requiring a special form of response from the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee. Landowner concern about protecting this significant natural area and the specialised turf communities around this kettle hole tarn led to stock fencing being funded over the last year. These sorts of tarns are periodically dry, but this particular tarn has a continuously wet area in its middle with turf communities around its outside, creating a rich ecosystem in a small area.

Zone Implementation Programme Progress

Subsequent to completing a ZIP Addendum in 2015, the zone committee and Environment Canterbury put together a work programme, which identified six key areas of work.

1. Water quality is improved in priority waterbodies requiring remedial action

- A complete stream walk of the Willow Burn was carried out to gather baseline information and to inform management interventions. Stage one of willow removal complete, fencing agreements underway with farmers, incentive funds set-aside by Zone Committee.

2. All land is managed at good management practice (GMP) and collectives are encouraged and supported

- Priority catchments have been confirmed.
- An Environmental Management Strategy has been developed with Benmore Irrigation Company
- 100% of Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) have been completed with Benmore Irrigation Company and 70% with the Forks, Irishman, Maryburn catchment group.

3. There is increased protection and enhancement of the zone's biodiversity:

- More than \$500,000 of biodiversity projects have been funded in the zone
- The Waitaki Sub Regional Plan Change provides as easier consent pathway as an incentive to protect biodiversity

4. There is widespread community understanding of and compliance with the Waitaki sub-regional section of the LWRP and WCWARP

- The Waitaki Plan Change 5 was notified in 2016 and hearings held

5. We have increased catchment knowledge in priority areas (science) and we understand the effectiveness of interventions (monitoring)

- The creation of an integrated monitoring framework for the Waitaki is underway
- with a gap analysis completed and work underway in pilot catchments.
- New investigations are underway to better understand groundwater movement in the Kellands Pond/Wairepo catchments, and to understand the feasibility of reconnecting Lakes Middleton and Ohau.

6. There is widespread ownership of catchment health by the community

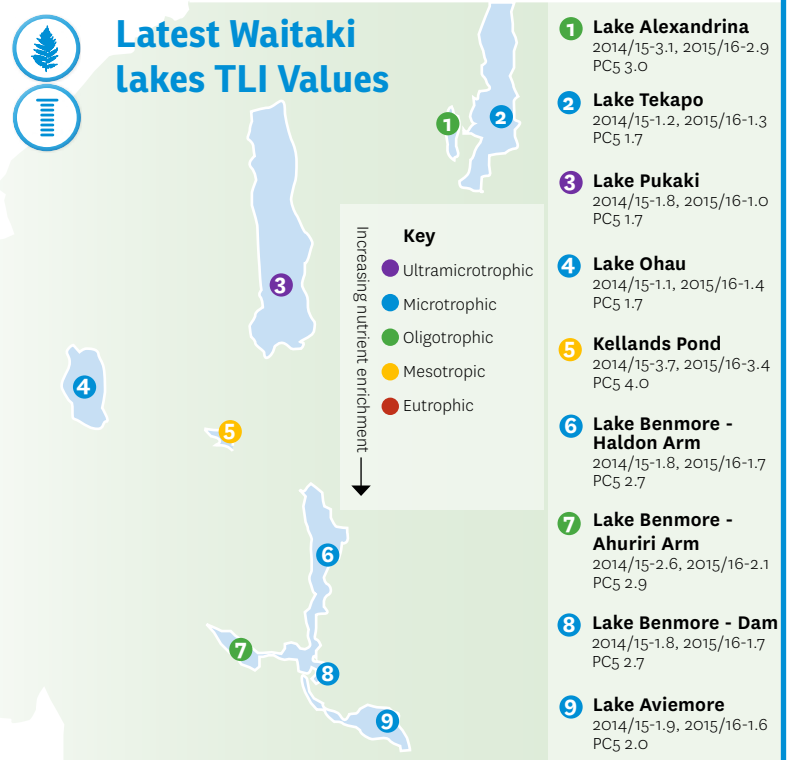
- A 'Love your Lakes' campaign has begun to encourage visitors and recreational users to use facilities and take their rubbish with them

Waitaki lakes maintain good water quality ²³

The latest monitoring results for the Waitaki lakes show the lakes are maintaining good water quality.

Lakes Tekapo, Pukaki and Ohau all show they are maintaining their low nutrient status and nutrient levels at Lake Benmore are being maintained below (better than) its proposed limits (Plan Change 5), which is encouraging for this vulnerable lake system.

The Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore is more enriched than other parts of the lake, but there is no indication that it is getting worse.



The TLI (Trophic Level Index) is an indicator of ecological health of the lake which is calculated from annual average nitrogen, phosphorus and chlorophyll concentrations.

The 'PC5 value' refers to the limits for each lake proposed in Plan Change 5 to the Land and Water Regional Plan.

Looking forward to 2017

While much has been achieved, there is still plenty to do and challenges lie ahead.

2017 will be an important year with the decision on Plan Change 5 Waitaki expected. We will host community meetings explaining the decision once it is settled.

Action on the Willowburn will be ramping up in 2017 with more phases of willow control, on-farm action, and work on the nohoanga area. We are hoping to see some initial positive outcomes from our investment in the Willowburn project next year.

A challenge will be how to use our increased understanding, through science investigations, and how we respond to this new knowledge in achieving our outcomes.

Zone committee members

Barry Shepherd (Chair)
Simon Cameron (Deputy Chair)
Jay Graybill (Community Member)
Lisa Anderson (Community Member)
Mat Bayliss (Community Member)
Richard Subtil (Community Member)

John Wilkie (Waihao)
Sandra Hampstead-Tipene (Arowhenua)
Vacant (Moeraki)
Peter Skelton/John Sunckell (Environment Canterbury)
Garry Kircher/Craig Dawson (Waitaki District Council)
Murray Cox / Russell Armstrong (Mackenzie District Council)

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DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O WAITAKI

Environment Canterbury
Regional Council
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

AGENDA ITEM NO:	SUBJECT MATTER: Election of Chair, Deputy, and Regional Committee Representative
REPORT BY: Nic Newman	
DATE OF MEETING: Friday, December 16 th , 2016	

Actions required

The committee elects its chair, deputy, and regional committee representative

Background

The role of the chair is to: chair zone committee meetings, liaise with the facilitator on zone committee workplanning, speak for the zone committee outside of meetings, and liaise with the media.

The role of the deputy is to fill the above roles when the chair is absent.

The role of the regional committee representative is to represent the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee at and contribute to the working of, the regional committee. The regional committee provides a regional perspective on the CWMS and meets every second month, progressing work through its working groups (e.g. Biodiversity, Infrastructure).

All positions are elected annually, with no limit on re-election.