

Stockwater Transition Working Group

18 September 2025



Stockwater Transition Working Group – 18/09/25

Minutes of a meeting of the Stockwater Transition Working Group held on Thursday 18 September 2025, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, commencing at 1.00pm.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown; Councillors Richard Wilson (Chair) and Carolyn Cameron, John Wright (Consultant), Darrell Hydes (Federated Farmers), Donna Field (ECan), Marcelo Wibmer (ECan)

Via MS Teams Sally Reihana and Treena Davidson (Aoraki Environmental Consultancy), Tracey Perkins (Environment Canterbury)

Also present:

Councillors Russell Ellis and Liz McMillan and three members of the public

In attendance

Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Crissie Drummond (Infrastructure Services Support Lead), and Carol McAtamney (Governance Support).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Stockwater Transition Working Group meeting held on 24 June 2025 be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Mayor

Carried

4 Methven Auxiliary Stockwater Intake Investigation Reports

That the Stockwater Transition Working Group receives the following reports pertaining to the Methven Transition Working stockwater network:

1. BECA – “Summary of Findings – Methven Transition Stockwater Race Network (Ecological Snapshot)” – dated 11 August 2025; and
2. AECL – “Manawhenua Assessment of the Methven Transition Intake Stockwater Race” – dated 10 September 2025.

Cameron/Wright

Carried

5 Intake work update

- Discussions continuing with BCI as an alternate supplier for both Pudding Hill and Methven Auxiliary. A draft Heads of Agreement for BCI and other service providers currently being prepared.
- As soon as that is completed and ready to bring to the group to be signed will then potentially start looking partial closures of Pudding Hill and Methven Auxiliary.
- Spaxton who have pipe network above RDR getting closer to accepting that they may deliver water to below the RDR

6 Limestone Creek Intake work update

- Five stockwater ratepayers were surveyed from mid June to late July 2025.
- Of the five properties two indicated they needed stockwater and 3 indicated they do not
- Melius Limited have now been provided the survey information to enable an assessment of the requirements to be undertaken.

7 Alford Forest Intake work update

- The Alford Forest stockwater intake runs through 14 properties.
- None of the 14 properties pay stockwater rates
- Five of the property owners responds to the public survey
- Melius Limited will be provided the survey information to carry out an assessment of the responses received to see if they rely on the race.

8 Brothers Intake work update

- 149 properties were surveyed, waiting for approx. 30 to reply
- A public drop-in session was held at the Mayfield Hall on Tuesday 2 September which 40 people attended.

General

A question was asked as to whether it was possible to carry out EDNA on ground water that has nitrates in it to establish the source of the nitrates. Marcelo to undertake investigations.

It was advised that the new Council will decide on whether this working group will continue. Once Council has decided, contact will be made with members.

Chair thanked everybody for their input thus far.

9 Next meeting

To be confirmed in the new term of Council.

The meeting concluded at 1.50pm.