

# Stockwater Transition

## Working Group

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### Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Stockwater Transition Working Group will be held on:

*Date:*       **Thursday 4 December 2025**

*Time:*       **1.00pm**

*Venue:*       **Council Chamber** (First floor, Te Whare Whakatare), 2 Baring Sq East

### Core Group Membership

Ashburton District Council

- Cr Richard Wilson (Chair)
- Cr Carolyn Cameron
- Mayor Liz McMillan (ex officio)

Aoraki Environmental Consultancy

- Sally Reihana and Treena Davidson

Federated Farmers

- David Acland

Environment Canterbury

- Marcelo Wibmer

Consultant

- John Wright

| Meeting Timetable |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Time              | Item                            |
| 1.00pm            | Working Group meeting commences |

## Item

## Working Group meeting commences

## 2 Apologies

#### 4 Pudding Hill Race Network – Proposed Closure 3

**5** Intake Work update **22**

**6** Langdons North & South Intake **28**

|          |                                 |           |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>7</b> | <b>Clearwell Springs Intake</b> | <b>30</b> |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----------|

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|          |                        |           |
|----------|------------------------|-----------|
| <b>8</b> | <b>Cracroft Intake</b> | <b>33</b> |
|----------|------------------------|-----------|

28 November 2025

## 4. *Pudding Hill Race Network – Proposed Closure*

|                       |                                                               |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Author                | <i>Andrew Guthrie, Assets Manager</i>                         |
| Activity Manager      | <i>Crissie Drummond; Infrastructure Services Support Lead</i> |
| Executive Team Member | <i>Neil McCann, Group Manager Infrastructure</i>              |

### Summary

- The purpose of this report is to seek working group approval of a recommendation to Council for closure of most of the Pudding Hill race network.
- The scope of the proposed closure comprises all network races supplied by the Pudding Hill intake from their divergence from Mt Harding Creek to their respective discharge points. Refer to plan in Appendix 1.
- The Pudding Hill intake itself and main race from the intake to Mt Harding Creek and down to Draytons gate will continue to operate at this time pending further discussions with Environment Canterbury on future potential environmental augmentation of Mt Harding Creek.

#### **Recommendation to Council**

**That** Council approves:

1. The closure of the Pudding Hill race network from its connections to Mt Harding Creek at Scarness gate and Drayton's gate, to its terminal discharge points.
2. The date of closure being:
  - 2.1 For Rating purposes effective from 30 June 2026.
  - 2.2 For Operational purposes effective from 30 September 2026.
3. That officers commence discussions with Environment Canterbury on the utilisation of the Pudding Hill intake for potential future environmental augmentation of Mt Harding Creek (by others).

### Attachments

- Appendix 1** Plan 3022 - Proposed Pudding Hill Network Race Closure  
**Appendix 2** Signed Heads of Agreement between ADC & BCI

## Background

### The current situation

1. Stockwater for this system is sourced from the Pudding Hill Stream, via the Pudding Hill intake, situated near the end of Hart Road. The intake has been in existence for over 140 years, being formally opened on 31 January 1881, and is notable as the first intake of the then County Council stockwater network. A newspaper report from the day can be found [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.
2. The Pudding Hill intake normally abstracts ~250 litres/second but can peak at ~400 litres/second for short periods of time. The water from the intake is conveyed via a main race to what is now known as Mt Harding Creek. The Mt Harding Creek has operated as a main race and part of the ADC stockwater network since its inception.
3. Key statistics of the race network supplied by the Pudding Hill intake are as follows:
  - Total race network supplied ~220 km comprising:
    - o 26.2 km main race
    - o 186.3 km local race
    - o 6.8 km natural waterway (Mt Harding Creek)
  - 181 rateable properties
  - 93 road culverts
  - 10 siphons under the Rangitata Diversion Race
4. The investigations into the potential closure of the Pudding Hill stockwater intake commenced well-before the 2024 Council decision to exit the stockwater activity. However, once the Stockwater Exit Transition Plan was adopted in December 2024, this work was absorbed into this wider plan and programme.
5. Due to the complexity associated with closure of the Pudding Hill Intake, due mainly to the network's interaction with Mt Harding Creek, we are not proposing to progress a decision on the intake at this time.
6. The race network below its divergences from Mt Harding Creek at Scarness gate and Draytons gate can be closed with only minor operational changes required to the affected intakes and Mt Harding Creek.

### Previous Council Decisions

7. Council previously resolved to investigate potential closure of the Pudding Hill intake and associated race network in May 2022. The agenda is available [here](#) including some useful maps showing the then scope. The minutes for that meeting are available [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Ashburton Guardian, Volume 2, Issue 256, 31 January 1881, Page 2

8. These investigations were being progressed but ultimately the work was suspended as Council considered the merits of complete withdrawal from the provision of stockwater.
9. This became a key decision as part of its consultation on the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Ultimately, following strong support for Council's proposal to exit the stockwater activity by 30 June 2027, Council resolved to proceed with the exit and form a working group to monitor progress.
10. The Stockwater Transition Working Group (STWG) was duly formed.
11. The STWG reviewed the draft Stockwater Exit Transition Plan at its 31 October meeting with a final plan considered at the 5 December meeting. The SETP was subsequently adopted by Council on 18 December 2024. The SETP is available [here](#).

### **Māori and tangata whenua participation**

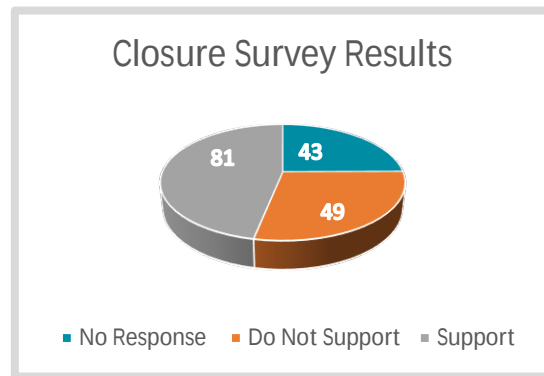
12. Te Rūnaka O Arowhenua is part of the core membership of the STWG and has maintained a representative present at all meetings of the group.
13. Arowhenua's consultancy, Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Ltd, have been providing support for the SETP through the preparation of Cultural Assessments for each intake investigation.
14. The cultural assessment for the Pudding Hill investigations included a site visit to the network. This was undertaken on 16 April 2025. Their assessment report is available on Council's website [here](#).
15. A general summary is provided below:
  - They noted the presence of tuna (eel) in the network remote from the river system was unexpected.
  - Arowhenua supports the fish salvage and relocation plan approach.
  - They request that water no longer required for the network remain in the source rivers.
  - Arowhenua's preference is that where races are no longer required, that these are filled in.

### **Affected Parties**

16. As stated earlier, the investigations for the Pudding Hill system commenced in late 2022 and continued through 2023. Prior to the current SETP programme.

17. The results from a survey undertaken in March 2023, showed strong support for closure of the network.

18. Melius Ltd (John Wright) was engaged to carry out follow-up discussions with landowners to confirm their stockwater requirements. This included following up with landowners that did not respond to the survey.



19. This work (phase 1 report) confirmed that there were **48 properties** that would require an alternative source of stockwater if the race system was closed.

20. Melius Ltd was then asked to identify feasible alternatives to the open race system. The work was captured in the phase 2 report, and detailed concepts for possible network extensions to the BCIL network to service the affected properties. The total combined cost of these extensions was estimated at \$716,000 plus GST.

### Alternate Providers

21. The work completed by Melius Ltd, indicated that Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Ltd (BCIL) has existing piped infrastructure in relatively close proximity to all properties that require a stockwater alternative.

22. Discussions have been ongoing with BCIL management to determine their interest in being an alternate provider of stockwater to these properties.

23. It is only in recent days that agreement has been reached on a Heads of Agreement (HOA). The HOA simply confirms the company's willingness to work towards offering a service to these properties in the absence of the open race network. Refer Appendix 2.

24. The HOA is non-binding, and BCI have indicated that provision of any alternative will need to be financially viable before they commit to providing infrastructure. Notwithstanding the non-binding nature of this agreement, Officers were reluctant to propose a network closure until the HOA was in place.

25. The signing of the HOA by Council would occur following the Council decision.

### Ecological Assessments

26. In late 2024, Beca Consultants Ltd were engaged to carry out an ecological assessment of the Pudding Hill network. This report was finalised in March 2025 and formally received by the STWG on 24 June 2025. A copy of the assessment is available on Council's website [here](#).

27. The executive summary notes “Despite the race network being comprised primarily of man-made watercourses, this assessment has highlighted that there are **moderate to high** ecological values present within the network and that the system supports a range of fish populations including threatened native species such as Canterbury galaxias and Longfin eel.” (emphasis added).
28. The summary also notes “Although the most recent survey work did not confirm the presence of Canterbury Mudfish, it is also possible that these are present in certain parts of the race network, based on previous survey work done by Opus.”
29. The higher ecological values were assigned to sites within the upper reaches of the Pudding Hill system, the majority of which are outside the scope of the proposed closure.
30. In accordance with the recommendations from Beca, it is proposed that a fish salvage and relocation plan be prepared to support the physical race closure process along with engaging with Department of Conservation and securing the appropriate permits from the Ministry for Primary Industries.

## Stormwater Assessment

31. Due to the very expansive nature of the network involved, no specific modelling has been undertaken on the race closure, however, district-wide modelling completed circa 2023 has been used to inform this assessment.
32. Key features in relation to stormwater/drainage in this area are:

- Mt Harding Creek between the Washpen Creek intake and Draytons gate.
- The Dry Creek channel also passes over two key mains and one local race in this network.
- The Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR) also passes through this network with 10 individual crossing points (i.e. races siphon under RDR).
- There are a number of other less formal drainage paths that exist in the area.



33. It is anticipated that there will be changes to the path of overland flows following the closure of the network. The location and magnitude of these changes is difficult to predict without intensive and detailed modelling. This work is beyond the resources of this project and of questionable value anyway.

34. The proposed approach is to progress closure with the knowledge that there may be stormwater issues to investigate and solve post-closure. This approach will ensure the response is targeted to where the issues arise.
35. Council has recently employed a dedicated Stormwater Engineer to assist with urban stormwater and rural drainage matters. It is envisaged that the stormwater engineer will work closely with the ADC roading team, and Environment Canterbury staff when investigating any issues arising.

## Options analysis

36. The following options have been identified.

### **Option one – Proceed with proposed race closure.**

37. Under this option, Council will cease rating for stockwater for the affected properties on **30 June 2026**. The Pudding Hill race network from its two divergences from Mt Harding Creek (at Scarness gate and Draytons gate) to its various terminal discharge points would close from the **30 September 2026**.
38. This approach will have cost implications in terms of reduced income for the period between the “rating” closure and “operational” closure. The loss of income for the 3 months proposed is approximately \$23,000 plus GST.
39. Landowners that require a stockwater service, determined at 48 properties, will be required to seek access to a water supply from an alternate provider. The alternate provider identified for this area is Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Ltd.
40. The cost and management of providing the alternative will be the sole responsibility of the landowners requiring the service and the alternate provider.
41. A fish salvage and relocation plan will be developed, and the necessary permits sought for this work. The salvage plan will then be implemented as close as practicable to the operational date of closure, commencing at the lower reaches and working up gradient.
42. The Pudding Hill intake will continue to be operated as normal, with flows that would normally be directed to the Pudding Hill race network allowed to continue into the Methven Auxiliary race network at Draytons gate. The Methven Auxiliary intake flows will be reduced to compensate.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with Council stated intention to exit the stockwater activity.</li> <li>• Provides clarity to affected landowners.</li> <li>• Confirms Council's commitment to exit the service.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Disadvantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None identified.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water from the alternate provider may not be available at time of closure.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                   |

### Option two – Do not proceed with race closure at this time.

43. Under this option, the race closure will not be considered until the future of the Pudding Hill intake and Mt Harding Creek section is known.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides more time for alternate providers to progress alternatives.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>Disadvantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to demonstrate progress towards the exit is lost.</li> <li>• Affected landowners may continue to ignore implications.</li> <li>• Programme tasks will start to overlap and overload internal resources.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not be progressed until much later in the programme due to complexity around Mt Harding Creek.</li> <li>• Landowners may doubt Council's commitment and delay considering and committing to alternatives.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## Legal/policy implications

### Legislation

#### *Resource Management Act 1991*

44. The stockwater activity has consents issued under the RMA. These consents cover the various activities required to operate the network including water abstraction consents.
45. The Pudding Hill Intake abstraction consent is [CRC213528](#). Condition 9 states: “*The use of water shall be only for stock drinking water, treated domestic and community drinking water, and essential domestic and community use*”.

46. Based on condition 9, this consent does not permit Council to supply water in Mt Harding Creek for environmental augmentation.
47. However, the interim operating model is that the Pudding Hill intake will continue to operate close to normal, with stockwater flows that would have previously been diverted into the Pudding Hill network through Scarness & Draytons gates, will instead be conveyed downstream to supply the Methven Auxiliary race network.
48. The Methven Auxiliary intake flows will be reduced accordingly to compensate for the flows coming from Pudding Hill intake.

## **Plans / Policies**

### *Canterbury Land & Water Regional Plan*

49. The purpose of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (CLWRP) is to “identify the resource management outcomes or goals (objectives in this Plan) for managing land and water resources in Canterbury to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (“RMA”). It identifies the policies and rules needed to achieve the objectives and provides direction in terms of the processing of resource consent applications.”
50. The CLWRP contains a policy directly targeted at the ADC stockwater activity. Policy 13.4.1. reads as follows: *“In order to increase the amount of water in the river that is available to meet the proposed increased minimum flows, the taking of water for community stock water supplies from the Ashburton River/Hakatere will progressively decrease so that as soon as possible, but by no later than 1 July 2023, that taking will not exceed 2,900 L/s in total.”*
51. Council has already achieved the reduction required by this policy.

### *Stockwater Exit Transition Plan*

52. The Stockwater Exit Transition Plan was adopted by Council on the 18 December 2024. The Pudding Hill intake was envisaged to be the first intake to be progressed in the SETP, with this closure being implemented by December 2025.
53. The original timeframes for the individual project phases have proven to be quite ambitious. The complexities around the interaction of the network with natural waterways and reaching agreement with potential alternate providers is certainly adding unforeseen delays to the programme.

## **Agreements**

54. Council has confirmed a Heads of Agreement (HOA) between Ashburton District Council and Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Limited. The HOA is attached as Appendix 2.

## Climate change

55. The proposed closure of this portion of the stockwater network must be considered in the context of climate change and the council's Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy.
56. Climate projections indicate increasing variability in rainfall and more frequent extreme weather events, which will influence water availability and management practices.
57. The stockwater system relies on water availability in key river resources, which come under pressure during prolonged droughts. While it offers some seasonal flexibility, its ability to support resilience under future climate extremes is limited.
58. Although closing the stockwater network could create challenges, such as farmers being required to transition to new reticulated supplies, it also presents opportunities. Closure aligns with Goal 1: Sustainable Water Management, which seeks to ensure resilient water systems, promote efficient use, and improve water quality.
59. It is also noted, the decommissioning of open races may reduce contamination risks and nutrient runoff, contributing to improved water quality outcomes.

## Strategic alignment

60. The recommendation relates to Council's community outcome of **a balanced & sustainable environment** because the progressive closure of open race networks and replacement with individual onsite supply or reticulated supplies (where needed) reduces the overall usage of water for stock purposes.

| Wellbeing     |   | Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Economic      | ✓ | Management of the open race network is labour intensive. Stockwater can be delivered much more efficiently within reticulated networks.                                                                     |
| Environmental | ✓ | Open race systems are very inefficient with in excess of 90% of the water conveyed being lost as leakage to groundwater and evaporation.                                                                    |
| Cultural      | ✓ | Due to the significant reduction in water required to provide stockwater, the unused water is not taken and remains in the source rivers. It is noted that Arowhenua support water remaining in the rivers. |
| Social        | ✗ |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## Financial implications

| Requirement                               | Explanation                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the cost?                         | \$15,000 plus GST.                                                                                                                                                      |
| Is there budget available in LTP / AP?    | Yes.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Where is the funding coming from?         | Provided for under District Water Management Investigations.<br>275 30534                                                                                               |
| Are there any future budget implications? | Yes.<br>If the <b>operational closure date</b> is later than the <b>rating closure date</b> , there is lost income in the approximate amount of \$7,700 plus GST/month. |

61. The costs associated with the stockwater exit programme is being met from budgets in the District Water Management and Stockwater areas. The cost of preparing and implementing a fish salvage and relocation plan is expected to be in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000.
62. From a rating standpoint, it is desirable to cease rating at the end of the rating year as it is not possible to remove rates (in part) during the year. If we select 30 June 2026 to cease rating (i.e. a **rating closure date**), it is very unlikely an alternative supply would be constructed and operational by this time.
63. However, selecting an **operational closure date** beyond this time means Council will be operating the network without income from the properties benefiting. As currently proposed, the loss of income would be approximately \$7,700 plus GST/month.

## Significance and engagement assessment

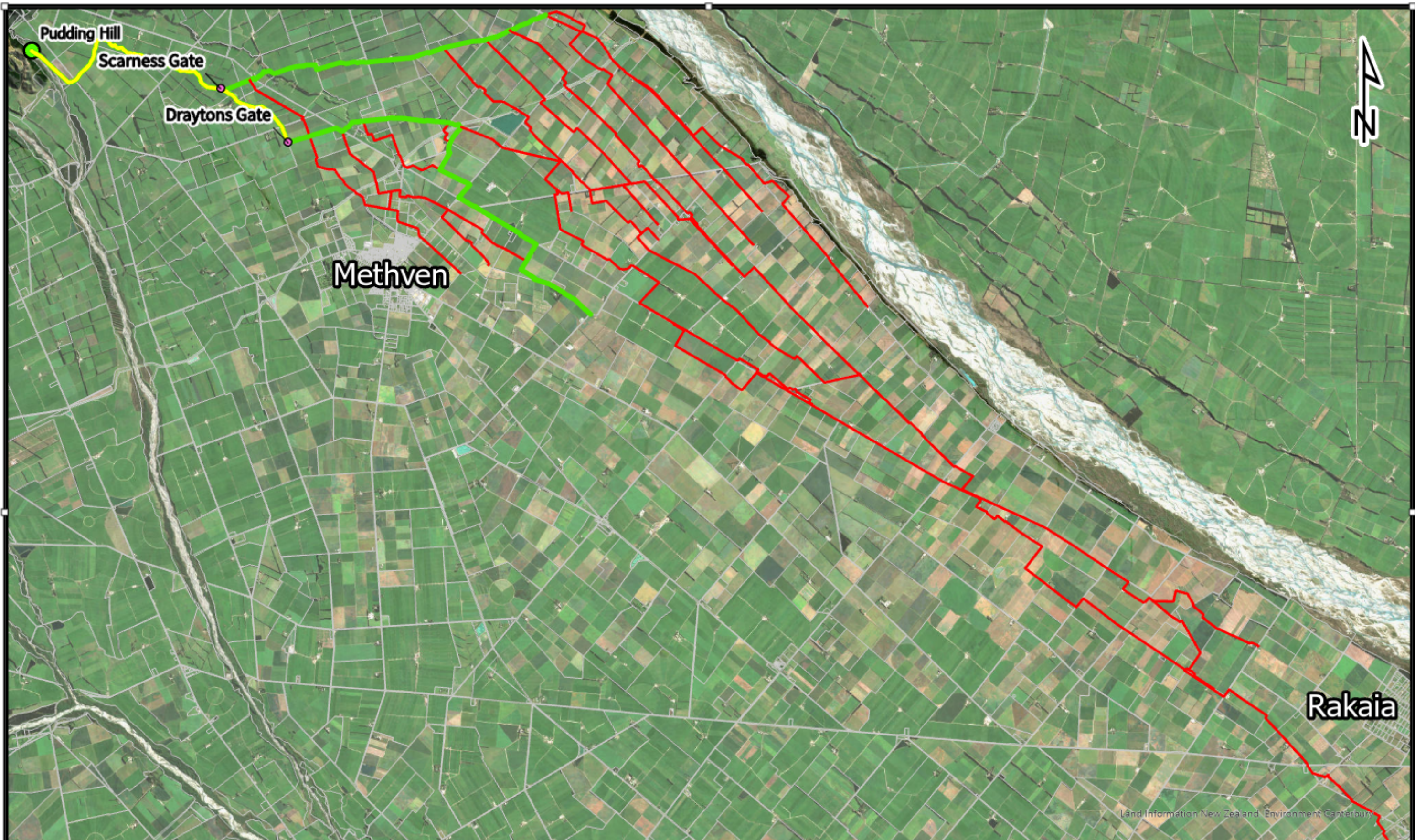
| Requirement                                   | Explanation                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Is the matter considered significant?         | Yes                            |
| Level of significance                         | Medium.                        |
| Rationale for selecting level of significance | N/A                            |
| Level of engagement selected                  | Inform – One-way communication |

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rationale for selecting level of engagement | The investigation into closure of this system has been the subject of extensive consultation. Including one to one communication with Council's project consultant with directly affected landowners. |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Next steps

64. This report will be refreshed and reoriented as a report to Council for the 17 December 2025 meeting agenda.

| Date       | Action / milestone | Comments                        |
|------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 17/12/2025 | Report to Council  | To support STWG Recommendation. |
|            |                    |                                 |
|            |                    |                                 |



|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| PROJECT NAME: | Stockwater_Transition_2025 |
| PREPARED BY:  | A R Guthrie                |
| SCALE:        | 1:100,000 (at A3)          |

Disclaimer Note:  
Cadastral data is sourced from Land Information New Zealand's CRS Cadastral Database. Crown Copyright Reserved Digital Licence No. 133563-01. Any color aerial photography is sourced from Air Logistics New Zealand Ltd.

Due to differences in data registration techniques any aerial photography in the map relative to cadastral boundaries should be considered as indicative only and MUST NOT be used for legal purposes.

The information supplied in this image is sourced from information held by the Ashburton District Council - It is supplied in good faith but its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed.

## Proposed Pudding Hill Network Race Closure

Extent of Race Closures (Races marked in yellow are out of scope)

Path: O:\Projects\Andy\Stockwater\Stockwater\_Transition\_2025.aprx



Plan No: 3022

Sheet 1 of 1 sheets

DATED this

day of

2025

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**BETWEEN**

**ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**and**

**BARRHILL CHERTSEY IRRIGATION LIMITED**

## **HEADS OF AGREEMENT**

 **DAVID STOCK**  
BARRISTER • SOLICITOR

DATE:

**PARTIES:**

- (1) **ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL**
- (2) **BARRHILL CHERTSEY IRRIGATION LIMITED** at Ashburton (Company No. 922777)

**BACKGROUND**

- A Currently ADC distributes stockwater to landholders in Mid Canterbury from a number of take points (ADC Consents) and from water supplied by Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited (*RDRML*) (together, *ADC Stockwater*).
- B ADC has 17 intakes for water spread over the ADC's district and it wishes to transfer the responsibility for supplying stockwater on an intake by intake basis.
- C BCI has infrastructure delivering irrigation water over substantial areas in the ADC's territorial district (*the District*) and has the capacity and ability to also deliver stockwater.
- D The parties wish to progress further discussions on how BCI can deliver stockwater and the principles are set out in this heads of agreement (*HOA*).

**THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

**1 Implementation of Transition**

- 1.1 The parties record that over the next two years ADC wishes to implement a transition from being the supplier of stockwater in the District to the delivery of stockwater being carried out by other parties.
- 1.2 BCI has infrastructure delivering irrigation water over material areas within the District and is ideally placed to deliver stockwater to many landowners in the District. ADC agrees to give BCI the option to deliver stockwater to those areas that are in close proximity to BCI's infrastructure and to the ADC's existing delivery points under the ADC's existing stockwater delivery system.
- 1.3 The parties acknowledge that, in addition to BCI, ADC will also be working with other water providers to facilitate the delivery of stockwater in the District. For the purposes of this HOA, BCI and other water suppliers are collectively referred to as '*Alternate Providers*'.
- 1.4 This HOA sets out ADC's general Stockwater Exit Transition Process with Alternate Providers (section 2) and further terms specific to ADC and BCI (sections 3-8).
- 1.5 The parties agree to work together to enable an orderly transition from ADC to BCI of the option to deliver stockwater in those areas where BCI can provide the infrastructure to meet this requirement.

- 1.6 ADC and BCI acknowledge that it may not be economically viable for BCI to deliver stockwater in certain areas. Nothing in this HOA commits BCI to deliver stockwater to landowners affected by ADC's stockwater exit.

## **2 Stockwater Exit Transition Process with Alternate Providers**

- 2.1 Under its Stockwater Exit Transition Plan, ADC will progress the stockwater exit on an intake-by-intake approach. The parties acknowledge that as it is undertaking its intake investigations, ADC will be considering the implications, future stockwater supply needs and ecological needs at a wider or district level. In parallel to ADC's investigations, ADC will be discussing future stockwater delivery options with Alternate Providers.
- 2.2 To ensure ADC exits stockwater delivery by 30 June 2027, ADC anticipates undertaking the following general process:
- (a) ADC will work with existing stockwater users on an intake-by-intake basis to determine their water supply needs, including in accordance with the process in clause 3.2.
  - (b) In parallel, ADC will decide the intakes that will close and those that will remain open (and the purpose for which they will remain open). For the intakes that remain open, ADC will decide the water allocation required for that intake. ADC anticipates completing this process on or before 1 May 2027.
  - (c) ADC will enter into separate Heads of Agreement with Alternate Providers, outlining the process for the Alternate Providers to supply stockwater to existing stockwater users utilising ADC Stockwater. As a minimum, the Heads of Agreements will give the Alternate Providers assurance that ADC is committed, subject to obtaining the necessary approvals, to providing some of the ADC Stockwater to the Alternate Providers who enter into water supply agreements with stockwater users under clause 2.2(d). ADC will communicate these Alternate Providers to stockwater users.
  - (d) Alternate Providers and the stockwater users will negotiate water supply terms and infrastructure connection costs. The Alternate Providers have until 1 May 2027 to obtain water supply agreements with these stockwater users if the Alternate Providers want to supply them with stockwater from the ADC Stockwater allocation. The parties acknowledge that any water supply agreements may have to be conditional on the Alternate Provider obtaining the necessary water allocation from ADC.
  - (e) By 1 May 2027, the Alternate Providers will notify ADC of the stockwater allocations and volumes needed to supply stockwater users who have signed water supply agreements with an Alternate Provider.

- (f) Provided there is sufficient volume available, ADC will negotiate the transfer or licence of the necessary water rights in the ADC Stockwater to the relevant Alternate Providers.
- 2.3 ADC may transfer the ADC Consents to another entity on or before 1 May 2027, including to enable another entity to be the long term consent holder. In enabling this transfer, ADC will ensure the new consent holder recognises and gives effect to the allocation of stockwater anticipated by the process in clause 2.2.

### **3 Identification of Potential Stockwater Users for Supply by BCI**

- 3.1 ADC and BCI agree that the volume of water to be available from ADC Stockwater will be determined based on 200 litres per day of stockwater being available for every one hectare of land to the delivery area.
- 3.2 ADC will implement a programme to determine the number and location of properties willing to receive stockwater delivered via a BCI piped network, including to:
- (a) Identify the ratepayers of ADC currently being supplied with stockwater who are within the area in the District to which BCI can deliver stockwater (*the Potential Users*).
  - (b) Enter into discussions with the existing Potential Users to ascertain in respect of each current supply point if those Potential Users require an alternative supply of stockwater when the intake currently supplying those Potential Users closes.
  - (c) Transfer the necessary information to BCI, for BCI to make a proposal to those Potential Users for a new agreement being entered into with BCI to supply stockwater at the nominated daily volume in litres per day agreed between BCI and the Potential User.
- 3.3 After 1 May 2027, ADC has no responsibility for identifying or negotiating alternative water sources for Potential Users.
- 3.4 The parties will discuss with a view to reaching agreement on the contractual terms on which BCI will supply stockwater to Potential Users including the following:
- (a) That such delivery is subject to stockwater continuing to be available from the ADC Stockwater (including if these water rights are transferred to another entity).
  - (b) Any restrictions on the use of the stockwater to be provided.
- 3.5 BCI and the Potential Users will agree:
- (a) The cost for the Potential Users to connect their property to the BCI infrastructure so stockwater can be delivered, and how and when the Potential User meets this cost.

- (b) The charges to be paid by the Potential Users to BCI for the delivery of stockwater.

#### **4 Cost of New Infrastructure for Supply by BCI**

- 4.1 ADC and BCI will undertake to investigate the new infrastructure needed to enable connections to be made to the BCI infrastructure from the properties of Potential Users in each area of supply. ADC's role will be limited to developing a "concept level" design for infrastructure to the property boundary and construction estimates to inform discussions between landowners and BCI.
- 4.2 BCI will be responsible for procuring and completing the construction of the infrastructure required for Potential Users to connect to the BCI network.
- 4.3 Neither ADC or BCI are prepared to finance the cost of infrastructure required to connect recipients of stockwater to the BCI network. These costs will be fully met by Potential Users of the stockwater service, who will commit to providing the capital required to enable the construction of new infrastructure.
- 4.4 An agreement to supply any individual property will be prepared by BCI, including the requirement that revenues from the delivery of stockwater are sufficient to cover service delivery costs and a margin as required by the BCI Board.
- 4.5 The Parties agree that the delivery of stockwater can be assigned by BCI in the future, on the condition that any assignee meets the terms of any final service delivery agreement between ADC and BCI. ADC must consent to the assignment or transfer of any water rights to a third party (where such water rights are held directly or indirectly by ADC or a related entity or organisation).

#### **5 Access to Water**

- 5.1 With respect to ADC's RDRML water rights:
  - (a) ADC agrees that where it holds rights from RDRML to take water for that purpose it may licence this right to BCI to the extent required so BCI has the volume of water available to deliver stockwater in replacement of the current stockwater delivery by ADC.
  - (b) Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals, ADC will use its reasonable endeavours to make such arrangements with RDRML that will enable BCI (and where relevant, other Alternate Providers) to take water from the Rangitata Diversion Race at their cost and allow BCI to meet its commitment to supply stockwater to water users. The parties acknowledge that these arrangements will be dependent on ADC completing the process in clause 2.2.
  - (c) ADC acknowledges it has 250 litres per second (l/s) available from RDRML subject to variation and reliability based on the availability of water. ADC anticipates that BCI (and all Alternate Providers) can meet future stockwater demand (based on 200 litres per day of stockwater being available for every one hectare of land to the delivery area) from this 250 l/s available from RDRML.

## 5.2 With respect to the ADC Consents:

- (a) ADC anticipates the ADC Consents will only be made available to Alternate Providers if the 250l/s RDR water is insufficient to meet future demands for stockwater or where the RDRML water cannot be made available at certain points in the RDR scheme. Where the ADC Consents are required to deliver stockwater:
  - (i) Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals, ADC will use its reasonable endeavours to provide BCI (and where relevant, other Alternate Providers), water from ADC Consents at their cost and to allow BCI to meet its commitment to supply stockwater to water users. The parties acknowledge that these arrangements will be dependent on ADC completing the process in clause 2.2.
  - (ii) ADC is unable to commit a consented volume under this HOA and has not yet decided who will be the long-term holder of the ADC Consents.
  - (iii) BCI and ADC agree that there may be other Alternate Providers providing stockwater through piped infrastructure and taking that water utilising ADC Consents. It is anticipated that BCI and each other Alternate Provider supplying piped stockwater will have the right to water under the ADC Consents in proportion to the volumes of stockwater each such party is providing to Potential Users.

## 6 Access to Roads

Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals, including corridor access requests, ADC will permit and allow BCI to construct piped infrastructure along all roads controlled by ADC to enable BCI to construct and deliver water to persons and entities who have signed a water supply agreement with BCI.

## 7 Documents Required

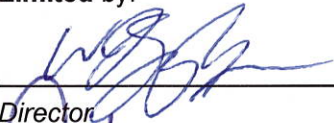
7.1 The parties agree that to implement this agreement the following shall be required:

- (a) A Water Supply Agreement with BCI to be signed by all Potential Users who are persons and entities taking stockwater.
- (b) Agreements between BCI and Potential Users who agree to be supplied with Stockwater committing to provide capital to fund their share of costs for infrastructure required to deliver stockwater.
- (c) An agreement with ADC under which BCI has the option to supply stockwater where BCI has available infrastructure that can be utilised in the delivery of stockwater.

## 8 Good Faith Negotiations

The parties will enter into negotiations with each other in good faith to implement the terms and conditions of this agreement. For this purpose each party will nominate [2] persons to discuss and resolve the documents and issues arising from this HOA.

Executed by **Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Limited** by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

Executed by **Ashburton District Council** by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Authorised Signatory*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Authorised Signatory*

*in the presence of:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name:*

*Occupation:*

*Address:*

|                      |                                                      |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date</b>          | 4/12/2025                                            |
| <b>Project Title</b> | Intake Investigations                                |
| <b>Report to</b>     | Stockwater Transition Working Group                  |
| <b>From</b>          | Assets Manager; and<br>Group Manager, Infrastructure |

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## 5. *Intake Work Update*

1. Since the last update at the September STWG meeting the following work has been completed:

### **PUDDING HILL**

#### **Stockwater Needs Analysis**

2. Melius has completed the investigation into the needs for the properties who will require an alternative stockwater supply should ADC cease the delivery of stockwater in some races.
3. Pudding Hill stockwater user properties have been categorised and a letter has been sent to all users confirming that the Melius assessment of their future stockwater requirement for their property is correct as to whether they do or don't need an alternative.

#### **Alternate Providers**

4. Discussions continue with BCI as an alternate supplier for both Pudding Hill and Methven Auxiliary.

#### **Ecological Assessment**

5. The ecological assessment for the Methven Auxiliary Intake network was undertaken by Beca Consultants Ltd in March.
6. The ecological assessment was received by the STWG at the June meeting.

#### **Cultural/Manawhenua Assessment**

7. The cultural assessment was carried out in April, and the report was received at the June meeting.

#### **Stormwater/drainage Investigations**

8. Stormwater/drainage investigations are progressing with the focus of work assessing the implications if the Pudding Hill network were to close and identifying if any parts of the existing network should be formally retained for drainage purposes. While early in the investigation, it appears that several existing drainage systems will continue to receive overland flow including Mt Harding Creek, ADC drainage reserve north of the Methven Township and the Dry Creek system.

### **Archaeological investigations**

9. Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed.

### **Recommendations**

10. The Pudding Hill section of the stockwater network is the subject of a standalone report to the 4 December STWG meeting.

## ***METHVEN AUXILIARY***

### **Stockwater Needs Analysis**

11. Melius has completed the investigation into the needs for the properties who will require an alternative stockwater supply should ADC cease the delivery of stockwater in some races. The Melius report was received at the September meeting.
12. Methven Auxiliary stockwater user properties have been categorised, and a letter has been sent to all users confirming that the Melius assessment of their future stockwater requirement for their property is correct as to whether they do or don't need an alternative.

### **Alternate Providers**

13. Discussions continue with BCI as an alternate supplier for both Pudding Hill and Methven Auxiliary.

### **Ecological Assessment**

14. The ecological assessment for the Methven Auxiliary Intake network was undertaken by Beca Consultants Ltd in July and was received at the September meeting.

### **Cultural/Manawhenua Assessment**

15. The cultural assessment was carried out in August, and the report was received at the September STWG meeting.

### **Stormwater/drainage Investigations**

16. Stormwater/drainage investigations are progressing with the focus of work assessing the implications if the Pudding Hill network were to close and identifying if any parts of the existing network should be formally retained for drainage purposes. While early in the investigation, it appears that several existing drainage systems will continue to receive overland flow including Mt Harding Creek, ADC drainage reserve north of the Methven Township and the Dry Creek system.

### **Archaeological investigations**

17. Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed.

## **BUSHSIDE**

### **Stockwater Needs Analysis**

18. Melius completed the investigation into the needs for the properties who will require an alternative stockwater supply should ADC cease the delivery of stockwater in some races. The Melius report was presented to the September meeting.

### **Wider Stakeholder Engagement**

19. The wider stakeholder engagement process received seven submissions with most respondents stating their interest was in environmental values.

### **Alternate Providers**

20. Discussions continue with BCI as an alternate supplier for the Bushside Intake.

### **Ecological Assessment**

21. The ecological assessment for the Bushside Intake network was undertaken on 16 October. This was two weeks later than initially planned as one property owner was overseas and wanted to be present when the assessment and eDNA sampling was carried out on his property.
22. The ecological report is currently being internally reviewed by the service provider, and we expect to receive it soon.

### **Cultural/Manawhenua Assessment**

23. All cultural assessments are now committed with AECL. The field investigation has been delayed until the ecological assessment report has been received but it will be carried out prior to Christmas.

### **Stormwater/drainage Investigations**

24. Stormwater/drainage investigations are yet to be progressed.

### **Archaeological investigations**

25. Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed.

## **STONEY CREEK**

### **Stockwater Needs Analysis**

26. Melius completed the investigation into the needs for the properties who will require an alternative stockwater supply should ADC cease the delivery of stockwater in some races. The Melius report was presented to the September meeting.

### **Wider Stakeholder Engagement**

27. The wider stakeholder engagement process received five submissions with respondents stating their interest was in stormwater, environmental and amenity values.

### **Alternate Providers**

28. Discussions continue with BCI as an alternate supplier for the Bushside Intake.

### **Ecological Assessment**

29. The ecological assessment for the Stoney Creek Intake network was undertaken on 17 October. This was two weeks later than initially planned as one property owner was overseas and wanted to be present when the assessment and eDNA sampling was carried out on his property.
30. The ecological report is currently being internally reviewed by the service provider, and we expect to receive it soon.

### **Cultural/Manawhenua Assessment**

31. All cultural assessments are now committed with AECL. The field investigation has been delayed until the ecological assessment report has been received but it will be carried out prior to Christmas.

### **Stormwater/drainage Investigations**

32. Stormwater/drainage investigations are yet to be progressed.

### **Archaeological investigations**

33. Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed.

## ***LIMESTONE CREEK***

### **Stockwater Needs Analysis**

34. Melius have completed the investigation into the needs for the properties who will require an alternative stockwater supply should ADC cease the delivery of stockwater in some races. The Melius Report is attached as a standalone report.

### **Wider Stakeholder Engagement**

35. No wider stakeholder engagement process has been undertaken as this race only supplies five properties.

### **Alternate Providers**

36. Discussions continue with BCI as an alternate supplier for the two properties who rely on the Limestone Creek Intake for stockwater.
37. Both properties have reasonably easy options for alternative supplies.

### **Ecological Assessment**

38. The ecological assessment will be undertaken in the new year.

### **Cultural/Manawhenua Assessment**

39. All cultural assessments are now committed with AECL, but the field investigation will only be scheduled once the ecological assessment has been completed.

### **Stormwater/drainage Investigations**

40. Stormwater/drainage investigations are yet to be progressed.

### **Archaeological investigations**

41. Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed.

## ***ALFORD FOREST***

### **Stockwater Needs Analysis**

42. None of the 14 properties this race runs through or is adjacent to pays stockwater rates.

43. However, all 14 property owners were individually written to and invited to participate in the public survey that was undertaken.

44. Five responses were received to the public survey.

45. All responses were from people on the western side of the Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road, and they were mostly wanting a 'back up' system to their existing supply.

### **Wider Stakeholder Engagement**

46. No public meeting is planned.

### **Alternate Providers**

47. Discussions will be held with suitable alternative suppliers if required.

### **Ecological Assessment**

48. The ecological assessment will be undertaken in the new year.

### **Cultural/Manawhenua Assessment**

49. All cultural assessments are now committed with AECL, but the field investigation will only be scheduled once the ecological assessment has been completed.

### **Stormwater/drainage Investigations**

50. Stormwater/drainage investigations are yet to be progressed.

### **Archaeological investigations**

51. Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed.

## ***BROTHERS***

### **Stockwater Needs Analysis**

52. Melius are working through the investigation into the needs for the properties who will require an alternative stockwater supply should ADC cease the delivery of stockwater in some races.

53. An 80% return rate has been achieved so far with Melius to directly contact the 30 properties.

### **Wider Stakeholder Engagement**

54. No wider stakeholder engagement process has been undertaken; however, a public drop-in session was held at the Mayfield Hall on 2 September which 40 people attended.

### **Alternate Providers**

55. Discussions continue with BCI as an alternate supplier for the Brothers Intake.

### **Ecological Assessment**

56. The ecological assessment will be undertaken in the new year.

### **Cultural/Manawhenua Assessment**

57. All cultural assessments are now committed with AECL, but the field investigation will only be scheduled once the ecological assessment has been completed.

### **Stormwater/drainage Investigations**

58. Stormwater/drainage investigations are yet to be progressed.

### **Archaeological investigations**

59. Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed.

## ***LANGDONS CREEK NORTH & SOUTH***

60. Refer to the Langdons Creek North & South Intake update memo.

## ***CLEARWELL SPRINGS***

61. Refer to the Clearwell Springs Intake update memo.

## ***CRACROFT***

62. Refer to the Cracroft Intake update memo.

## ***OTHER***

63. 230 people have signed up to receive the regular stockwater exit project newsletter updates.
64. The Klondyke Intake survey will be sent out in December.
65. The six remaining intakes will be surveyed in 2026.

Andrew Guthrie  
**Assets Manager**

Neil McCann  
**GM Infrastructure**

## Limestone Creek Intake Closure Assessment of Alternatives



November 2025

John Wright  
Melius Limited  
382 Old Tai Tapu Road  
Tai Tapu  
Christchurch

0274 362 358  
[john@melius.nz](mailto:john@melius.nz)

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## 1. Executive Summary

The Ashburton District Council (ADC) survey of parties representing 5 properties affected by the proposed closure of the Limestone Creek intake in July 2025 showed that 3 properties did not require an alternative supply. Further consultation concluded that both properties requiring an alternative supply of stockwater, should the proposed Limestone Creek Intake closure proceed, would work directly with BCI to find their own alternative.

## 2. Background

Ashburton District Council (ADC) surveyed property owners with access to stockwater within the race network sourced from the ADC Limestone Creek intake in July 2025.

Melius reviewed the survey responses. All the five properties surveyed responded to the survey. Three property owners responded that no alternative stockwater supply was required. Discussions with owners of the remaining two properties concluded that both required an alternative stockwater supply.

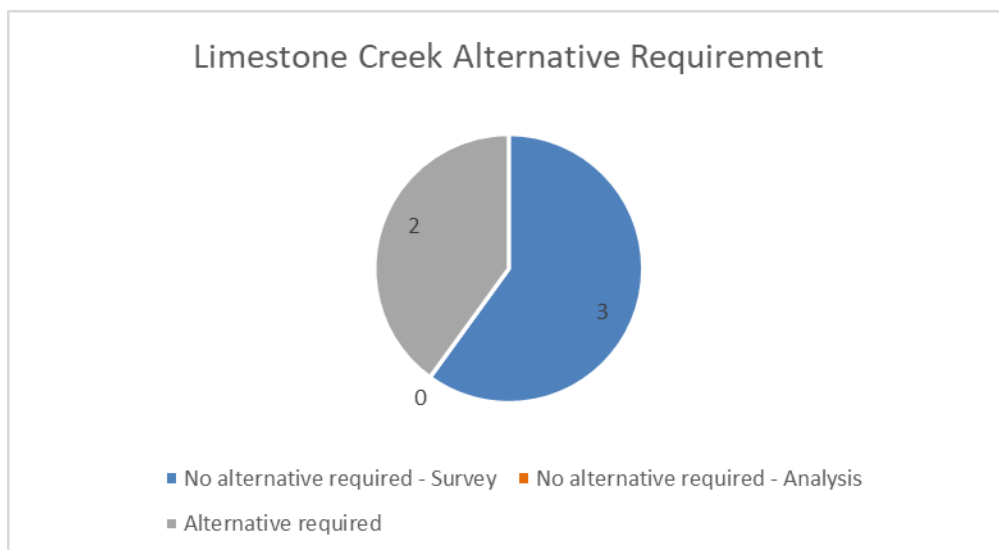


Chart 1. Alternative requirement on potential closure of the Limestone Creek Intake

## 3. Methodology

Melius Limited was provided with the full survey responses from representatives of properties affected by the proposed closure.

Personal contact was made with all the representatives who indicated in the survey that they did not support the proposed closure to establish if an alternative was required or whether their lack of support was for other reasons.

Both of those two properties requiring an alternative had a relatively easy option to consider. One was already a Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Limited (BCI) irrigator and could extend that existing supply to the property in question. The other property was adjacent to BCI infrastructure and could connect with minimal additional infrastructure.

On the basis that both parties had obvious alternatives and were already considering those options it was deemed unnecessary to undertake modelling and pricing of required infrastructure.

## 4. Commercial Arrangements

Discussions with BCI, as the logical service provider for the area covered by this report, are ongoing.

The party already a BCI shareholder will prepare for stockwater race shutdown in June 2026. The party requiring a connection to adjacent BCI infrastructure has been introduced to BCI to make their own arrangements and is likely to be able to do so by June 2026.

## 5. Conclusion

The Ashburton District Council (ADC) survey of parties representing 5 properties affected by the proposed closure of the Limestone Creek intake in July 2025 showed that 3 properties did not require an alternative supply. Further consultation concluded that both properties requiring an alternative supply of stockwater, should the proposed Limestone Creek Intake closure proceed, would work directly with BCI to find their own alternative.

**Date** 4/12/2025  
**Project Title** Langdons Intake Investigations  
**Report to** Stockwater Transition Working Group  
**From** Assets Manager; and  
Group Manager, Infrastructure

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## 6. *Langdons North & South Intake Work Update*

### **Introduction**

1. The Langdons North & South stockwater intake is situated off the Valetta Westerfield Road and is spring fed.
2. The north intake is currently consented for 40 L/s and the south for 120 L/s with them each typically operating around 40 L/s average.
3. There is 42km of main race and 4.6km of local race servicing 46 properties.

### **Consultation**

4. The stockwater ratepayers were surveyed in September 2025.
5. As not all property owners responded to the survey, a reminder letter was sent in early October. As of 24 October, 30 responses in total had been received. In November, further follow-ups of the last 16 properties has commenced.
6. No wider stakeholder survey has been carried out.
7. No public drop-in session has been held to date.

### **Other Assessments**

8. The ecological assessment will be undertaken in the new year.
9. All cultural assessments are now committed with AECL, but the field investigation will only be scheduled once the ecological assessment has been completed.
10. The stormwater/drainage and archaeological assessments have not been progressed at this point.

Andrew Guthrie  
**Assets Manager**

Neil McCann  
**GM Infrastructure**



## Intake:- Langdons Creek North (Including Langdons Creek South)

Affected Races and Properties

### Key

- Main Race
- Local Race
- Rated Property



**Date** 4/12/2025  
**Project Title** Clearwell Springs Intake Investigations  
**Report to** Stockwater Transition Working Group  
**From** Assets Manager; and  
Group Manager, Infrastructure

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## *7. Clearwell Springs Intake Work Update*

### **Introduction**

1. The Clearwell Springs intakes are situated off the Lismore Road and abstract water from multiple springs.
2. The intake area currently consented for 100 L/s.
3. Stockwater in sections of this race is conveyed through ECan drains.
4. The network comprises 3.7km of main race and 7.3 km of local race. The intakes currently service 10 properties.

### **Consultation**

5. The stockwater ratepayers were surveyed in late September 2025.
6. As all property owners did not respond to the survey, a reminder letter was sent in November to the five remaining properties.
7. No wider stakeholder survey has been carried out.

### **Other Assessments**

8. The ecological assessment will be undertaken in the new year.
9. All cultural assessments are now committed with AECL, but the field investigation will only be scheduled once the ecological assessment has been completed.
10. The stormwater/drainage and archaeological assessments have not been progressed at this point.

Andrew Guthrie  
**Assets Manager**

Neil McCann  
**GM Infrastructure**



## Intake-: Clearwell Springs

### Affected Races and Properties

#### Key

- Main Race
- Local Race
- ▨ Rated Property



**Map showing the ECan drains in blue**



**Date** 4/12/2025  
**Project Title** Cracroft Intake Investigations  
**Report to** Stockwater Transition Working Group  
**From** Assets Manager; and  
Group Manager, Infrastructure

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## 8. *Cracroft Intake Work Update*

### **Introduction**

1. The Cracroft stockwater intake is situated off the Cracroft Maronan Road and abstracts water from the RDRML.
2. The intake is currently consented for 1,115 L/s and typically operates around 240 L/s average.
3. The network comprises 65.5km of main race and 131.8 km of local race. The intake currently services 137 properties.

### **Consultation**

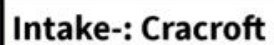
4. The stockwater ratepayers were surveyed in late October 2025.
5. As of 21 November, 75 responses had been received. A reminder letter was sent in late November.
6. No wider stakeholder survey has been carried out.
7. No public drop-in session has been programmed at this time.

### **Other Assessments**

8. The ecological assessment will be undertaken in the new year.
9. All cultural assessments are now committed with AECL, but the field investigation will only be scheduled once the ecological assessment has been completed.
10. The stormwater/drainage and archaeological assessments have not been progressed at this point.

Andrew Guthrie  
**Assets Manager**

Neil McCann  
**GM Infrastructure**



### Affected Races and Properties

Key

— Main Race

— Local Race

 Rated Property



# **Stockwater Transition Working Group**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Background**

1. Council has decided to cease delivering the stockwater service by 30 June 2027. Funding has been included for a managed and inclusive exit from the Council delivery of the stockwater service.
2. The key reasons for Council ceasing to deliver stockwater by 30 June 2027 are:
  - The stockwater network is an ageing and inefficient method of delivering water for livestock to farms.
  - Maintaining the system is getting costlier because the infrastructure is aging and needs replacement. Many components, related to the channels (e.g. gates, pipes, pumps) will need replacing over the next few decades.
  - The service relies on having sufficient water in the system to keep the water flowing. During summer, water sources often dry up, meaning we can't always guarantee the service.
  - There are other, more modern ways for properties to get water. A lot of people who pay for this service don't use it because they've found more efficient ways to get water, such as through irrigation schemes.
  - Stockwater is currently funded by all properties that have a race, aqueducts or water channels that pass through, along, or adjacent to, or abuts the property. This means that it is being paid for by many that don't use, need and/or want the service.
  - Meeting new environmental requirements will add extra cost to ensure the system is viable in the future. For example, this includes the installation of fish screens on some intakes to meet these new standards.
3. Council has a stockwater race closure process in place for property owners that no longer need their race and want to close it. This process will remain in place alongside the stockwater transition work.

### **Purpose of the Stockwater Transition Working Group**

The purpose of the Stockwater Transition Working Group (STWG) is to give effect to Council's policy position to exit the delivery of stockwater by 30 June 2027.

## Definitions of Key Terms

**Intake:** A structure or location where water is formally “taken” into the water race network.

**Exit:** Council will no longer be the provider of stockwater.

**Stockwater delivery alternative:** An alternative proposal or proposals to deliver water to the property boundary that can be used for stockwater, or other purposes (where consented).

**Stockwater solution:** A solution funded by the stockwater user/s to replace the stockwater service. This may represent one of the stockwater delivery alternative proposals or a separate solution determined by the stockwater user.

**Stockwater Transition Plan (SWTG):** Plan adopted by Council that outlines the approach and programme for Council’s exit from the stockwater service

## Underlying Principles

The underlying principles for the STWG are as follows:

- The Transition Plan will establish the order of the exit programme which will be followed unless there are exceptional circumstances leading to a Council decision to alter the exit programme
- The exit programme will follow an intake-by-intake approach<sup>1</sup>
- Council is committed to clearly communicating with stakeholders the progress of the exit programme
- A proposal(s) for stockwater delivery alternatives will be only to the property boundary.
- Council will not fund any stockwater solutions, either to the property boundary or on-farm.
- Council is the final decision-maker

## Key Deliverables

The STWG will be responsible for delivering a Stockwater Transition Plan to Council for adoption by December 2024.

Once the Transition Plan is in place, the STWG will be responsible for monitoring progress towards achieving the exit programme.

## Stockwater Transition Working Group Membership

The STWG membership will consist of two-tiers of members, with differing functions.

### Core Group Membership

- Council appointees (Cr Wilson, Cr Cameron and Mayor ex-officio)
- 1 x Federated Farmers representative
- 1 x Environment Canterbury representative
- 1 x Te Runaka o Arowhenua representative
- 1 x Consultant resource

<sup>1</sup> Some intakes may be progressed in conjunction with others where expedient to do so.

Each Core Group member will be welcome to bring organisation advisors to meetings as required to provide advice.

Council officers will attend the Core Group meetings as required to provide advice.

### **Key Stakeholders**

The Transition Plan adopted by Council, will assign stakeholders from the list below to the respective intake by intake exit approach. This means that key stakeholders will be invited to contribute and/or attend working group meetings on an 'as required' basis, when the exit programme will be focused on the intake they have expertise or involvement with.

- 1 Acton Scheme representative
- 1 Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Limited (ALIL) representative
- 1 Barhill Chertsey Irrigation Limited (BCIL) representative
- 1 Eifflerton Scheme representative
- 1 Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust (HHWET) representative
- 1 Mayfield Hinds Valetta Irrigation (MHV) representative
- 1 Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective (MCCC) representative
- 1 Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR) representative
- 1 Spaxton Scheme representative
- 1 Ashburton Zone Committee representative

### **Functions of the Core Group**

As well as the deliverables identified in 1.5, the Core Working Group will make recommendations to Council based on the specialist and technical expertise they receive from the consultant advice and through the key stakeholders input.

The Core Working Group is expected to take a 'consensus approach' where possible when developing the recommendations to Council. If consensus isn't reached then the range of views should be presented to Council for their final decision.

The Chair will be appointed by Council following the adoption of these Terms of Reference.

The Core Group will consist of 7 members (excluding organisational advisors and Council officers). Should a member withdraw from the Core Group, Council or the respective organisation may appoint a new member to replace them.

The Core Group has no delegated authority to spend budget or allocate resources.

### **Functions of the Key Stakeholders**

Key stakeholders will be invited to contribute to and/or attend the working group meetings to provide their knowledge and expertise on each respective intake based on the exit programme.

Key stakeholders do not have the authority to make recommendations to Council.

### **Reporting**

The Stockwater Transition Working Group minutes will be reported to the next available Council meeting following each meeting. Member organisations may also report back to their respective organisation outcomes of the working group.

## **Meetings & Quorum**

The Core Working Group will meet monthly until the Stockwater Transition Plan is adopted by Council in December 2024.

From January 2025, the Core Working Group will meet on a quarterly until 30 June 2027 (or sooner if work is complete).

The Core Working Group will be required to have a quorum of 5 members (including 2 Council elected representatives) to make recommendations to Council.

## **Term of appointment**

The term of the Working Group will commence on appointment, and end on the 30 June 2027.

## **Remuneration**

The members of the Stockwater Transition Working Group will not receive remuneration.

## **Final Determinations**

The recommendations of the Core Group, and the decisions of Council to give effect to Council's exit from the delivery of stockwater, including Council's adoption and implementation of the Stockwater Transition Plan, shall be treated as final decisions, unless revoked or amended by Council in accordance with its Standing Orders.

Individual members of the STWG, stakeholders, or the general public shall have no right to appeal or right to challenge these decisions.

## **Standards of Conduct**

The STWG members may be privy to confidential and market sensitive information. Discussions and analysis from STWG meetings should also be treated as sensitive and confidential.

In order for the group to operate effectively, members must maintain the confidence of the group, including maintaining confidentiality of matters discussed at meetings, and any information or documents provided to the group. Only with the agreement of Council officials can members share information about the business of the group.

Where information is already in the public domain the confidentiality requirements do not apply to that information.

Members must not represent the group, or comment on the business of the group, to the media. Council's Communication Policy will apply when media statements are made or enquiries are answered.

A conflict of interest will occur when a member's private interest interferes, or could appear to interfere, with an issue that faces the group. A conflict of interest will also occur when there is a possibility that a benefit may apply to a sector, industry, or organisation that they represent. A conflict of interest may be real or perceived.

Members must at all times comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act 2020 and keep information about identifiable individuals confidential.

All information provided to the group will be treated as official information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and, subject to the requirements of that Act, may be released to the public if there are no grounds for withholding it.

Members will treat each other, and the opinions of others, with respect at all times. Members will not take unfair advantage of anyone through manipulation, concealment, abuse of privileged information, misrepresentation of material facts or any other unfair dealing practices.

Members will generously share practice and learnings and actively participate in constructive discussion and debate. Members will show respect for other participants and alternative ideas.

**Adopted by Council 4 September 2024**