

ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

A **Meeting** of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee will be held as follows:

DATE: Tuesday 24 August 2021

TIME: 1:00 pm

VENUE: Via Microsoft Teams

MEETING CALLED BY: Hamish Riach, Chief Executive, Ashburton District Council
Stefanie Rixecker, Chief Executive, Environment Canterbury

ATTENDEES: Chris Allen
Adi Avnit
Clare Buchanan
Angela Cushnie
Genevieve de Spa
Bill Thomas
Sidinei Teixeira
Michael McMillan (Te Runanga o Arowhenua)
Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)
Les Wanhalla (Te Taumutu Runanga)
Brad Waldon-Gibbons (Tangata Whenua Facilitator)
Councillor Stuart Wilson (Ashburton District Council)
Councillor Ian Mackenzie (Environment Canterbury)
Mayor Neil Brown (Ashburton District Council)

Zone Facilitator

Dave Moore

Tel: 027 604 3908

dave.moore@ecan.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury

Committee Advisor

Carol McAtamney

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Ashburton District Council

Tangata Whenua Facilitator

Brad Waldon-Gibbons

Tel: 027 313 4786

brad.waldon-gibbons@ecan.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury



4 Register of Interests

| Representative's Name and Interest | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Chris Allen | Farm owner of sheep, beef, lambs, crop Water resource consents to take water from tributary of Ashburton River and shallow wells National board member Federated Farmers of New Zealand with responsibility for RMA, water and biodiversity Member of Ashburton River Liaison Group |
| Adi Avnit | Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust - Treasurer |
| Clare Buchanan | Head of Environment & Innovation at Align Farm Align Farms holds an irrigation resource consent to take water from shallow wells hydraulically linked to the Ashburton river Align Farms holds MHV water and Fonterra Shares Align Farms suffered significant flood damage on their support block |
| Neil Brown | Mayor Acton Irrigation Limited - Director Irrigo Centre Limited - Director Acton Farmers Irrigation Co-operative Limited - Director Browns Farm Limited – Director and Shareholder |
| Angela Cushnie | Owner of Country Copy, a communication and promotion business based in Mid Canterbury Freelance writer for Latitude Magazine Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust - Trustee NZ Landcare Trust 'Managing Westlands as Farm Assets's project' – Farmer Engagement Hinds Reserve Board Committee member Community Catchment Groups Flood Recovery Coordinator |
| Genevieve de Spa | Owner of Kakariki Camps focusing on 'Head, Hands, Heart' approach to biodiversity education Contractor and member of Staveley Campsite Committee (Previous recipient of Immediate Steps Funding) Rakaia Environmental Enhancement Trust |
| Ian MacKenzie | Environment Canterbury Councillor |
| Arapata Reuben | Trustee – Tuhono Trust Trustee – Mana Waitaha Charitable Trust Member - National Kiwi Recovery Group Rūnanga Rep – Christchurch – West Melton Water Zone Committee |
| Bill Thomas | Farm owner of Longbeach Estate Ltd (sheep, beef, lambs, arable, dairy) Member of Eiffelton Irrigation Scheme Hekeao/Hinds Water Enhancement Trust – Settler Director of Longbeach Estate & Longbeach Dairies |
| Sidinei Teixeira | |
| Les Wanhalla | Returning good health and mauri O Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Kaitiakitanga, Whakapapa Rugby league, life member, honorary south Kiwi Trustee – Central Plains Water for Selwyn District Council |
| Stuart Wilson | Ashburton District Councillor A son who is a Director of Mayfield Hinds Irrigation Co and Chair of RDR |

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Unconfirmed Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 27 July 2021, commencing at 1:00 pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

Councillor Ian MacKenzie, Councillor Stuart Wilson, Bill Thomas (Chair), Chris Allen, Adi Avnit, Clare Buchanan, Angela Cushnie, Araparta Reuben, Genevieve de Spa, Sidinei Teixeira and Les Wanhalla.

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Dave Moore (Facilitator) and Carol McAtamney (minutes)

6 members of the public in attendance – Councillor Lynette Lovett

Paul Churchill (ADC Surface Water Project Coordinator)

1 Welcome

Araparta Reuben opened the meeting with a Karakia.

A special welcome was extended to the new members Adi Avnit, Clare Buchanan and Sidinei Teixeira.

2 Apologies

That an apology for absence be received on behalf of Mayor Neil Brown and for early departure on behalf of Angela Cushnie.

Thomas/Wilson

Carried

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

Genevieve de Spa

- remove Member Mt Somers Walkway Society and Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Group (ADBAG)
- remove Active member and organiser of ‘Extinction Rebellion’
- Change Employee to Contractor and member of Staveley Campsite Committee (Previous recipient of Immediate Steps Funding)

Angela Cushnie

- Add Flood Recovery Coordinator

5 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 25 May 2021, be taken as read and confirmed.

Wilson/Reuben

Carried

It was noted that Hamish Mackenzie’s name was spelt incorrectly in the minutes

6.1 Matters Arising

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil.

Outward:

Ashburton College Environment Committee – Letter of thanks.

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Carters Creek Update – Donna Lill (Ecan) and Paul Churchill (ADC)

The team are continuing to work with the community to support their concerns. There has been a slight delay in progression due to key team members shifting their focus to flood relief recovery. There has been no additional damage reported following the May floods.

Proposed Actions:

Stormwater quality and quantity

- Define urban catchment
- Stormwater education
- Sump replacement and filter sacks

Bank stabilisation and management

- Small planting @SH1
- Education for urban adjoining landowners regarding over steepened banks and garden waste

Selwyn District Council has a programme “Be a Stormwater Superhero” – a mobile programme educating on stormwater.

Get this mobile programme to visit schools – Ange to coordinate with Dave

9 Ashburton/Hakatere Community Flood Update

Shaun McCracken/John Waugh

Report attached to the minutes

Special thanks and acknowledgement was made to Shaun and his team for the outstanding work they have undertaken in restoring stopbanks following the flood.

10 Wakanui Hāpuna Update/Wakanui Wetland Management Considerations

Val Clemens/Adrian Meredith 2.00pm – 2.30pm

Discussions were held on the practicalities of restoring reliable water flows to the Wakanui Hāpuna.

- Project is a shared priority with ADC
- Investigations have been undertaken in regard to alternatives ways of returning water in and whether there would be sufficient water for sustainability.

Action

It was agreed to establish a working group to undertake further investigations and engagement with the community to provide recommendations for feasible options for restoring water flows.

Membership to include representation from:

- Environment Canterbury
- Ashburton District Council
- Rūnanga
- Water Zone Committee
- Wakanui Restoration Group
- Local farmers (Ross Digby)
- Wakanui School

Zone Committee members to contact Dave if they wish to participate.

11 Ashburton Consent Review Update

Henry Winchester/Bianca Sullivan

- 88 originally identified and review notices sent
- 50 hydraulically connected groundwater takes, 36 direct surface water takes, 2 diversion of surface water
- 58 reviews decided
- Remaining 30 reviews on hold
- 14 consent holders remain

12 Hekeao Hinds Catchment Collective

Duncan Barr

Establishment of Catchment groups update

- Group is a way for farmers/landowners to get involved/engaged in land management regulations from the ground level find practical solutions
- April to May – took it out to public meeting mid June, to gauge support, attending by approx. 60 pax
- The Parent Group will be the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective, who will hold the Incorporated Society status.
- Each district will establish their own Collective and will provide a representative of their group to the Parent Group
- Collective Co-ordinator to be appointed
- Requesting funding of \$10k (Administration costs - \$1k, Branding - \$2-3k, Wages - \$6-\$7k (10 hours a week for a three month period from September to November)

The funding request has the initial support of the Zone Committee and the Catchment Collective are to provide a formal written application to the Committee for consideration.

Angela Cushnie departed the meeting at 3.13pm

13 Ō Tū Wharekai Lakes Update

Nick Daniels 3.17pm

Ecan and DOC have funded an independent report into the water quality at the lakes. The report reflects concerns that have been raised with the continual deterioration of the water quality. A working group is to be formed to establish actions going forward.

Catchment scale analysis down to individual farm – to see what individual actions are required.

Angela Cushnie rejoined the meeting at 3.30pm

14 Committee Updates

Dave Moore

Special thanks and appreciation was extended to departing Committee member Cargill Henderson.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held in the Ashburton District Council Chamber at 1:00pm on Tuesday 24 August 2021.

The meeting closed at 3.41pm with a Karakia by Araparta Reuben.

Dated this 24th day of August 2021 _____ (Chair)

Report on the Flood on the Ashburton River – 29/30 May 2021

John R Waugh, Hydrologist (Retired) 19 August 2021

- The flood was caused by 48-50 hours of persistent rain in Mid and South Canterbury. The Mt Somers rain gauge (Ecan) recorded 526 mm in 48 hours on 29 and 30 May 2021.
- A belt of foothills rain gauges recorded 300-350 mm in 48 hours, these are Mt Hutt (Scotts Saddle) 311.5 mm, Blandswood 316 mm, Mt Francis 310 mm, and Geraldine Forest 350 mm. It is likely that a zone of heavy rainfall extended north across the Taylors Stream catchment, and south across the Hinds River catchment.
- The Ashburton River at SH1 peaked at 1562 cumecs (a 1 in 87 year event). This is the largest flood since the 16-19 April 1951 flood, estimated at 2500 cumecs, a 500 year event. The flood damage in 1951 was at the same places as in 2021. The Selwyn River cut SH1 north of Dunsandel, and the Hinds River cut the highway south. Taylors Stream washed out the approaches to Roxburgh Bridge (in 1951). If we routed the flood overflows down the main channel, the flood would have reached the 1 in 100 year flood flow of 1630 cumecs. Reference is Pearson, C P (1996) Flood Frequency Hydrology of the Ashburton River.
- In 100 year flood events the flood flows always occupy the “flood Plain “. This has happened in all the major floods I have observed over 40+ years, and is clearly shown in aerial photographs published in the newspapers for the May 2021 flood.
- The May 2021 flood was a long duration event as it was produced by 48-50 hours of very steady rainfall. The flood hydrograph was above 400 cumecs for 48 hours (2 days) and more critically it was above 1000 cumecs for parts of 2 days. These high flows are why such large amounts of sediment and shingle were moved. A large flood like the May 2021 event can move as much sediment and shingle as would be moved by 10 years of normal flows and freshes.

Flood Frequency, after Pearson, C P (1996)

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Q10 is 820 cumecs | Q20 is 1025 cumecs. |
| Q50 is 1340 cumecs, | Q100 is 1630 cumecs |
| Q200 is 1965 cumecs, | Q500 is 2500 cumecs |
| Q1000 is 2985 cumecs | PMF is 4000 cumecs |

The PMF, Probable Maximum Flood is the upper limit of what a catchment can produce under extreme rainfall conditions. With Climate Change we are likely to experience more severe storms, happening more frequently than in the past.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 24 August 2021
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Dave Moore
Subject Committee Update

8 Committee Update

Purpose

To update the Committee on actions from the previous meeting, relevant information, and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Recommendation

The Zone Committee receive the update.

Report

1. Zone Committee Activity (depending on COVID Alert Level)

- 1st September - proposed Ō Tū Wharekai Ashburton Lakes ECan Council field trip – details to come. If you haven't done so already, please respond on whether that date would work for you
- 6th and 7th September - Noho Marae at Taumutu.
- 28th September Zone Committee meeting **Cancelled**
- September 28th Chairs and Deputies and new committee members meeting at Arowhenua Marae, Temuka, Other Zone Committee members also welcome.

2. Overseer Review

For your information, below is a copy of the Environment Canterbury's media release on the review of Overseer.

Review of nutrient management modelling tool released

Date: 11 Aug 2021

The Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Primary Industries have released a review of the nutrient loss modelling tool Overseer, and the Government has responded to this.

Environment Canterbury Chief Executive Stefanie Rixecker said Overseer is used extensively in Canterbury to model nutrient losses from land uses and in the regulatory framework.

"It is important for our consenting, compliance monitoring and enforcement, and farm environment plan auditing processes," she said. "Our Resource Management Act plans and consents use Overseer - together with farm environment plans and independent audit - to maintain or improve water quality by minimising nitrate-nitrogen losses.

"We now need to take the time to consider the review so we can be clear about how these processes may be impacted.

"We welcome the Government's commitment to continue to support Overseer while it looks into providing upgraded and/or next-generation tools over the next 12 months."

Our approach

"As soon as we have decided how we will respond to the review, we will contact those likely to be affected – we are working as quickly as we can to provide as much certainty to our community as possible," Stefanie Rixecker said.

"We acknowledge the challenges farmers and the wider community are facing in the freshwater space at present, and we will always be mindful of those.

We are committed to continuing working with mana whenua and the community to enhance Canterbury's water quality. To help achieve this, we need to make sure that consent holders are, at a minimum, operating at or better than industry-agreed Good Management Practice."

Plan Change 7 - Extension to the timeframe for decision

In anticipation of the review, Environment Canterbury has applied to the Minister for the Environment for an extension to the time for Council to decide whether to adopt the hearing commissioners' recommendations on Plan Change 7 to the Land & Water Regional Plan as its own decision.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 24 August 2021
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Dave Moore
Subject Wakanui Working Group Update

9 Wakanui Working Group Update

Purpose

To update the Zone Committee on progress with setting up the Wakanui Working Group..

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee receives the report and provides feedback.

Report

After receiving reports from Environment Canterbury scientist Adrian Meredith and Val Clemens from the “Wakanui Crew” on 27 July 2021 the Ashburton Zone Committee discussed the practicalities of restoring reliable water flows to the Wakanui hāpua. The committee decided further investigation and engagement with the local community was essential before further recommendations could be made. It was decided that a working group should be set up which would include members of the Wakanui community.

Membership:

Expressions of interest were received from three Zone Committee members, Val Clemens from the Wakanui Crew and Michael Mcmillan from Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua. Ross Digby was contacted and was keen to be involved. Ross is discussing participation with other local landowners. The full list of members to date is below

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Michael Mcmillan | Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua |
| Arapata Reuben | Ashburton Zone Committee Te Ngāi Tuāhuriri Rūnanga Representative |
| Ross Digby | Ross farms next to the hāpua and is a member of the Wakanui Crew. |
| Other landowners | Ross Digby is contacting other locals to see who is interested in joining the working group |
| Val Clemens | Wakanui Crew |
| Gen de spa | Ashburton Zone Committee Community Representative and Co-Leader of Wakanui Working Group (tbc) |
| Sidinei Teixeira | Ashburton Zone Committee Community Representative |
| Clare Buchanan | Ashburton Zone Committee Community Representative and Co-Leader of Wakanui Working Group (tbc) |
| Donna Field | Environment Canterbury Biodiversity Officer |
| Kimberly Dynes / Adrian Meredith | Environment Canterbury Scientist - Water Quality and Ecology |
| ? | Wakanui School |
| ? | Department of Conservation |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Cr Lynette Lovett | Ashburton District Councillor, Chair of Ashburton Biodiversity Advisory Group, Canterbury Biodiversity Champions group representative |
| Paul Churchill | Ashburton District Council Surface Water Project Coordinator |
| Bert Hofmans (tbc) | Ashburton District Council Open Spaces Planner |
| Dave Moore | Ashburton Zone Committee Facilitator |

Scope:

The Working Group will:

1. Gain a range of perspectives on the values associated with the hāpua, fresh water reliability, and biodiversity protection and enhancement options through engagement with:
 - Mana Whenua,
 - The Wakanui community, including landowners, residents and Wakanui School, recreational users, Ashburton District Council,
 - Environment Canterbury,
 - Department of Conservation
 - Other agencies.
2. Review the hydrological, ecological and cultural history of Wakanui hāpua to clearly describe its previous state.
3. Explore options and feasibility for increasing and maintaining fresh water in the hāpua
4. Explore options for protection and enhancement of existing biodiversity and mahinga kai with mana whenua and the community
5. Report options and recommendations back to the Ashburton Zone Committee
6. Oversee implementation of any actions recommended by the Zone Committee
7. Request support for implementation from agency staff and/or community groups where required
8. Report progress on actions to the Ashburton Zone Committee.

Outcomes:

By February 2022 - Progress report to Ashburton Zone Committee

By June 2022 – Recommendations to Ashburton Zone Committee

The Wakanui Working Group fits within the following Priority Outcomes:

- **Ashburton District Council’s Letter of Shared Priorities to the Zone Committee**
 - includes Wakanui hāpua project.
- **Environment Canterbury’s Letter of Shared Priorities to the Zone Committee**
 - increased riparian management to protect aquatic ecosystems
 - reducing the number of fish barriers in the zone
 - protection and enhancement of named wetlands.
- **Ashburton Zone Committee Action Plan**
 - We will work towards improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets by engaging with councils, rūnanga, catchment groups and schools to support further restoration activities which positively impact the biodiversity and mahinga kai values of the Wakanui hāpua area.

- **CWMS 2025 Targets and Goals**
 - **Ecosystem Health/Biodiversity** - Hāpua, lagoons and estuaries
All coastal lagoons, hāpua and estuaries show improvement in key ecosystem health indicators compared to 2010.
 - **Kaitiakitanga** - Wāhi Taonga and mahinga kai
5 sites in each papatipu rūnanga area are being restored or protected in recognition of them as wāhi toanga and/or to support and be accessible to papatipu rūnanga for mahinga kai and resource gathering purposes.
- **Zone Implementation Plan**
 - Lowland spring fed streams, wetlands and hāpua
Key Outcome - Hāpua & donga landforms and vegetation are protected and providing functional habitat for native fish, birds and insects.
 - 2.2.10 -identify and prioritise indigenous biodiversity values in lowland streams, waterways, wetlands and hāpua.
 - Develop and implement strategies to protect, maintain and enhance these values

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 24 August 2021

| Timetable | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Time | Item |
| 1:00 pm | Meeting Commences |

Order of Business

- 1 Welcome, Karakia
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Extraordinary Business
- 4 Register of Interest 1
- 5 Confirmation of Minutes 2
- 6 Correspondence
 - Outward
 - o Nil
 - Inward
 - o Nil
- 7 Public Contribution
- 8 Committee Update 7
- 9 Wakanui Working Group Update 9
- 10 Other Business
- 11 Close Meeting and Karakia