

# ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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

**DATE:** Tuesday 23 April 2024

**TIME:** 1.00 pm

**VENUE:** Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere  
2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

**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  
TBC (Te Runanga o Arowhenua)  
Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)  
Jess Hobbs (Te Taumutu Runanga)  
TBC (Tangata Whenua Facilitator)  
Councillor Richard Wilson (Ashburton District Council)  
Councillor Ian Mackenzie (Environment Canterbury)  
Mayor Neil Brown (Ashburton District Council)

**Zone Facilitator**

Jaimee Grant

Tel: 027 220 2694

[jaimie.grant@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:jaimie.grant@ecan.govt.nz)

**Environment Canterbury**

**Committee Advisor**

Carol McAtamney

Tel: 307 9645

[carol.mcatamney@adc.govt.nz](mailto:carol.mcatamney@adc.govt.nz)

**Ashburton District Council**

**Tangata Whenua Facilitator**

TBC

**Environment Canterbury**

# Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 23 April 2024

Meeting Commences: 1.00pm

## Order of Business

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- 11 Other business
- 12 Close Meeting and Karakia

## 4 Register of Interests

Chris Allen	Farm owner of sheep, beef, lambs, crop Water resource consents to take water from tributary of Ashburton River and shallow wells 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	Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust - Trustee Hinds Reserve Board Committee member Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective – Coordinator Secretary for Hekeao Hinds Lowlands Catchment Group
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
Jess Hobbs	
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	Masters student at Lincoln University studying a Master’s in Water Resource Management Former Head of Science at Mt Hutt College and Chemistry teacher at Christ’s College Recipient of the Callaghan Innovation fund to conduct research on the impacts of the May/June 2021 rainfall event through MHV Water Passionate about the sustainable use of natural resources
Richard Wilson	Ashburton District Councillor Dairy Farmer at Hinds Shareholder in MHV Irrigation

## 5 Confirmation of Minutes

Unconfirmed Minutes

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 26 March 2024, commencing at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakaterere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

### Present

Mayor Neil Brown (via MS Teams), Councillor Richard Wilson, Councillor Ian Mackenzie, Chris Allen (Chair), Adi Avnit, Clare Buchanan, Angela Cushnie, Genevieve de Spa, Jess Hobbs (via MS Teams) and Sidinei Teixeira.

### In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Jaimee Grant (Facilitator) and Carol McAtamney (minutes);  
John Benn – DOC

8 members of the public in attendance

#### 1 Welcome

Jaimee Grant opened the meeting with a Karakia.

#### 2 Apologies

**That** an apology for absence be received on behalf of Bill Thomas.

Allen/Cushnie

Carried

#### 3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

#### 4 Register of Interests

Nil.

#### 5 Confirmation of Minutes

##### Amendments – Carters Creek Update and Funding Change Proposal

##### Resolution reworded to read:

**That** the Ashburton Water Zone committee

- i) Receives the report on Carters Creek; and
- ii) Recommend a variation to grant agreement 1197-118 between Environment Canterbury and Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective for Carters Creek as follows:
  - a. Repurpose the balance of the unspent funds (\$15k) to enable the establishment of a landscape management concept plan (\$10k) and subsidise the work of the facilitator to co-ordinate ongoing liaison between the two Councils (\$5k).

Angela Cushnie as the coordinator for the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective declared an interest in the resolution and took no part in the voting process.

**That** the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 27 February 2024, incorporating the above amendment, be taken as read and confirmed.

Allen/de Spa

Carried

#### 5.1 Matters Arising

Nil.

## **6 Correspondence**

### **Inward:**

Nil.

### **Outward:**

Nil.

## **7 Public Contributions**

Nil.

## **8 Public Forum – Greenstreet Group**

Tim Davie – Environment Canterbury

The question was asked as to who should people be contacting with respect to consent compliance and low flows at Environment Canterbury.

- Sarah Heddell for the immediate term in respect to Greenstreet.
- Long-term – structural alignment work being undertaken in operations and a proposal is out for consultation with staff which addresses the issue that was raised around who to contact.

### **Ashburton Lyndhurst**

- Undertook judicial review that went to the High Court.
- High Court agreed that Environment Canterbury was correct in the decision not to publicly notify the application around nutrient discharge and only limited notification to Ngāi Tahu and rūnanga.
- High Court decided there was an error in law in granting the discharge of consent as some of the points of law had not been interpreted correctly. Environment Canterbury need time to understand that decision and is currently not in a position to comment on next steps.

### **Greenstreet**

- Acknowledged that Environment Canterbury did not do well.
- Apologised to Zone Committee and the Ashburton Community.
- Did not keep people informed and not proactive in preparing for the changes that were coming from the plan change and consent review.
- Referred to Ashburton river as overallocated which is a complicated issue (includes quantity, and quality and nutrient status). Ashburton plan and implementation through the consent review was primarily about minimum flows and raising the level.
- Emergency powers were enacted to divert water from O’Shea Creek through to Greenstreet irrigation to Greenstreet Creek. This was a one-off and not something that can be easily repeated.

### **Greenstreet Representation**

Roger and Linda Bray, Ben Shearer, and Lyndon Webb (Darryl Butterick apology) made a presentation.

What would Greenstreet representatives like to happen going forward?

- Work with the Regional Council directly to devise a solution and come back in a months’ time with options.
- Require input from both community and irrigation society – it is a shared creek.

What would be helpful from the Zone Committee to help progress this issue?

- Recommend that Environment Canterbury works with Greenstreet to look at options for the future, including establishing a work programme.

#### Summary

- Sarah Heddell has been appointed as the liaison and will report back to the Zone Committee on progress.
- Invitation extended to Sarah Heddell by Greenstreet representatives to undertake a site visit.
- Zone Committee has requested a review of the effectiveness of the flow regime for the Ashburton River and whether the ambitions/targets that were implied are being met.

### 9 Committee Updates

#### Upcoming meetings

The Ōtūwhareka/Ashburton Lakes workshop scheduled for 23 April is to be rescheduled for June – date TBC.

### 10 Zone Committee Action Plan Budget – Applications Consideration

- **Riverbridge Native Species Trust**

**That** the Ashburton Water Zone committee recommend the allocation of \$14,384.97 to the Riverbridge Native Species Trust to assist with costs associated to Project Mudfish (contractor costs, equipment hire, materials, plant, predator management, supplementary food for native species, project management and administration and education centre maintenance).

Mackenzie/Cushnie

Carried

- **Hakaterere Rakau Group (Ross Hawthorne)**

**That** the Ashburton Water Zone committee recommend the allocation of \$5,000 to the Hakaterere Rakau Group (Ross Hawthorne) to assist with costs associated to Ashburton River Native Plantings Chalmers Ave - Trevors Rd (plants, plant guards, bamboo sticks and fertiliser tabs).

Cushnie/Mackenzie

Carried

Agreed: That the applications from the Wakanui Beach Crew Group, and Methven Lions Club be deferred until the April meeting.

### 11 Other Business

#### Farming and Community Pressures

Discussions were held on the impact the current drought, in addition to other challenges in the market, were having on farmer and community wellbeing and how the Zone Committee/Regional Committee can assist from a welfare and relief prospective.

#### Resolution:

**That** the Water Zone Committee send a letter to Regional Council highlighting the stress the drought is causing, in addition to the pressures such as Ashburton Lakes consents review, and the effects on wellbeing. Ask for a refocus in the interim because of the drought and its effects.

Cushnie/Avnit

Carried

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held in the Ashburton District Council Chamber Hine Paaka at 1:00pm on Tuesday 23 April 2024.

The meeting closed at 2.35pm with a Karakia by Jaimee Grant

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2024 \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)



***Received via email – 2 April 2024***

133 Sawmill Rd,  
Staveley,  
7771 Ashburton

2nd April 2024

Bill Thomas  
Ashburton Hinds Zone Committee

Dear Bill,

Please accept my resignation from the Zone Committee, effective from the 26th March 2024.

I've appreciated my time with the Committee and will watch with interest how things evolve.

Warmest regards,  
Gen

**gen de spa**  
**ph: 0211 345 802**  
**Forest Care Coordinator, [Staveley Camp](#)**  
**School Camps Facilitator, [Kakariki Camps](#)**  
**[kiaora@kakarikicamps.co.nz](mailto:kiaora@kakarikicamps.co.nz)**

# Ashburton Water Zone Committee

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4 April 2024

Dr Stefanie Rixecker  
Chief Executive  
Environment Canterbury  
[Stefanie.rixecker@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:Stefanie.rixecker@ecan.govt.nz)

Dear Stefanie,

## **Re: Consideration of effects of drought and other pressures on farmer and community wellbeing**

I am writing on behalf of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee to highlight to Environment Canterbury the stress the current drought, in combination with the depressed commodity prices and cost increases, is placing on our farmers and local community. The Committee requests that these current conditions are taken into consideration with respect to any work that impacts these communities.

The community appreciates the decision you made to allow water to be diverted into Greenstreet Creek. In the media release you pointed out that Greenstreet Creek would not be the only place in Canterbury that you will face a challenge like this one. Indeed, you are correct as two of those places are the Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes and Rakaia catchments which are currently undergoing land use consent review processes.

Environment Canterbury, under your leadership, have made the commitment for better conversations and ways to support the region to adapt to the effects of climate change in as fair a manner as possible.

Last month the Government declared a medium-scale adverse event for the Canterbury and Otago regions due to the current drought conditions. The impact of the drought is taking its toll on the health and wellbeing of several communities already under pressure, some of which are those currently subject to land use consent review processes.

The Committee asks Environment Canterbury that consideration be given to these communities and where possible, a refocus of work be undertaken in the interim to help relieve some of the stress being faced. The Committee notes similar action has been undertaken during other adverse events such as the 2021 Ashburton floods and Mycoplasma bovis outbreak, and we ask that similar consideration be given.

Yours sincerely,



**Bill Thomas**  
Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee

<b>HUI/MEETING:</b> Ashburton Water Zone Committee	
<b>AGENDA ITEM NO: 8</b>	<b>KAUPAPA/SUBJECT:</b> Ashburton/Hakatere River plan outcomes and consent review – update on Committee’s request
<b>KAITUHI/AUTHOR:</b> Jaimee Grant	<b>WĀ/MEETING DATE:</b> 23 April 2024

**Purpose**

To provide an update in response to the Ashburton Water Zone Committee’s request for information relating to the Ashburton/Hakatere River plan outcomes, minimum flows and consent review.

**Recommendation**

The Zone Committee receives the update and provides feedback.

**Background**

At their 30 January 2024 workshop, the Ashburton Water Zone Committee had their Action Plan Review workshop. As part of that workshop, the Committee discussed the Ashburton Consent Review which brought the consents for takes from the Ashburton/Hakatere River in line with minimum flows outlined in the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan. As part of that discussion, the following question was agreed to be put to Environment Canterbury regarding the consent review – now we are meeting the plan requirements, is the plan meeting the intended outcomes?

This request has been refined since January and noted by the Committee Chair via email on 4 April 2024 to be the following:

1. Are the intended targets being met at this point and time?
2. Were the intended outcomes of the review achieved?
3. Summary of any unintended and forecasted adverse effects of the river plan.
4. Effectiveness of the flow regime and process.
5. What could be done differently if a review was to be done elsewhere?

Since the initial request in January, several events have occurred including:

A presentation from three Ashburton consent holders noting the negative impacts the Ashburton consent review had had on their livelihood was received by the Committee at their February meeting. This resulted in Environment Canterbury staff meeting with consent holders to discuss issues.

Dry conditions and low flows resulted in the loss of aquatic life in Greenstreet Creek. Consequently, Environment Canterbury’s Chief Executive made the decision to allow water to be diverted to Greenstreet Creek and an apology from Environment Canterbury was made noting it had not kept the community well informed.

A delegation from the Greenstreet group spoke at the Committee’s March meeting noting their concerns and suggesting a solution. Environment Canterbury staff are now working with

Greenstreet representatives in respect of Greenstreet Creek. The Committee requested an update be provided at this meeting – see Agenda Item 9.

Dr Tim Davie, Director of Science at Environment Canterbury will provide an update on the response and will discuss what it means to undertake a review on the effectiveness of the plan to deliver outcomes relating to the Hakatere/Ashburton River.

<b>HUI/MEETING:</b> Ashburton Water Zone Committee	
<b>AGENDA ITEM NO: 10</b>	<b>KAUPAPA/SUBJECT:</b> Zone Committee Action Plan Budget – Funding considerations
<b>KAITUHI/AUTHOR:</b> Jaimee Grant	<b>WĀ/MEETING DATE:</b> 23 April 2024

### Purpose

For the Zone Committee to consider applications received for funding using their Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY2023/24.

### Recommendation

That the Zone Committee:

1. **Receives** the applications; and
2. For each application, confirms whether it:
  - a. **Supports** the project being recommended for [x] amount of funding using the Ashburton Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY2023/24, or
  - b. **Does not support** the project being recommended for funding using the Ashburton Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY2023/24, or
  - c. **Requests further information** on the project before making a decision.

### Introduction

As part of their Long-Term Plan 2021-2031, Environment Canterbury established the Zone Committee Action Plan (ZCAP) Budget. The purpose of the budget is to allow Zone Committees to focus on implementing their Action Plan and leverage other funding opportunities to achieve the CWMS priorities. This financial year, an allocation of **\$75,000** for ZCAP Budgets for each CWMS water zone was confirmed.

To date, the Committee have recommended, and Environment Canterbury have approved, the following projects for funding:

- Nitrate sensor for Ōtūwharekai Ashburton Lakes Catchment Group - \$10,000
- Staveley Camp Forest Community Possum Trap Library - \$15,000
- Riverbridge Native Species Trust - \$14,384.97
- Hakatere Rakau Group's (Ross Hawthorne's) Ashburton River Native Plantings Chalmers Ave - Trevors Rd - \$5,000

This leaves **\$30,615.03 (excl. GST)** of the ZCAP Budget to be allocated this financial year.

### Applications

Three late applications have been included with the agreement of the Chair and are in addition to the two agreed to be deferred at the March meeting - Feasibility Study on Restoring Wakanui Creek Flow, and Methven Birdsong Initiative - Garden of Harmony extension. Application summaries for four of the five projects have been provided and the remaining application was unavailable at the time this agenda was compiled. Copies of all available applications will be sent to the Zone Committee prior to this meeting.

Appn:	Project name	Applicant	Funding requested
1	Feasibility Study on Restoring Wakanui Creek Flow	Wakanui Beach Crew Group	\$15,000.00
2	Methven Birdsong Initiative - Garden of Harmony extension	Methven Lions Club	\$30,000.00
3	Carters Creek Water Quality Improvement	Ashburton Aquatic Park Charitable Trust	\$10,483.00
4	HHHCG - Water Quality Testing Baseline Phase 2	Hekeao Hinds Hill Country Catchment Group – C/o Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective	\$12,826.08
5	Ashburton River Native Plantings	Application to come.	TBC
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$68,233.00</b>



Figure 1 - Map showing project locations

## Application 1: Feasibility Study on Restoring Wakanui Creek Flow

<b>Applicant</b>	Wakanui Beach Crew Group
<b>Funds requested</b>	\$15,000.00
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>Funding is being sought to undertake a feasibility study on refilling Wakanui Creek for a more permanent and periodic flow of water to improve the biodiversity of the creek channel and the hāpua. The project will inform the future management of Wakanui hāpua and improve the biodiversity thereof as observed after previous heavy rainfall events.</p> <p>The coastal lagoon/hāpua has been completely dry for several years. It formerly supported an aquatic ecosystem with eels, fingerling trout, koura and whitebait species. It has filled periodically and is noted that the biodiversity of the hāpua increases after heavy rainfall as observed in previous years. These values disappear when the hāpua dries up.</p> <p>Restoring permanent flow in Wakanui Creek would be very worthwhile as it seems likely that the diverted water is no longer used for stockwater so the low-flow diversion could be returned to Wakanui Creek.</p> <p>The project is supported by Ngāi Tūāhuriri as confirmed by its AWZC rūnanga representative on the Committee, A Reuben.</p>
<b>Action Plan alignment</b>	<p><b>We will focus on several waterbodies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hakatere/Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek and Wakanui hāpua); and</li> </ul> <p><b>We will work to enhance mahinga kai values by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions. - (Wakanui Beach hāpua is a historical mahinga kai site for the iwi that needs to be restored.)</li> </ul> <p><b>We will work towards improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• It is noted that the Wakanui hāpua is a priority for the Committee set by ADC.</li> <li>• ECan has also set objectives for kaitiakitanga and mahinga kai projects, as well as Ecosystem Health and biodiversity, and promote working with parties to achieve the objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>How funding will be used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility report on refilling the Wakanui Creek through the water race network using an ecological consulting firm.</li> <li>• Advice on mean annual low flow that will sustain biodiversity</li> <li>• Investigation on flood protection following water flow in the creek</li> <li>• Biodiversity improvement to be done along the creek to improve the environment.</li> </ul> <p><i>Facilitator notes this project may help the AWZC determine the level of future support the Committee provides going forward.</i></p>

<p><b>In-kind contribution and project partners</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project will be managed by Ashburton District Council Ecologist and Biodiversity Advisor (Dr Christian Chukwuka), Ashburton Water Zone Committee representative (Gen de Spa) and Wakanui Beach Crew Restoration Group member (Val Clemens). Council staff time will cover the project management cost. Voluntary hours from Gen de Spa and Val Clemens.</li> <li>• ADC - funds planting and planting materials annually and a team of volunteers help to do the planting (cost varies). ADC funds biannual weed control for the planted sites (cost varies). Put \$4towards pine removal.</li> <li>• AWZC - put \$4K towards pine removal last financial year.</li> <li>• Wakanui School led by Val Clemens undertake seed collection and seed bombing annually to increase native plant growth within the gorse.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community engagement</b></p>	<p>Discussion with the Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua has been initiated and farmers within the Wakanui hāpua catchment will be contacted for input for access to the creek channel if needed during the feasibility study.</p> <p><i>Facilitator notes previous school involvement with the hāpua.</i></p>
<p><b>Mahinga kai considerations</b> <i>(Action Plan notes to ensure mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions)</i></p>	<p>This is a specialist investigation and reporting that will inform the future management of the Wakanui hāpua. There is a cultural heritage report done for the lower part of the hāpua which will not be affected during this investigation.</p> <p>Cultural report notes this as a place of significance for mahinga kai.</p> <p><i>Note Ngāi Tūāhuriri support for the project.</i></p>
<p><b>Project area</b></p>	<p>Wakanui hāpua is located at the end of Wakanui Rd next to the huts.</p> <p><i>Feasibility study area involves the Wakanui Creek Channel.</i></p>



## Application 2: Methven Birdsong Initiative - Garden of Harmony extension

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Methven Birdsong Initiative</b>
<b>Funds requested</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>The aim is to bring birdsong back to the Methven town and foothills between Mt Somers and Rakaia Gorge. This is a community-led project, aiming to create a long-term community asset for our town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We aim to increase the amount of native birdlife and birdsong in Methven.</li> <li>• We want to plant a 3ha native sanctuary in the centre of town and protect it from predators.</li> <li>• We will establish a Trap Library for community use.</li> <li>• We will encourage the community to plant gardens with native flora and to trap predators on their own property.</li> </ul> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a space where native flora and fauna can flourish by improving Biodiversity.</li> <li>• Enthuse the community to create and run it.</li> <li>• Create an asset for the town.</li> </ul> <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a trap in every other garden (500). Reduce the number of predators that prey on native birdlife. Possums, hedgehogs, rats, feral cats, mustelids.</li> <li>• Plant 3ha in native flora.</li> <li>• We may elect to protect the area with a predator-proof fence (TBC)</li> </ul> <p>We have surveyed Methven with a survey carrying +/- 5% statistical validity. Over 90% of respondents wants us to do this and over half of them have indicated a desire to get involved and help. We have the community behind us.</p>
<b>Action Plan alignment</b>	<p><i>Overarching priority of: We will work towards improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets.</i></p> <p>It will increase native biodiversity, creating a natural space and sanctuary in town. It will encourage native fauna. It will increase and encourage native flora planting. We think it this will result in a positive contribution to the general quality of life in the town. It will provide an area for educational purposes, carrying the environmental message to young people.</p>
<b>How funding will be used</b>	<p>Trap Library \$20,000 Initial planting \$10,000</p>
<b>In-kind contributions and project partners</b>	<p>We have been granted \$10,000 from Methven Community Board.</p> <p>Methven Lions for management and financial rigour. Also, for initial labour around pest identification and trapping. The community will be charged with providing the man hours to get this project over the line, and to ensure that it continues successfully long-term. We imagine that the “in kind” value of these inputs will greatly exceed the financial input we hope to be granted.</p>
<b>Community engagement</b>	<p>90% of Methven community who were surveyed were in support of the project.</p>

They are engaged right from the start. We know from research that we have that support. We know that many people have indicated their willingness to bring this to fruition. They are already engaged and the driving strategy is to continue to build that engagement in the firm belief that ultimate success can only be achieved with comprehensive community support and assistance. Having the electronic communications capability through social media is critical to our ability to deliver the dream.

Media: [Birdsong Initiative aims to bring chorus back to Methven - ADC](#)

**Mahinga kai considerations**

*(Action Plan notes to ensure mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions)*

*No mahinga kai considerations noted in application.*

*Facilitator notes that trapping may result in protection of taonga species depending on where trap uptake occurs.*

**Project area**



*Image 1: Garden of Harmony area, the proposed site for planting TBC*

### Application 3: Carters Creek Water Quality Improvement

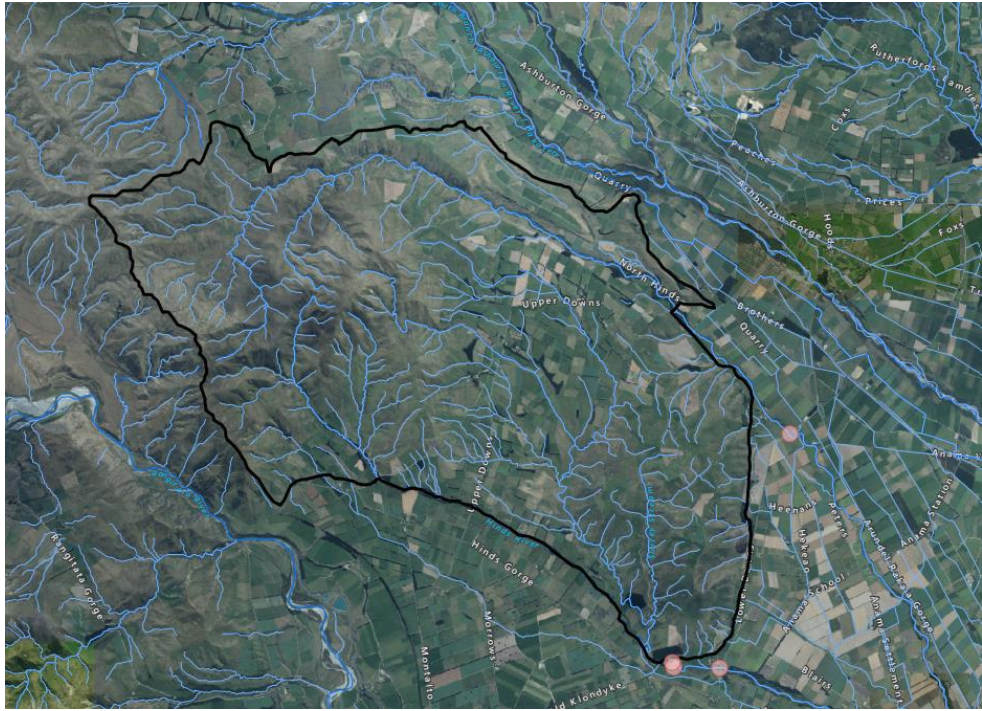
<b>Applicant</b>	Ashburton Aquatic Park Charitable Trust (AAPCT)
<b>Funds requested</b>	\$10,483.00
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>Implementation of a trial in Carters Creek to establish whether phosphorous reductions can be made benefiting water quality in the creek and Lake Hood downstream. The trial will be implemented by the Lake Hood Water Quality Task Force, consisting of Lake Hood stakeholders, including AAPCT, which was formed in April 2023 to investigate potential solutions to the Cyanobacteria problem. This is a simple project that will have scientific, engineering and project management oversight from Lake Hood Expansion Project (LHEP) and AAPCT.</p> <p>Outcomes for the Carters Creek Catchment Community include providing a basis for installing flow treatment points at selected points along the stream to improve water quality and implementation of the selected stream option will improve stream health for fish and invertebrates by reducing the risk of cyanobacteria blooms.</p> <p>Outcomes for the Ashburton and wider Canterbury community include contributing to the design of water treatment options for Lake Hood to reduce the risk of cyanobacteria outbreaks and provide a sound basis for developing treatment options for other waterbodies.</p>
<b>Action Plan alignment</b>	<p><b>We will focus on several waterbodies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hakatere/Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek and Wakanui hāpua); and</li> </ul> <p><b>We will work towards improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the Carters Creek Enhancement project group by assisting with community engagement, education and communications, to encourage behaviours that positively impact water quality in Carters Creek.</li> <li>• Also aligns with the Ashburton District Council’s priority being the Carters Creek.</li> </ul>
<b>How funding will be used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase Biochar along with mesh tubes (\$803)</li> <li>• Making minor modifications to streambed to take mesh tubes (\$1,760)</li> <li>• Up and downstream water sampling and analysis before, during and after the trial. (\$7920)</li> </ul>
<b>In-kind contribution and project partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour and project management costs – provided by LHEP - \$1680</li> <li>• Lake Hood Water Quality Task Force which includes Ashburton District Council (ADC) as a member. Also partnering with Carters Creek Catchment Group and residents.</li> </ul>
<b>Community engagement</b>	Through the Carters Creek Catchment Group, AAPCT communications, the Lake Hood Residents Association including its Facebook page. Will also work with ADC communications team to ensure community engagement.
<b>Mahinga kai considerations</b> <i>(Action Plan notes to ensure mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions)</i>	<i>None easily identifiable in application.</i>
<b>Project area</b>	Carters Creek end feeding into Lake Hood – see map.



## Application 4: HHHCG - Water Quality Testing Baseline Phase 2

<b>Applicant</b>	Hekeao Hinds Hill Country Catchment Group (HHHCG)– c/o Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective (MCCC)
<b>Funds requested</b>	<b>\$12,826.08</b> (\$14,750.00 incl. GST)
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>As part of Phase 1 of HHHCG’s collation of Independent Baseline Water Quality Testing, a gap of data in the Upper Hekeao Hinds Catchment Area was identified. HHHCG are seeking funding for Phase 2, being the implementation of the further water quality testing sites; understanding nutrient hotspots and understanding the Integration of on-farm management to drive further improvement of our stream health/water quality. The collation of baseline water quality data identifies the direction for the catchment groups action plan implementation into the future.</p> <p>To date, the project has been solely funded from the 13 catchment group members / farming families and support from Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective.</p>
<b>Action Plan alignment</b>	<p><b>We will focus on several waterbodies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hekeao/Hinds catchment</li> </ul>
<b>How funding will be used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality testing collection and lab costs associated with the Baseline Water Quality Monitoring for 12 months.</li> </ul>
<b>In-kind contribution and project partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHHCG members contribute: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Voluntary hours</li> <li>○ Phase 1: \$18K+</li> <li>○ Phase 2: \$20K+</li> <li>○ This is a significant investment by 13 family businesses which illustrates their commitment to improving the environment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MCCC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Catchment Group Facilitator services by Nicole Lang</li> <li>○ \$15K funding towards Phase 1 Baseline Water Quality.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• HHWETT – Expert Advisory from Dr Brent Painter.</li> <li>• Ongoing volunteer time for meetings, monthly access and Health and Safety process for consultant’s data collection.</li> </ul>
<b>Community engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHHCG is engaging with Wai Connection and the Enviroschools program around hosting events on farm and the engagement of Mt Somers School &amp; Mayfield Schools. Will also host Open Days and Field Days. Engagement provided by MCCC through articles in local papers and MCCC Facebook page.</li> </ul>
<b>Mahinga kai considerations</b> <i>(Action Plan notes to ensure mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions)</i>	<p>Landowners and members of the HHHCG have a history of engaging in successful environmental initiatives with extensive enhancement of Wetlands across the catchment &amp; voluntary protection of areas through QEII Trust which all enhance the mahinga kai. As a catchment community we want to share this knowledge between members as well as within our wider communities.</p> <p>We have an upcoming focus on increasing our knowledge of mahinga kai and the aquatic habitat with testing and monitoring through Wai Connection /EOS Ecology.</p>

**Project area**



*Figure 2 Upper Hekeao Hinds Plains Area*