

# Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee

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**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 Whakatore, 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 questions 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’s 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

### • Hakatere Rakau Group (Ross Hawthorne)

**That** the Ashburton Water Zone committee recommend the allocation of \$5,000 to the Hakatere 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, Hakatere Rakau 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 the Regional Committee highlighting the stress the drought is causing, in addition to the other market challenges, and the effects on farmer and community wellbeing and request assistance.

Cushnie/Advnit

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)