

Stockwater Transition Working Group

6 March 2025



Stockwater Transition Working Group – 6/03/25

Minutes of a meeting of the Stockwater Transition Working Group held on Thursday 6 March 2025, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, commencing at 1.30pm.

Present

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

Via MS Teams Treena Davis (Aoraki Environmental Consultancy).

In attendance

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

1 Apologies

Sally Reihana (AEC) and David Acland

Sustained

2 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Stockwater Transition Working Group meeting held on 5 December 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Mayor

Carried

4 Pudding Hill Intake closure – initial investigations

An assessment was undertaken to consider whether suitable alternative stockwater supplies are available to properties affected by the proposed closure of the Pudding Hill intake and downstream race network.

The assessment highlighted that 70% of the 171 affected properties had an existing source of water that could be utilised to provide stockwater. Of the remaining 30% of properties, it was assessed that all had a feasible supply alternation, primarily through Spaxton Stock Water Limited or Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Limited.

Officers are to undertake discussions with the potential identified alternative suppliers to work through the details.

5 Pudding Hill Intake closure – wider community engagement

It was noted that Mt Harding Creek Catchment Group should be included as a key stakeholder. The Mt Harding Catchment Group/community have indicated they wish to retain this stream with an environmental flow. It receives water from Washpen Creek (when flowing) and springs but would require more water to keep it flowing as it is mostly augmented with stockwater from Pudding Hill and Methven Auxiliary.

A water balance exercise has been commissioned on Mt Harding creek and will be undertaken by Aqualink.

Cultural Assessment

Discussions are being undertaken with AEC on options for going forward.

Archaeological Assessment

The concrete channel is a protected site as is any structure dated pre 1900's and authority is required if anything is to be changed with the structure. Advice is currently being sought on whether turning off water is defined as a 'change'.

Stormwater Drainage Investigations

The primary focus of concern is the impact of the stormwater that goes into the race running down Forest Drive and what will happen with that stormwater as it cannot be 'disposed 'of in the rural area. Options are being explored.

6 Methven Auxiliary Intake – closure investigation

208 initial survey were sent out to users, 137 responses have been received. Reminder letters/emails have been sent out to those that have not yet responded.

The Chair is to undertake community engagement sessions. Dates of these sessions will be circulated to the group members.

7 Next meetings

The Stockwater Transition Working Group is scheduled to meet on Thursday 22 May and Thursday 21 August 2025, commencing at 1.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 2.22pm.