ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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

DATE:	Tuesday 27 May 2025
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:	Clare Buchanan Angela Cushnie Bill Thomas Sidinei Teixeira TBC (Te Runanga o Arowhenua) TBC (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
jaimee.grant@ecan.govt.nz
Environment Canterbury

Committee Advisor
Carol McAtamney
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Ashburton District Council

Tangata Whenua Facilitator
TBC

Environment Canterbury

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Meeting Commences: 1.00pm

Order of Business

4 Register of Interests

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
Jess Hobbs	
Ian MacKenzie	Environment Canterbury Councillor
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 25 February 2025, commencing at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Councillor Richard Wilson, Adi Avnit, Clare Buchanan, Angela Cushnie, Jess Hobbs (via MS Teams) and Bill Thomas (Chair)

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Jaimee Grant (Facilitator) and Ashburton District Council: Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Carol McAtamney (minutes)
Department of Conservation: John Benn

10 members of the public in attendance.

1 Welcome

Jaimee Grant opened the meeting with a Karakia.

Chris Allen

The Chair acknowledged the recent passing of long time committee member Chris Allen. Chris made a significant contribution to the both the Zone committee and the Canterbury Water Management strategy over many years.

2 Apologies

That apologies for absence be received on behalf of Sidinei Teixeira and for lateness on behalf of Councillor Ian Mackenzie.

Thomas/Cushnie Carried

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

Nil.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 26 November 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

Thomas/Wilson Carried

Ashburton Hakatere Hāpua

At the November 2024 meeting, Adrian Meredith, Environment Canterbury Principal Scientist provided a presentation on the condition of the Ashburton/Hakatere hāpua. A letter is to be written to Adrian requesting further information to unanswered questions from the meeting. Angela Cushnie will provide the unanswered questions.

6 Correspondence

Inward:

- Dr Tim Davie, Environment Canterbury Director of Science
- Craig Fleming, Boundary Drains consent group

Outward:

- S Hall, Environment Canterbury in support of Greenstreet's community proposal for a temporary solution.

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Committee Appointments

Facilitator Jaimee Grant took the chair for the elections process.

Nominations for the Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee

That Bill Thomas be nominated as Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee for the term of one year.

Cushnie/Buchanan Confirmed

Nominations for the Deputy Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee

That Clare Buchanan be nominated as Deputy Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee for the term of one year.

Thomas/Wilson Confirmed

Ian Mackenzie joined the meeting at 1.18pm

9 CWMS Zone Committee Review and Next Steps

Cameron Smith, Environment Canterbury Senior Strategy Manager provided an update on actions from the previous meeting, relevant information and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Questions for Committee

- How will connection to Catchment groups be undertaken?
- Core leadership groups (Territorial Authorities, Mana whenua, Regional Council) – how many representatives from each group? Options being worked through and will be reported back to Mayoral Forum.
- Expect decision making to be made by local representatives
- Would need clarification on whether the core group would be decision makers, or stay as it is now and be only making recommendation

Members of the community addressed the meeting with their concerns over the proposed new structure:

- There is a current active and engaged committee getting local views heard
- Any new structure will require clear rules of engagement from the start
- The community needs a voice in any decision making processes
- Strong concerns on shutting out the community from the core leadership group

Jess Hobbs departed the meeting at 1.56pm

10 Mt Harding Creek Catchment Group update

Janine Holland and Catherine Lusk

Provided an update on the impact of the Pudding Hill and Methven Auxiliary stockwater closures on their catchment community (SH72 to Winchmore) and requested support from the Zone Committee for their advocacy for retention of the stockwater consents.

The groups strategic vision is focused on three outcomes:

- Reliable flow
- Autonomy
- Community ownership

Suggested solution

- ADC continues to hold stockwater consent for 'environmental flow'
- Compliance discretion provided by ECan for fishscreen
- Targeted rate for ongoing maintenance
- Catchment group and MCB bring urban and rural together on projects to keep creek 'healthy and flowing'
- Climate resilience improves. Creek remains conduit for flood and stormwater flows – alongside improved autonomy for landowners to mitigate impact.
- No loss of flow, more engaged community, and we protect the creek's instream and biodiversity values.

Agreed:
The Zone Committee is supportive of the Mt Harding Creek Catchment groups proposal for the retention of stockwater consents and will make a recommendation to the Regional Council to also support this proposal.

Mackenzie/Thomas Carried

11 Zone Committee workplan

Field Trip

A field trip is to be scheduled for either Monday 24 or Tuesday 25 March.
Councillors from Ashburton District Council and Environment Canterbury are to be invited.

12 AAPCT Grant Variation request

The variation request was withdrawn and not further action is required.

13 Other Business

Adi Avnit has tendered his resignation effective as of today.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee is to be confirmed.

Dated this 27th day of May 2025 _____ (Chair)

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 8	**KAUPAPA/SUBJECT:** Hekeao Hinds Catchment update
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant, Zone Facilitator	**WĀ/MEETING DATE:** 27 May 2025

Purpose

To update the Committee on the Hekeao Hinds Catchment.

Recommendation

The Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Receives the Hekeao Hinds Catchment update.

Report

Updates will be presented by:

- Dr Brett Painter, Executive Director, Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust (HHWET),
- Megan Fitzgerald, Facilitator. Hekeao Hinds Hill Country Catchment Group
- Phill Everest, Facilitator, Hekeao Hinds Lowland Catchment Group

A copy of the HHWET update is attached as **Agenda Item 8.1 – Empowering local communities in sustainable water resource management.**

Hekeao / Hinds Plains

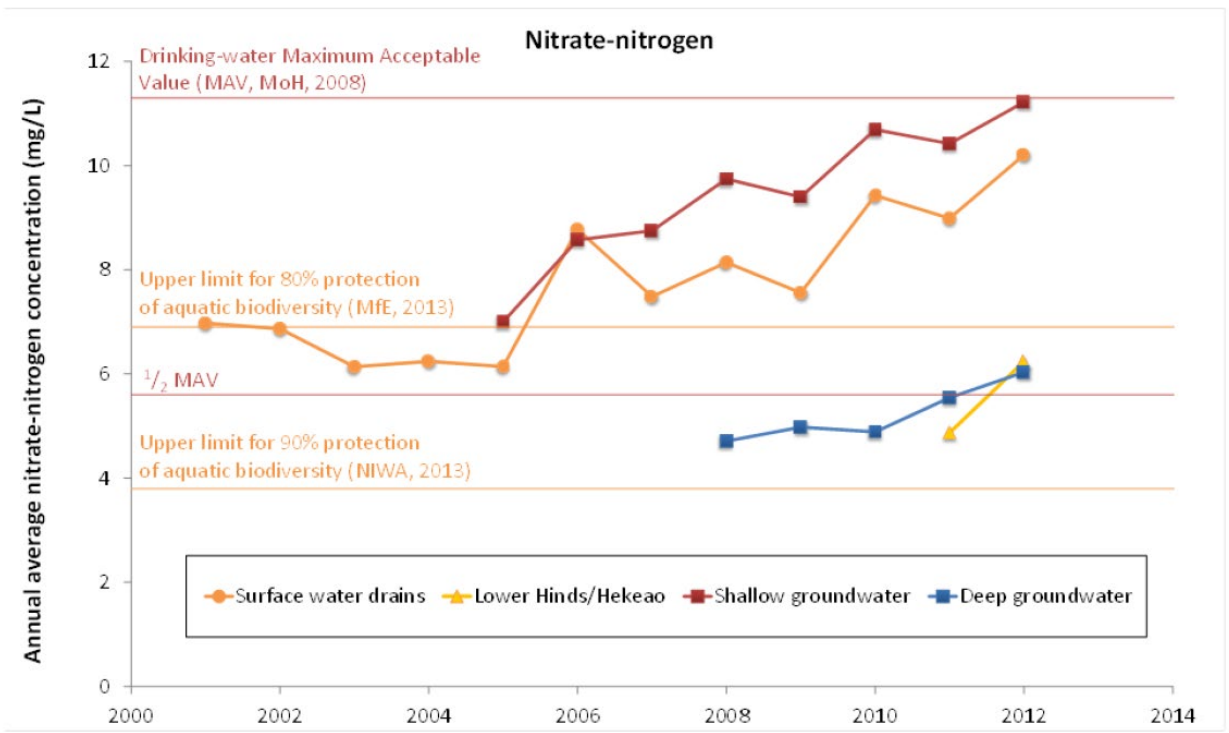
Empowering local communities in sustainable water resource management

Dr Brett Painter

- former contributor to and implementer of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS)
- current Executive Director of the Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust (HHWET)

Pre-2009 challenges

- Increasing extreme weather events
- Decreasing water quality
- Adversarial water resource management



Decision No. C 30 /2006

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991 **(the Act)**

AND

IN THE MATTER of an appeal under section 120 of the Act

BETWEEN LYNTON DAIRY LIMITED

(ENV C 146/04)

Appellant

AND THE CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Respondent

BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT

Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning
Vol. 13, No. 1, March 2011, 49–69

Science, Society, and Water Resources in New Zealand: Recognizing and Overcoming a Societal Impasse

EDWARD P. WEBER*, ALI MEMON** & BRETT PAINTER†

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA
**Lincoln University, New Zealand
†Lincoln Environmental Research at Lincoln Ventures Ltd., New Zealand

2009-2025

- 2009 - Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS).
- 2010 - Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act.
- 2010 - Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee formed, producing ZIP and ZIPA by 2014.
- 2014 – Hinds Drains Working Party formed.
- 2015 – Hekeao/Hinds MAR project began, overseen by MAR Governance Group then HHWET.
- 2018 – Plan Change 2 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (PC2 cLWRP).
- 2021 - Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective (MCCC) formed.
- 2022 - Hekeao Hinds Science Collaboration Group (HHSCG) formed.

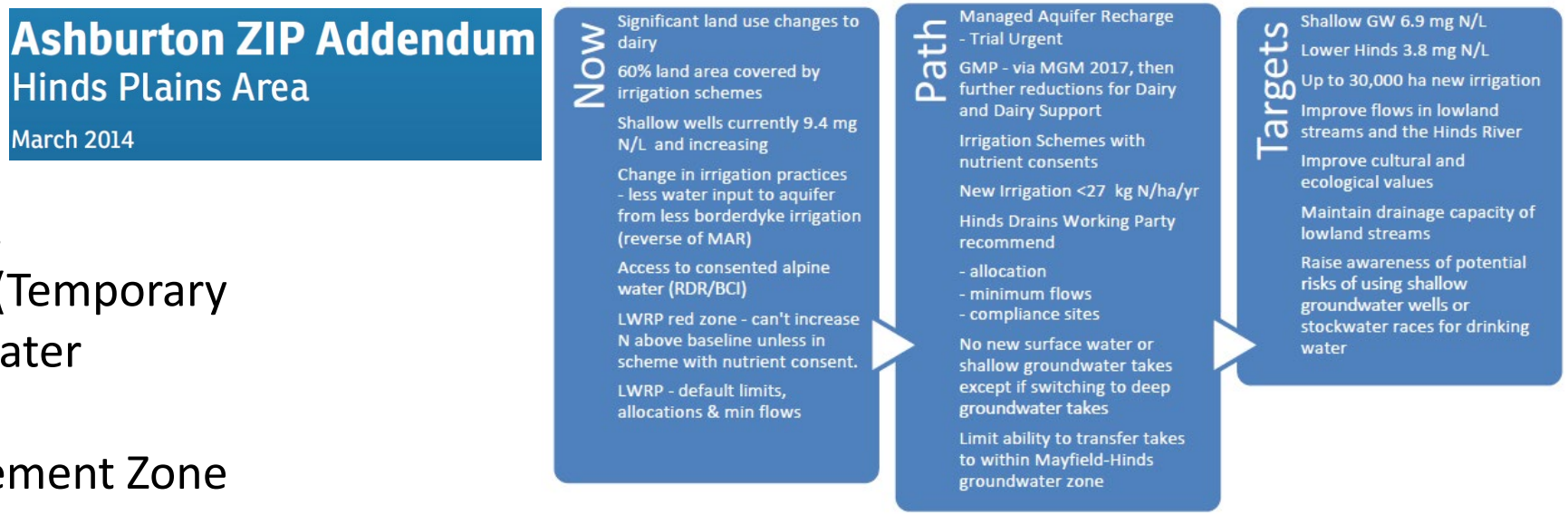


Table 2: Indicative Timing of Implementing the Options Package

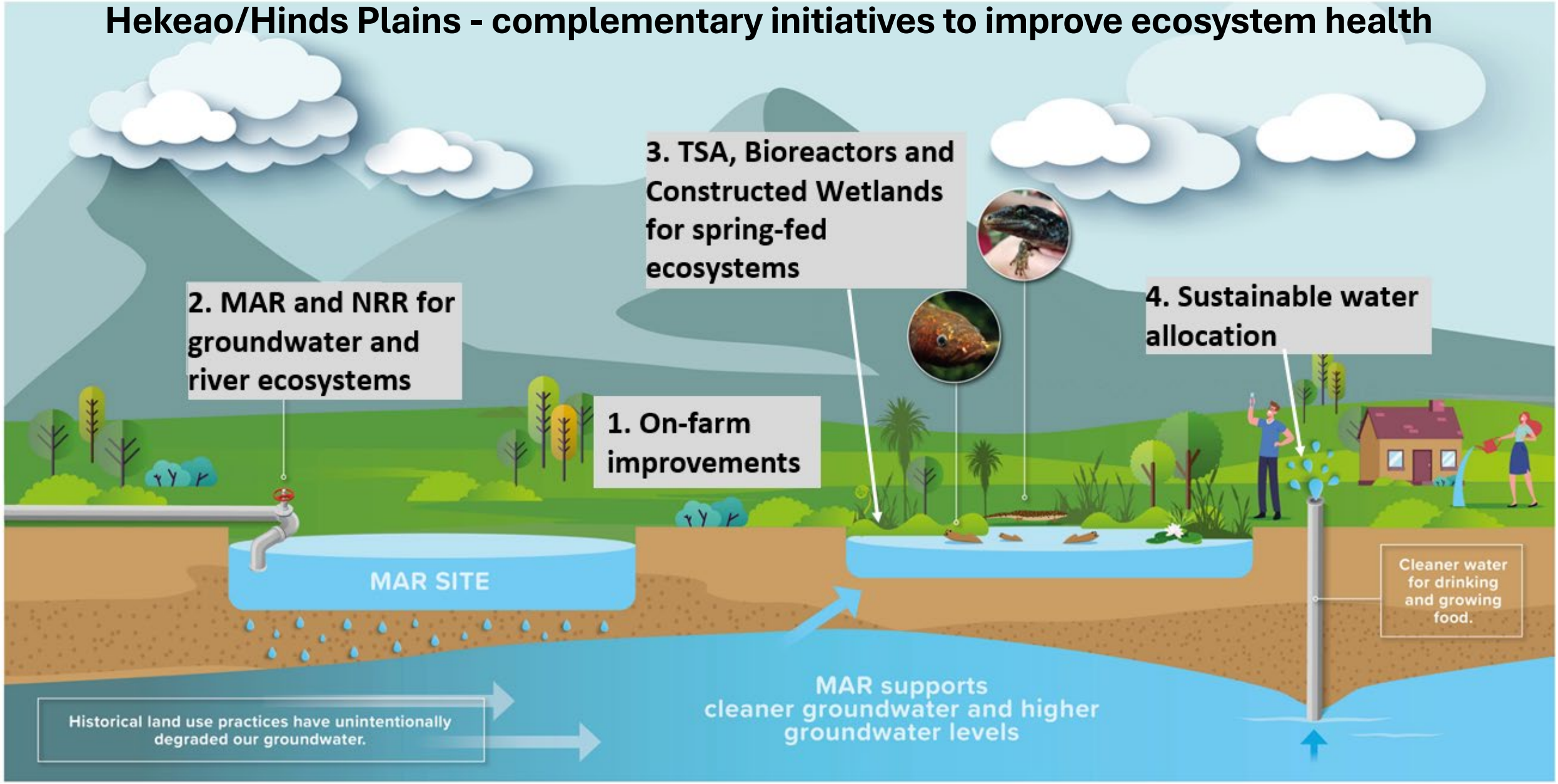
NOT INCLUDED IN PC2

Key dates	2014/15	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035
Cumulative approximate area of new irrigation (ha) (assume converted to dairy/dairy support with 27 kg N/ha cap)	0	5,000	10,000	20,000	30,000	-
Volume of MAR (m^3/s)	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.8	3.8	3.8
Level of on-farm mitigation (as defined in Everest *et al.*, 2013)	Current Practices	GMP	AM1 (no DCD)[a]	AM1[b]	AM1[b]	AM2 Dairy
Percentage reduction target for nitrogen leaching across the catchment	0%	5%	15-20%	25-30%	35%	45%
Indicative average nitrate concentration in soil drainage (mg N/L)	12.4	12.2	11.3–11.0	11.0-10.5	9.4	9.2
Indicative average nitrate concentration in shallow aquifer and springs after MAR (mg N/L)	11.9	11.2	10.0 - 9.4	9.4 - 8.8	7.0	6.9

[a] Assumes all Dairy and Dairy Support apply AM1 mitigations, excluding mixed pasture sward, short rotation ryegrass and white clover and nitrification inhibitor.

[b] Assumes nitrification inhibitor is available for pasture

Hekeao/Hinds Plains - complementary initiatives to improve ecosystem health



Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) is the purposeful recharge of low nutrient water via leaky basins and races. Near River Recharge (NRR) and Targeted Stream Augmentation (TSA) are variations of MAR for rivers and spring-fed waterways respectively.

Hekeao/Hinds on-farm improvements since 2015

(Sources: Scheme submissions, landowner submissions, MRB reports, HHSCG)

- Irrigation Scheme and individual irrigator progress:
  - 87-94% are at least A Grade and increasing percentage at Advanced Mitigation (MHV, BCI)
  - On track (BCI) or already achieved (MHV) 2025 and 2030 PC2 nutrient leaching reduction targets
  - Positive progress toward PC2 targets (Mid Canterbury Independent Irrigators, individuals)
- Specific improvements include:
  - Technology/infrastructure (irrigation/effluent upgrades, soil moisture monitoring, variable rate irrigation/fertiliser)
  - Monitoring (ground and surface water, soil N, irrigation system, radiometric surveys, breeding trials)
  - Management (Intensive Winter Grazing Plans, catch crops, plantain+, reduced stocking, minimal tillage)
  - Biodiversity (fencing of waterways and high leaching zones, native planting, new wetlands, mahinga kai gathering)
  - Irrigation Nutrient Recycling opportunities assessed and piloted

Complementary environmental enhancements

(see www.hhwet.org.nz for further information)

1. NRR – Near River Recharge

- Replacement and additional consents granted April 2025.

2. MAR – Managed Aquifer Recharge

- Replacement and additional consents granted April 2025.

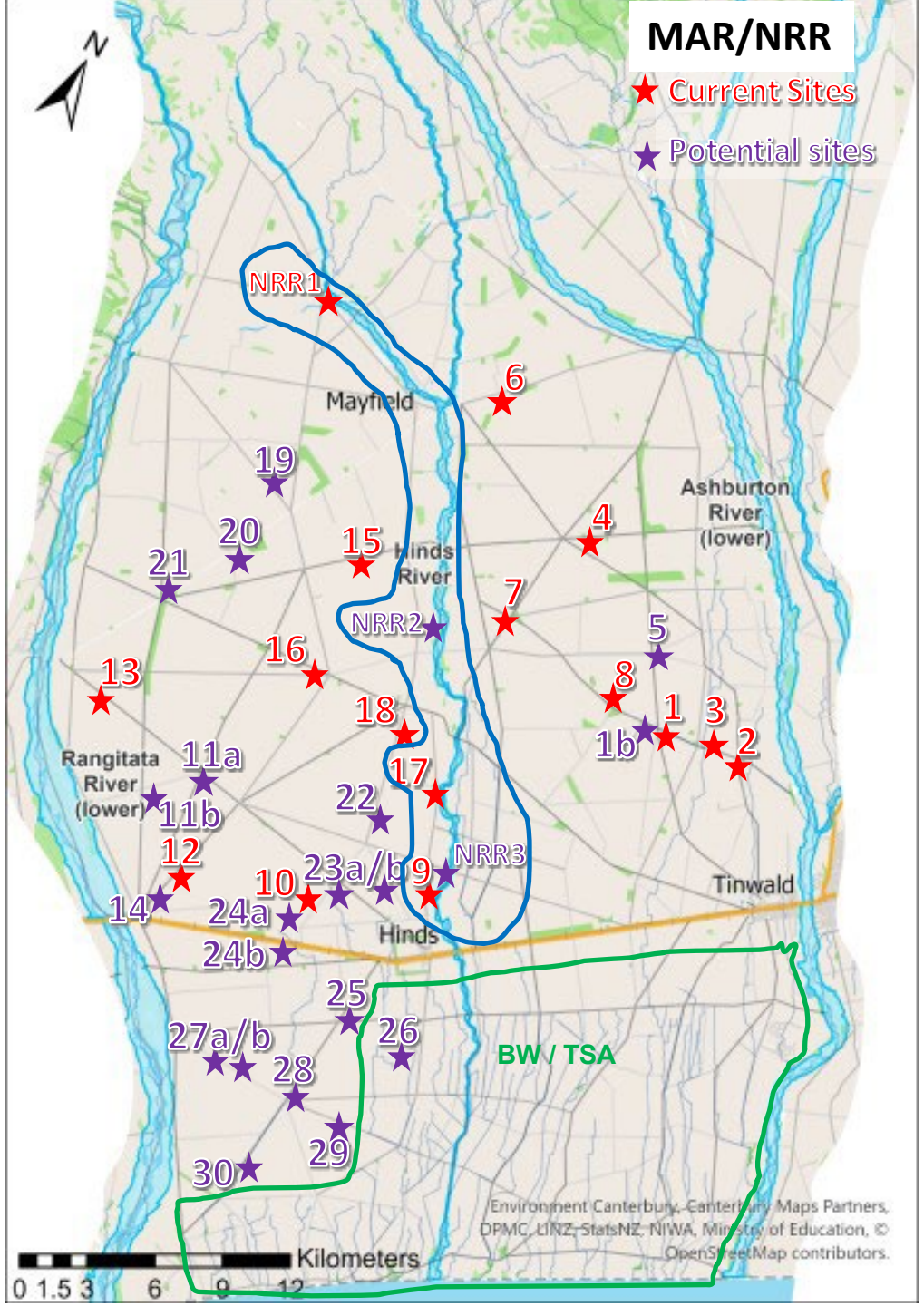
3. TSA – Targeted Stream Augmentation

- Joint ECGIS/HHWET Windermere Drain Enhancement project since 2024.

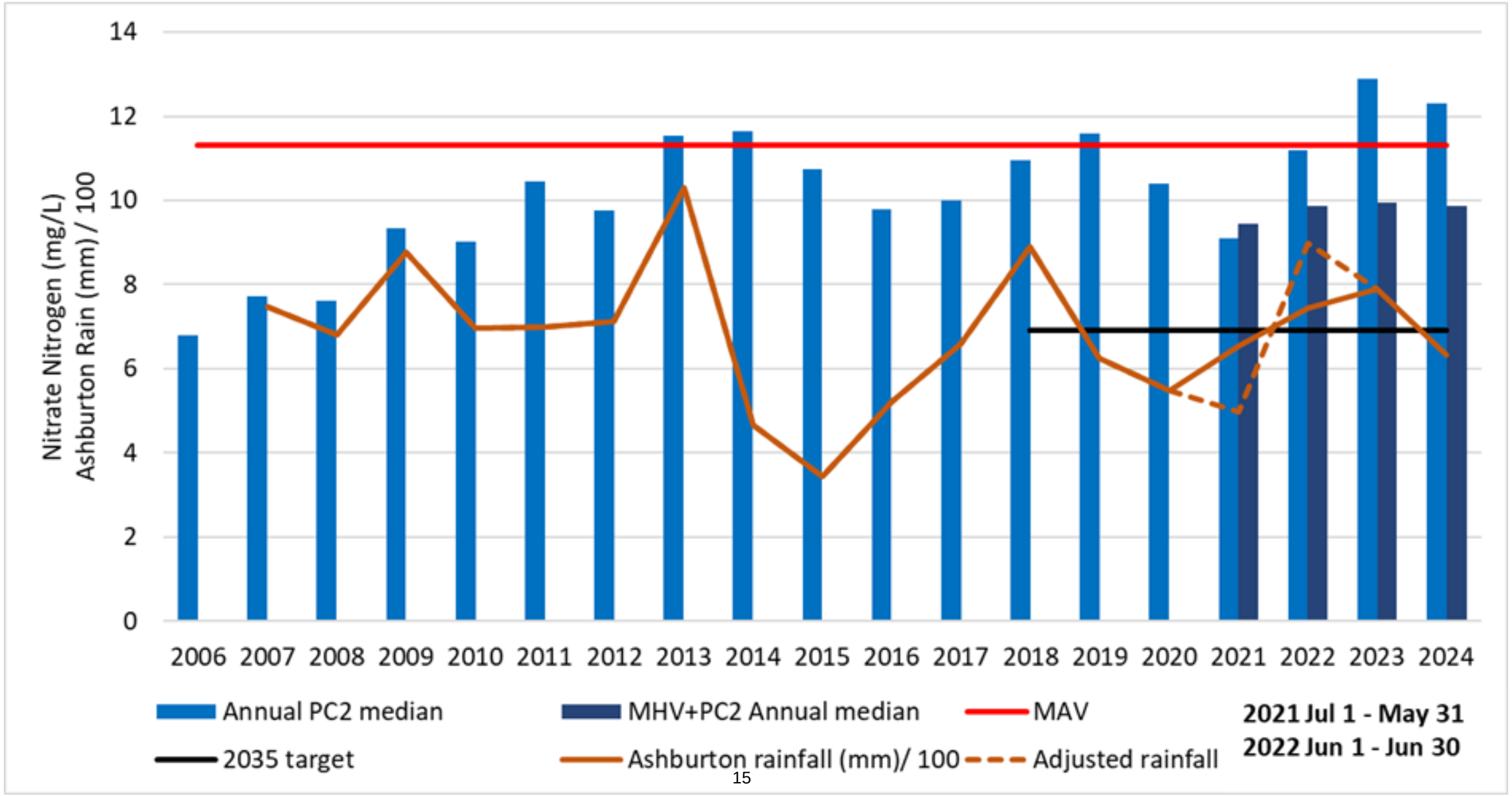
4. BW - Constructed wetlands and bioreactors

- Wairuna pilot wetland led by Lowlands Catchment Group and supported by HHSCG since 2024.

- eClean Bioreactor trial beside Northern Drain (supported by HHSCG) since 2024.

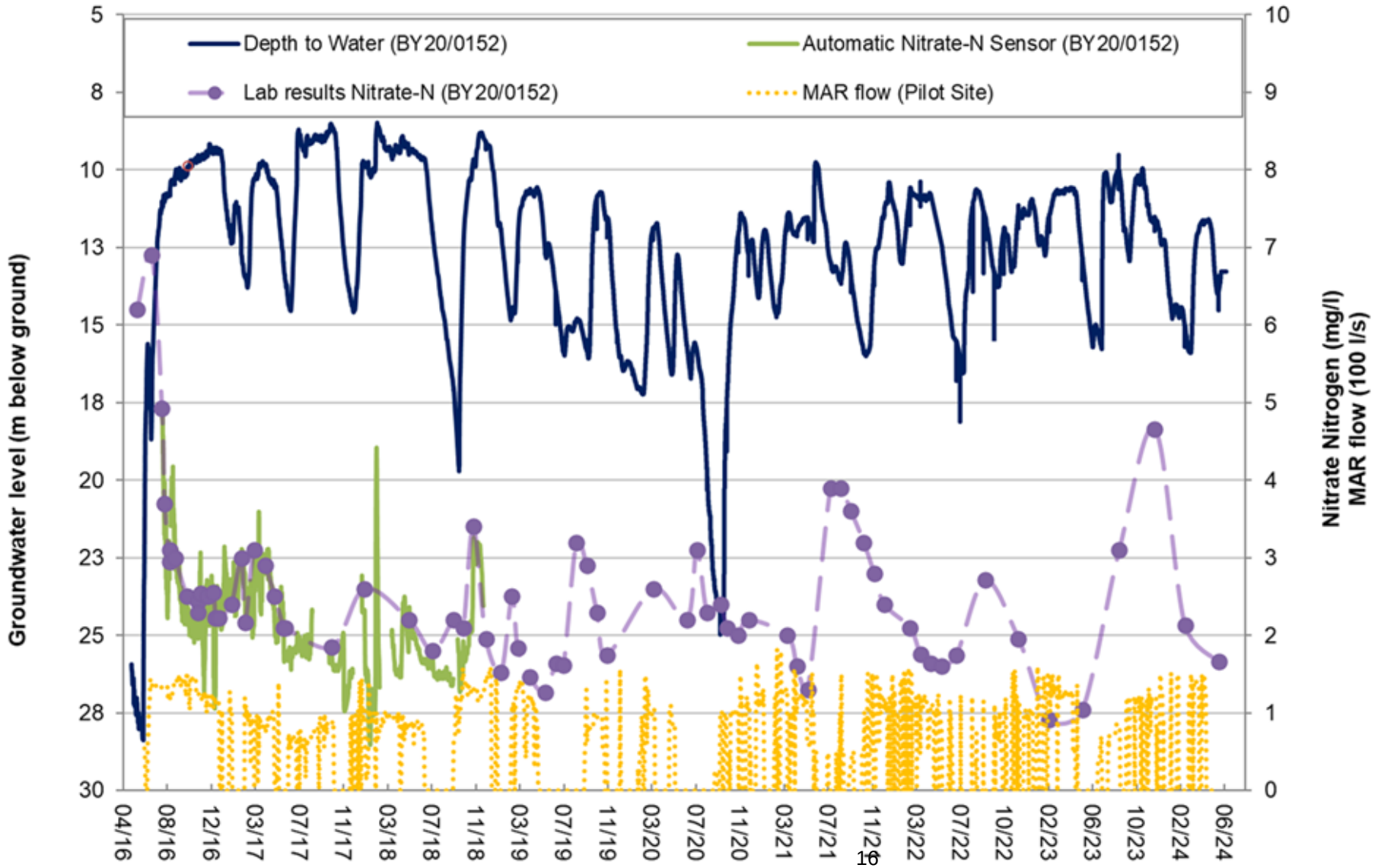


Progress toward PC2 2035 shallow groundwater nitrate-N target



Example: MAR contribution to PC2 targets

(monitoring bore BY20/0152, 29 m deep and 1 km down-gradient from MAR01)



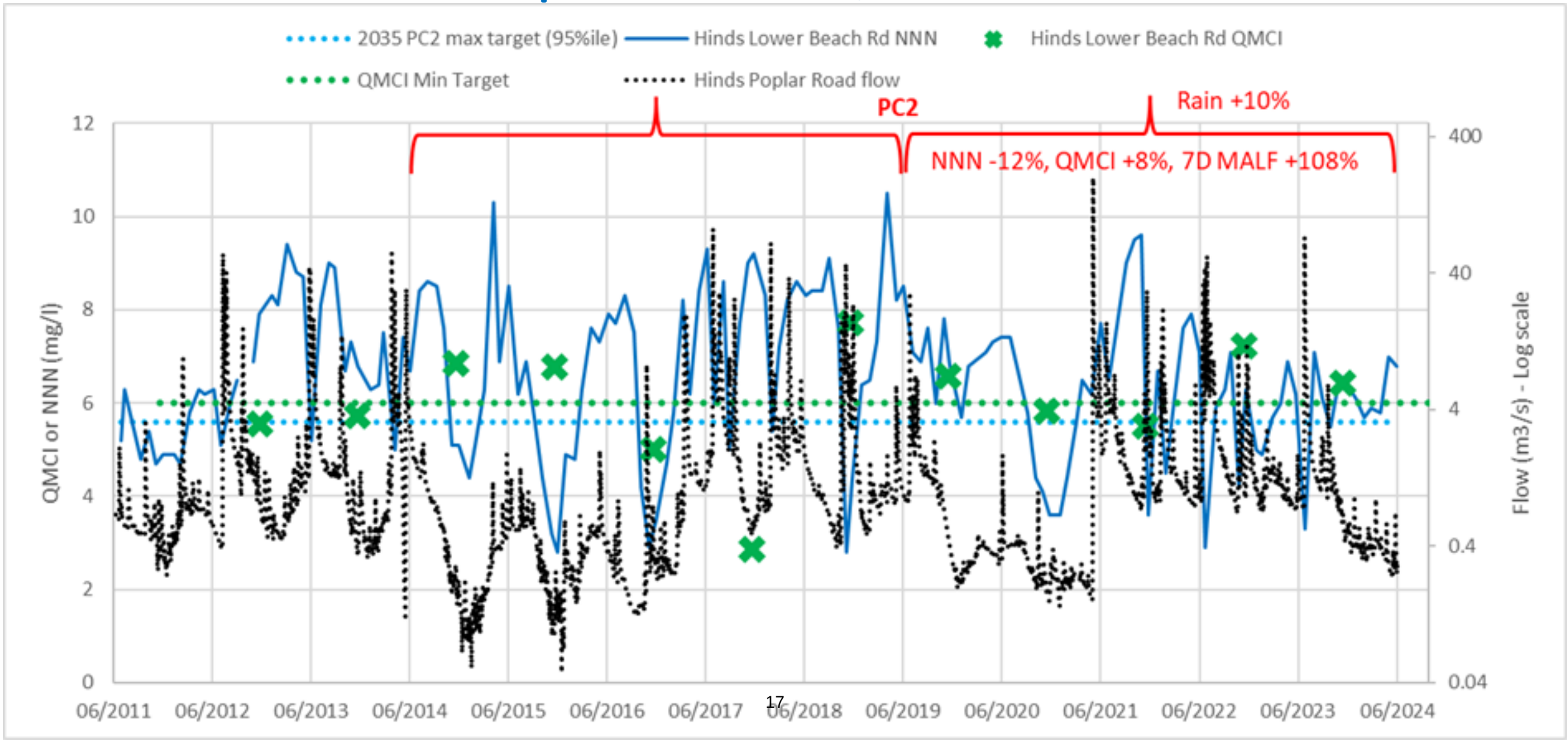
PRE-MAR:

- Groundwater nitrate-N 6-7 mg/l

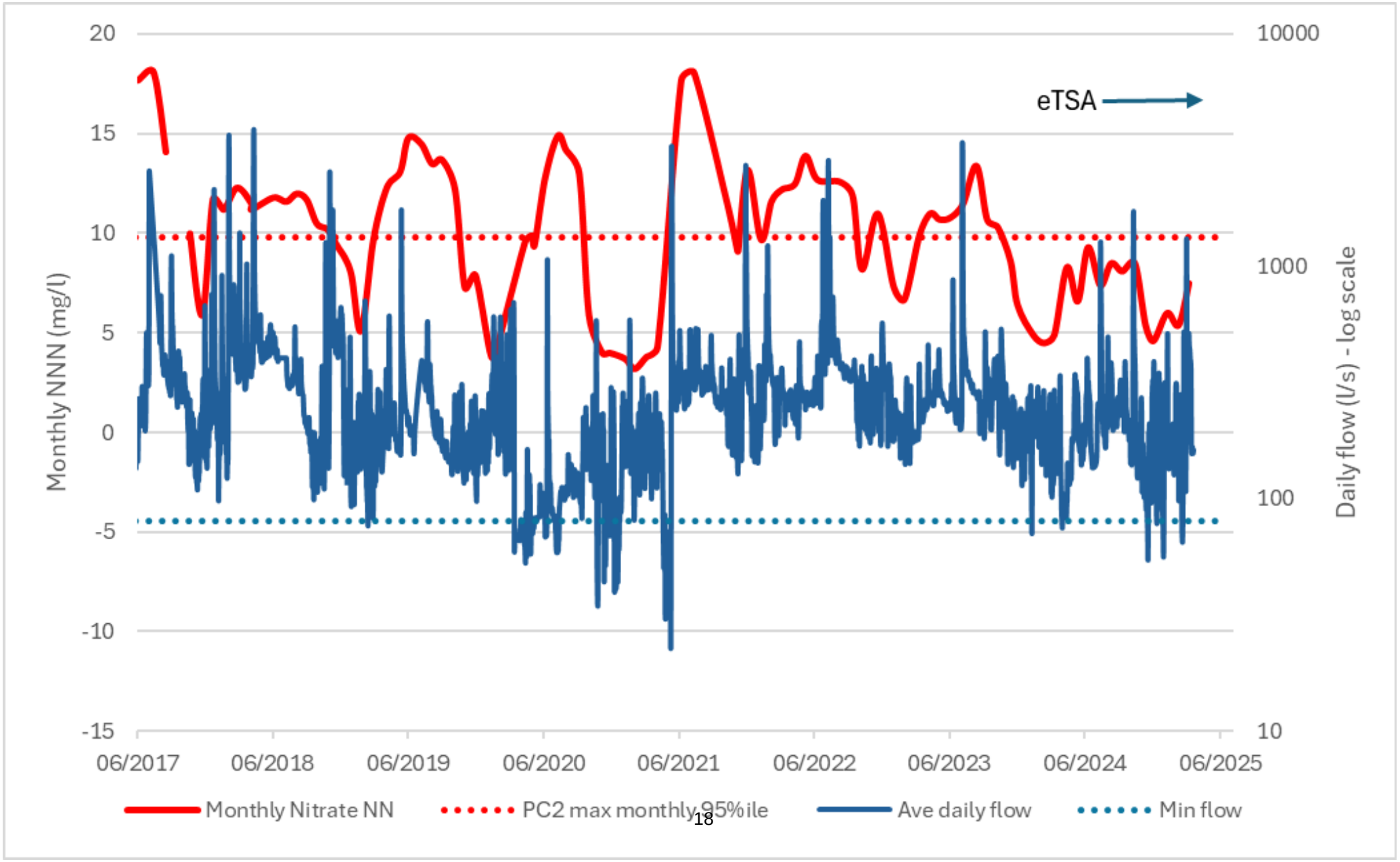
ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Fast groundwater level response to MAR
- Post MAR nitrate-N 1.2-2.2 mg/l when operational and up to 4 mg/l otherwise
- No long-term effects from heavy rainfall events

Example: Hekeao/Hinds River improvements due to on-farm improvements, NRR and MAR



Example: Windermere Drain Enhanced TSA Project success



Examples: biodiversity improvements

- Fish surveys and eDNA analyses show increased fish populations (e.g., Hekeao/Hinds River, Windermere Drain) and increased fish species (e.g., Windermere Drain).
- Increased native plantings (e.g., >20,000 by HHWET).
- Covenants (e.g., NRR1 for lizard habitat by HHWET).
- Increased native bird life (e.g., NRR1)

2025 – 2035: Potential Water Resource Management Challenges and Opportunities

- Canterbury Mayoral Forum review of Zone Committees and potential future Local Leadership Group – inclusive or exclusive structure, collaborative or adversarial processes?
- Resource consenting processes – empowering sustainable resource management or defensive bureaucracy?
- Monitoring and reporting toward agreed (e.g., PC2) targets – collaborative / timely or adversarial / belated?
- Empowered and collaborative community organisations to support next level environmental improvements – need to have, or just nice to have?
- Resilience to externalities (e.g., political/social/economic changes, natural disasters) – ready or not?

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 9	**KAUPAPA/SUBJECT:** Greenstreet Catchment Group update
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant, Zone Facilitator	**WĀ/MEETING DATE:** 27 May 2025

Purpose

To update the Committee on the Greenstreet Catchment Group activities.

Recommendation

The Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Receives the update Greenstreet Catchment Group update

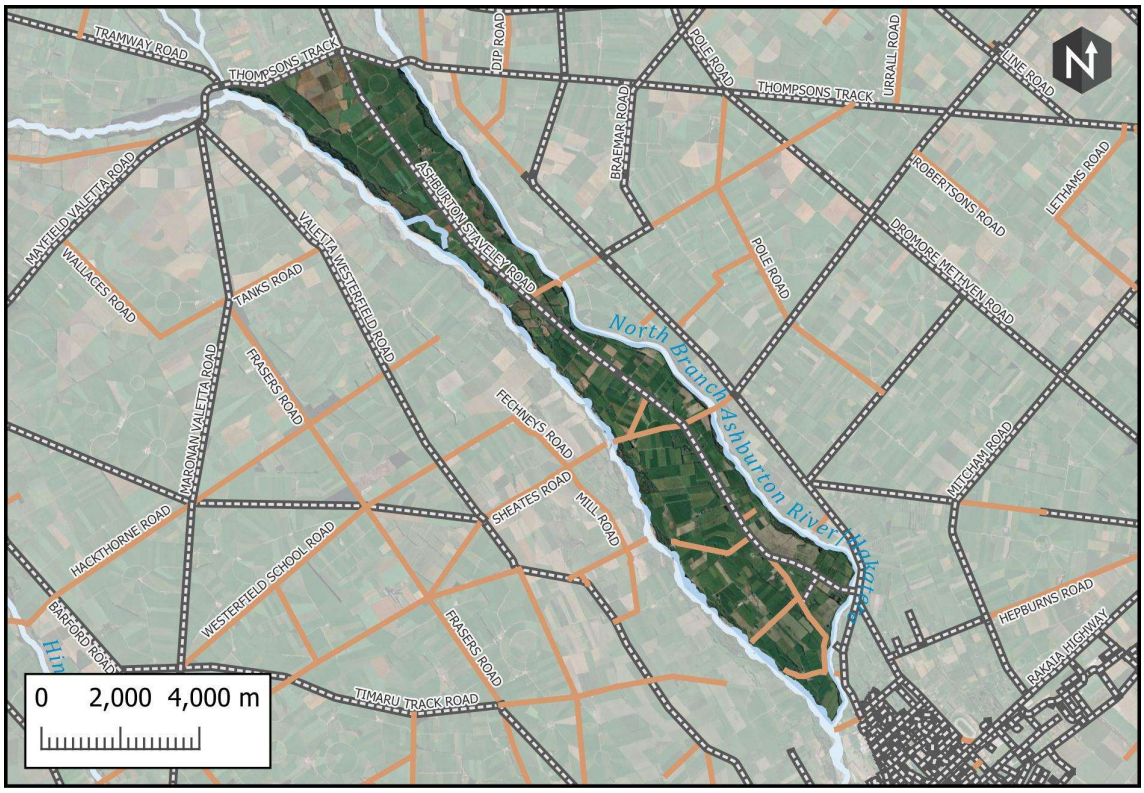
Report

Chair, Stacey Stewart, and Facilitator, Harry Miller, will provide an overview of the Greenstreet catchment and the Greenstreet Catchment Group's purpose and activities.

A copy of the Catchment Group Handout is attached as **Agenda Item 9.1 – Greenstreet Catchment Group – Ashburton Water Zone Committee Visit.**

1 INTRODUCTION

The Greenstreet Catchment Group is a community-led environmental initiative situated northwest of Ashburton township in the Canterbury region of New Zealand (See **Map 1**). This group brings together local landowners, farmers, and industry stakeholders with a shared goal of enhancing water quality, restoring biodiversity, and promoting sustainable land management within the Greenstreet catchment.



Map 1. Greenstreet Catchment location within Canterbury context.

The Greenstreet Catchment Group includes **4,792ha** which lies within the fertile Canterbury Plains, an area known for its dairy and arable farming. Its proximity to the Ashburton River makes water quality, flood management and land-use sustainability critical concerns for the local community. By working together, the Greenstreet Catchment Group aims to create a resilient and thriving environment, ensuring that the landscape remains productive while safeguarding natural ecosystems for future generations.

2 Natural and Climatic Features

The Greenstreet Catchment Group area encompasses a diverse range of natural features, including a significant 45.4km stretch of both the South and North Branches of the Ashburton River, which flow on either side of the catchment. Additionally, the area contains approximately 90 km of various water bodies within its command area, contributing to the region's hydrological network. The predominant soil types within the catchment include Templeton deep silt loam, Waimakariri shallow sandy loam, and Waimakariri stony sandy loam, each influencing land use and agricultural productivity. Irrigation plays a crucial role in land management, with approximately 65% of the total land area benefiting from water supplied through individual groundwater takes and the Greenstreet Irrigation Society's infrastructure.

3 Purpose and Actions

A passionate group of Greenstreet residents has come together to improve their local environment, advocate for real-world resource management solutions, and preserve the deep-rooted knowledge of the area for future generations.

The group, made up of local landowners, farmers, and residents, aims to address the challenges affecting the Greenstreet catchment, particularly flood management, restrictions on water use for ecosystem enhancement, and create a catchment wide vision for preserving and expanding biodiversity. By working collectively, members hope to not only enrich the local environment but also provide a unified voice when engaging with key stakeholders on resource management issues.

3.1 Community-Driven Action Plan

3.1.1 Enhancing Local Understanding of Water Quality

- Design and implement a Water Quality Monitoring Program to assess the current state of the catchment's water bodies.
- Engage local stakeholders, including farmers, residents, and schools, to participate in data collection and reporting.
- Utilize collected data to inform decision-making and management practices aimed at improving water quality.

3.1.2 Expanding Pest Management Efforts

- Extend the Ashburton Forks Catchment Group's pest control initiatives to include the Greenstreet Catchment Group's command area.
- Develop a coordinated approach for controlling invasive species, particularly those affecting flood management and native biodiversity.
- Work with landowners to implement best practices for pest control and habitat protection.
- Seek funding opportunities to support ongoing pest management efforts.

3.1.3 Strengthening Collaborative Relationships with Environment Canterbury

- Foster stronger relationships between the Greenstreet Catchment Group, Environment Canterbury, and local landowners.
- Advocate for the inclusion of community leaders in the planning and implementation of river management strategies.

- Encourage knowledge sharing between scientific experts and community members to develop practical, locally informed solutions.
- Facilitate regular meetings and progress updates to ensure transparent communication and continuous improvement across a broad range of issues.

3.1.4 Promoting Ecological Conservation and Enhancement

- Conduct studies to better understand the ecological importance of Greenstreet waterbodies.
- Implement restoration projects, such as native planting and wetland rehabilitation, to improve habitat quality.
- Raise awareness about the importance of long-term conservation efforts through community engagement and education.

4 Timeline of Greenstreet Creek Water Management Events

1st July 2023

➡️ 450 litres/sec minimum flow in O'Shea's Creek comes into effect.

January 2024

➡️ Local community begins noticing a decline in Greenstreet Creek flow due to climatic conditions.

February 2024

➡️ Local community starts contacting regional authority to express concerns about the ecosystem health of Greenstreet Creek.

➡️ Concerns arise due to new minimum flow restrictions and the inability to supplement the creek's flow (which has been ongoing for the past 30 years).

March 2024

➡️ Greenstreet Creek continues to dry, reaching near complete desiccation.

21st March 2024

➡️ Environment Canterbury (ECan) Chief Executive Dr. Stefanie Rixecker grants emergency powers to enable augmentation of Greenstreet Creek as an interim solution.

April – September 2024

➡️ Various community members attempt to engage with ECan officials to establish a long-term solution for augmenting Greenstreet Creek.

September 2024

➡️ ECan staff circulate a letter to industry bodies and stakeholders outlining their approach to the Greenstreet Creek situation going forward.

➡️ Many community leaders receive the letter through third parties.

➡️ Greenstreet community lodges a Land and Water Regional Plan Change 8 submission, targeting an updated planning framework to enable non-consumptive water use for ecological benefit.

➡️ Submission is led by newly appointed Facilitator Harry Millar.

October 2024

➡️ Community members meet to discuss a response to ECan's letter of intention.

16th October 2024

➡️ Ian Hodge (Community Spokesperson) and Harry Millar (Facilitator) meet with ECan's compliance, consents, science, and planning divisions.

➡️ Discussion focuses on solutions for the ongoing restoration and preservation of Greenstreet Creek.

November 2024

➡️ Community members and Harry Millar continue engaging with ECan to understand the requirements for a long-term solution.

➡️ ECan outlines the community's role in preparing this information.

December 2024

➡️ Climatic conditions begin to dry, and minimum flow settings are nearing critical levels.

➡️ Community and Irrigation Society request a meeting with Paul Hulse (General Manager for Regulatory Implementation) to discuss compliance discretion to enable augmentation of Greenstreet Creek.

➡️ Proposal states that key stakeholders (Runanga, Fish and Game, and Department of Conservation) must approve the measure.

➡️ Email sent to stakeholders outlining the proposal.

➡️ Fish and Game and local Runanga reject the proposal, citing that priority should be given to the North Branch of the Ashburton for water availability.

➡️ eDNA sampling undertaken across Greenstreet and O'Shea's Creek to better understand biodiversity present in these waterbodies and how Greenstreet Creek is recovering post March 2024.

January – March 2025

➡️ Ongoing efforts from the community and facilitator to initiate meetings with key stakeholders.

March 2025

➡️ Preliminary discussions begin regarding the need for greater flexibility in non-consumptive water use across the Ashburton District, especially at Mt Harding and Lake Hood.

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 10	**KAUPAPA/SUBJECT:** Whitcombe Landcare Trust update
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant, Zone Facilitator	**WĀ/MEETING DATE:** 27 May 2025

Purpose

To update the Committee on the Whitcombe Landcare Trust activities.

Recommendation

The Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Receives the update from Whitcombe Landcare Trust

Report

Facilitator, Megan Fitzgerald, will provide an update on the Whitcombe Landcare Trust's activities.

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 11	**KAUPAPA/SUBJECT:** Ashburton Forks Catchment Croup – Pest and Predator Control program update
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant, Zone Facilitator	**WĀ/MEETING DATE:** 27 May 2025

Purpose

To update the Committee on the Ashburton Forks Catchment Group – Pests and Predator Control Program project.

Recommendation

The Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Receives the update on the Ashburton Forks Catchment Group – Pests and Predator Control Program project.

Report

The Ashburton Forks Catchment Group (AFCG) continues to make strong progress in its efforts to improve biodiversity and water quality in the Ashburton Forks area. The group, made up of 20 community-minded farmers, has taken a coordinated approach to managing environmental issues through pest control, water monitoring, and native planting.

In early 2025, the AFCG received an $8,480 grant from the Ashburton Water Zone Committee Action Plan fund, enabling the acquisition of 15 additional AT220 All-in-One Possum & Rat Auto Traps to their existing stock. These self-resetting devices, requiring servicing only twice a year, have significantly bolstered the group's pest control efforts by providing efficient and low-maintenance solutions. With the recent funding, the group now operates at least 20 AT220 traps, enhancing their capacity to manage pest populations effectively.

Jono Allen, AFCG, will provide an update on the Pests and Predator Control Program and their success with the Auto Traps.

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 12	**KAUPAPA/SUBJECT:** Mid Canterbury Advisory Group update
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant, Zone Facilitator	**WĀ/MEETING DATE:** 27 May 2025

Purpose

To update the Committee on the Mid Canterbury Advisory Group.

Recommendation

The Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Receives the update.

Report

Ashburton Water Zone Community member, Angela Cushnie, will provide a verbal update on the Mid Canterbury Advisory Group.

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 13	**KAUPAPA/SUBJECT:** Ashburton Water Zone Committee – Priorities for the Future
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant, Zone Facilitator	**WĀ/MEETING DATE:** 27 May 2025

Purpose

To confirm the Ashburton Water Zone Committee's Priorities for the Future document for handover to a new leadership group model.

Recommendation

The Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Confirms the 'Ashburton Water Zone Committee's Priorities for the Future' document for handover.

Report

Background

As part of the CWMS Committees Review, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum endorsed the transition to new local leadership groups that will succeed the existing zone committees. Key decisions remain to be made regarding the final structure and focusses of these new governance arrangements.

As part of the transition to a new local leadership group, this Committee can support the process by identifying strategic priorities for the Ashburton water zone. These can be informed by the ZIP, ZIPAs, the Zone Committee's Action Plan and other relevant information. This will help maintain continuity and provide direction for the new leadership structures.

Given the Committee's collective knowledge and experience in freshwater management along with its community connections, it is well-placed to contribute to shaping the key strategic focus areas moving forward.

April workshop – Priorities for the Future

On 29 April 2025, the Committee held an online workshop to identify and document the Committee's top priorities to pass on to a new leadership group. A draft was distributed to Committee members for feedback prior to this meeting. A copy of the draft including any feedback is attached as **Agenda Item 13.1 – Ashburton Water Zone Committee's Priorities for the Future.**

Ashburton Water Zone Committee's Priorities for the Future

1. Helping to create a regulatory enabling structure to empower communities to take action by:
    a. Identifying obstacles that prevent action and outcomes, and reflecting those to Environment Canterbury e.g. stream augmentation, Managed Aquifer Recharge, Ashburton River Plan, etc.
    b. Reconnecting and coordinating the various groups, and reasserting community collaboration.
    c. Timely progress updates on the implementation of relevant projects, plans and processes.
2. Enabling local organisations and groups to present their scientific findings and ensuring they are recognised as valid contributions to the broader knowledge base.
3. Bridging the gap between Environment Canterbury, Ashburton District Council, mana whenua, and community to enable collaboration and communication, in particular:
    a. The relationship between Environment Canterbury and Ashburton District Council.
    b. Clarifying roles and ensuring there is no hierarchy, so that all voices are valued equally.
    c. Re-engaging the community and recognising the importance of their contributions.
    d. Bringing the focus back to environmental *and* social and community outcomes.
4. Advising Environment Canterbury on community funding:
    a. Provide strategic guidance to Environment Canterbury on funding models —such as bulk funding—and on effective distribution methods to support achieving outcomes, as needed.
5. Ensuring Environment Canterbury have local officers connecting with local groups:
    a. Environment Canterbury should have officers or the appropriate local staff members working with local groups. These officers should have the necessary influence or mana required to be effective in order to:
        i. know and understand groups priorities.
        ii. identify and help address barriers to effective action.
        iii. support conversations, decision making and enabling necessary actions.