

ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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

DATE: Tuesday 23 February 2021

TIME: 1:00 pm

VENUE: Council Chamber
137 Havelock Street
Ashburton

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

ATTENDEES: Mr Chris Allen
Mrs Angela Cushnie
Ms Genevieve de Spa
Mr Cargill Henderson
Mr Bill Thomas
Mr Michael McMillan (Te Runanga o Arowhenua)
Mr Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)
Mr Les Wanhalla (Te Taumutu Runanga)
Mr 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

Tel: 307 9645

carol.mcatamney@adc.govt.nz

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
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 Operates a very small lifestyle block in Eiffelton Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust - Trustee NZ Landcare Trust 'Managing Westlands as Farm Assets's project' – Farmer Engagement Hinds Reserve Board Committee member Canterbury Water Management Regional Committee
Genevieve de Spa	Owner of Kakariki Camps focusing on 'Head, Hands, Heart' approach to biodiversity education Employee and member of Stavely Campsite Committee Recipient of Immediate Steps Funding Member Mt Somers Walkway Society and Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Group (ADBAG) Active member and organiser of 'Extinction Rebellion Rakaia Environmental Enhancement Trust
Cargill Henderson	Environmental Manager – ANZCO Foods Ltd
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
Les Wanhalla	Returning good health and mauri O Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Kaitiakitanga, Whakapapa Rugby league, life member, honorary south Kiwi
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 26 January 2021, commencing at 1:00 pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Councillor Ian MacKenzie, Councillor Stuart Wilson, Bill Thomas (Chair), Chris Allen, Angela Cushnie, Genevieve de Spa and Les Wanhalla

In attendance

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

2 members of the public in attendance

1 Welcome

Brad Waldon-Gibbons opened the meeting with a Karakia.

Acknowledgement

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Lachie Ashton, Land Management Advisor - Environment Canterbury. A service for Lachie is being held in Dunedin on Wednesday 27 January.

2 Apologies

That an apology for absence be received on behalf of Cargill Henderson and Arapata Reuben

Wilson/Brown

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 24 November 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

McKenzie/Wilson

Carried

6.1 Matters Arising

Nil.

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil.

Mid Canterbury Essential Freshwater Package Working Group (MCEFP)

The Chair advised that he had been approached to represent the Zone Committee on the Mid Canterbury Essential Freshwater Package Working Group, formed in December 2020.

The purpose of the working group is to represent the views of the wider community and met to reflect on the progress in the freshwater space, engage across sectors and proactively

consider solutions for freshwater management in Mid Canterbury. The working group comprises of representatives from ADC, Ecan, irrigation companies, banks, te Rūnanga o Arowhenua and Federated Farmers.

Mayor Brown informed the committee that the Mayoral Forum is also putting a working group together (Mayors and CEs of the 10 TAs) to look at the impacts of the Fresh Water policy statement. Their first meeting will be in March.

The group are in the process of preparing a discussion document that representatives of the working group will present to Hon. Damien O'Connor – Minister of Agriculture, Hon. David Parker – Minister for the Environment and Jo Luxton – MP for Rangitata in Wellington on Monday 15 February 2021.

The Chair stated that he has been invited to represent the Zone Committee and wished to ensure the committee was happy. No decisions have been made without consulting the Zone Committee but there will be a paper presented

The Chair requested that the Committee formalise his appointment to the working group as the Zone Committee representative.

Move that the Zone Committee Chair is appointed the official Zone Committee representative on Mid-Canterbury Essential Freshwater Package Working Group
Wilson/Cushnie Carried

After the discussion document, which is being taken to central government in February, more work will be undertaken by the Working Group. The Chair stated that if asked to sign something on behalf of Zone Committee it would be circulated to the committee prior to signing.

Gen de Spa noted concerns regarding the Zone Committee being represented on the Mid Canterbury Essential Freshwater Package working group but after discussion she did support the motion.

Post meeting note: *Further concerns were expressed by Gen de spa via email in regard to the Zone Committee being part of this working group and requested that this topic be included on the February meeting agenda to enable further discussions to be undertaken.*

Outward:

Nil.

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

Facilitator Dave Moore 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.

Allen/de Spa

Confirmed

Nominations for the Deputy Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee

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

Cushnie/Brown

Confirmed

9 Work Programme Progress Update for Quarters 1 & 2 (Jul-Dec 20) FY2020-21

Main Work Streams

- Consent to farm follow up with remaining Hinds farmers and those identified as triggering regional rules in rest of Ashburton
- Ashburton Rivermouth strategy implementation
- Ashburton Lakes project
- Carters Creek and Mt Harding Creek projects commenced, and remainder of IMS funds allocated
- Compliance monitoring of RSCs/Zone priorities
- Ashburton River Consent review support
 - *An invitation is to be extended to an E-Can representative from the Consents team to join the February meeting to update the Committee*

Safe and Sustainable Drinking Water

Concerns were expressed for this project not being progressed. It was explained that this delay was temporary as resources had been diverted to other Ashburton priorities – the Ashburton Lakes project, consent to farm campaign follow up and Ashburton River consent review.

- Bill Bayfield – Toumata Arawai be invited to the February meeting to present on developing its guidelines.
- Andy Guthrie – ADC be invited to the February meeting to present on what the new drinking water guidelines are.

Ashburton Lakes Update

Leo Fietje

- Complaints had been received of green-brown discolouration of the water and excessive aquatic plant growth
- A health warning advising that cyanobacteria had been discovered in the lake was issued on 21 December 2020
- Have the origins been able to be identified?
 - Increasing concentrations of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in the lake from surrounding land use practices and wastewater discharges
 - Climate patterns (temperature, wind etc) and inflow patterns

Next steps

- ADC/Ecan staff workshopped options last week
- Pathway for hut holders to improve wastewater systems and reduce nitrate loads
- ECan Scientists continue to closely monitor water quality and state of not only Lake Clearwater, but also seven other lakes in this area
- Conversations between landowners on effects of land use in the Ashburton Lakes basin continue with all major statutory agencies and Ngai Tahu/Runanga
- Hut holder community and farming community need to work together

10 Facilitators Update

Dave Moore worked through his report

11 Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-22

A 2021 draft work programme was tabled.

- O tu Wharekai/Ashburton Lakes field trip is to undertaken on Friday 26 March
- Regenerative Farming site visits – Nga Tahu farm trial site and trail sites within the Mid Canterbury district.

12 Other Business

Ashburton River

The Land, Air, Water Aotearoa website was showing the whole of the Ashburton River as unswimmable, but no dates showing when tests had been conducted.

Ecan is to look into this data and website information

Ashburton River Liaison Group

Chris Allen is to attend an Ashburton River liaison group meeting next month. If any members have and issues please discuss with Chris so he can bring them up at the meeting.

Consent Reports

A request was made to have the consent reports reinstated into the agenda for members information.

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 23 February 2021.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm with a Karakia by Brad Waldon-Gibbons

Dated this 23rd day of February 2021 _____ (Chair)

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 23 February 2021
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Dave Moore – Zone Facilitator
Subject Drinking Water Update

8 Drinking Water Update

Purpose

To update the Zone Committee on national direction regarding drinking water and Ashburton District Council's preparations for future changes.

Recommendation

That the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee receives this presentation and provides feedback.

Report

Hamish Riach – Ashburton District Council, CE will give an overview of the national direction on drinking water. Following that Andrew Guthrie, Assets Manager, will update the committee on how Ashburton District Council is preparing for the changes.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 23 February 2021
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Henry Winchester
Subject Ashburton Consent Review Update

9 Ashburton Consent Review Update

Purpose

To update the Committee on Hakatere/Ashburton river consent review process.

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee receives the update and provides feedback

Report

The Ashburton consent review to date has decided 50 consent reviews with 48 being granted (i.e. the minimum flow condition has been added onto the consent) and two declined (discussed below). One consent review has been publicly notified and a hearing will be held in April.

Table 1 below provides a summary of the consent reviews. Further explanation of the process going forward is outlined below.

Current notified consent review

There is one consent that has been publicly notified. Consent Review CRC200269 was publicly notified because of the potential adverse effects on the environment from the proposed alternative minimum flow. The submission period closed on 4 December 2020 and there were 8 submissions lodged when the submission period closed. Six of the submitters opposed and wished to be heard, one submitter supported and wished to be heard and one submitter was neutral and did not request to be heard. A hearing is scheduled for the start of April 2021.

Decision makers

Independent Hearing Commissioner Sharon McGarry has been appointed as chair of the Hearing Panel for consent review CRC200269 and any future notified consent reviews. The other member of the Hearing Panel is a Tangata Whenua representative, based on a recommendation from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. As the Hakatere / Ashburton River is located within the rohe of Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua this representative needs to be external to Arowhenua to avoid perceptions of conflicts of interest.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu recommended Hoani Langsbury to sit as a Hearing Commissioner on the Hearing Panel for consent review CRC200269. Delegation was sought for the decision of consent review CRC200269 only, with a Hearing Commissioner to be added later in the process for any other notified reviewed consents to sit alongside Sharon McGarry.

Consent reviews that have or are recommended to be declined

To date, two consents that are being reviewed have been declined and there is one that will be decided within the next few weeks where the recommendation is also to decline the consent review. The reason for recommending the consent reviews be declined is different for each of the three consent reviews as follows:

- The rate of take that was to be subject to the minimum flow was within the margin of error for the water metering equipment. It is not practical to restrict the rate of take during periods of low flow because the rate of take is so small. For this reason, the consent review was declined and the LWRP minimum flow was not put on the consent.
- For a consent which authorises the taking of water from a bore, the consent holder provided information which demonstrated that the bore did not have a direct or high degree of stream depletion effect and therefore does not need to be subject to a minimum flow. For this reason, the consent review was declined and the proposed new minimum flow was not put on the consent.
- For another consent, which authorises the taking of water from a bore, the consent holder changed the conditions of the existing consent to include a seasonal volume. This meant that the stream depletion effect was less than 5 litres per second and the taking of water does not need to be subject to a minimum flow. For this reason, it is recommended that the consent review be declined and the proposed new minimum flow not put on the consent. This consent review will be decided in the next few weeks.

Communication with consent holders and timeframe extensions

The project team continues to work closely with consent holders. Regular emails are sent, updating the consent holders and answering common questions which have been asked. We also call consent holders (or their consultant where they have engaged one) regularly, including when a consent review is about to come off 'hold' to remind the consent holder of this and to check in to see where they are at with assessing the impact of the new minimum flow on their consented activity.

The website has recently been updated to provide clearer information to consent holders. We have also requested that if consent holders contact us if they are concerned their consent isn't progressing.

A media release is being prepared to update the community on the current progress of the project. In the December 2020 update email to all consent holders, we also outlined that there will be no timeframe extensions granted beyond 30 November 2021. This is to ensure that there is plenty of time to hold any hearings and resolve appeals before the minimum flows apply from 1 July 2023. It also provides an additional winter for consent holders to undertake pump tests. Consent holders can apply for timeframe extensions up to this date although the criteria set out in Section 37 of the Resource Management Act 1991 still apply.

As highlighted in previous updates, the project team are aware that the consent reviews, in combination with other factors including COVID-19 and *Microplasma bovis*, may be affecting some consent holders' wellbeing. We continue to monitor this situation and have processes in place to identify and obtain assistance for these consent holders.

The next steps involve continuing to provide technical and procedural advice to consent holders while the consents are on hold (31 March 2021 is the furthest date currently), along with preparing for the hearing of the one notified consent review.

Table 1: Summary of the consent reviews

Granted	48	These consent reviews have been granted.
On hold S37	36	Timeframes have been extended at request of consent holder while they further assess the impact of the proposed new minimum flows on the consented activity and to decide whether they will propose changes to the new conditions. No timeframes have been extended past 31 March 2021.
Declined	2	One was an ADC consent and the rate of take that would be subject to the minimum flow was within the margin of error for the water metering equipment which would mean that it would be impossible to measure compliance with the minimum flow. For the other consent which authorises the taking of water from a bore, the consent holder changed the conditions of the existing consent to include a seasonal volume. This meant that the stream depletion effect was less than 5 litres per second and the taking of water does not need to be subject to a minimum flow.
Surrendered	1	The consent holder surrendered the water permit, so the review was no longer required.
Public notification	1	One consent was publicly notified because the consent holder proposed an alternative new minimum flow and the adverse effects of the alternative minimum flow may be more than minor. A hearing will be scheduled for early April 2021.
Total	88	

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 23 February 2021
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Dr Helen Rutter
Subject Aqualink 'Load to Come' Project

11 Aqualink 'Load to Come' Project

Purpose

To update the Zone Committee on the Load to Come research bid, and determine their support for the bid.

Recommendation

That the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee receives this presentation and provides a letter of support for the bid.

Report

New Zealand is facing significant water and land management challenges. Despite great effort and expense invested into reducing the amount of nitrate leached from the land, and investment in mitigation solutions such as managed aquifer recharge (MAR), nitrate concentrations in many surface- and ground-waters continue to show an increasing trend.

We observe anomalous sampling results, such as declining nitrate concentrations with length of time of pumping (Figure 1), anomalous tracer test results, delayed nitrate rebound after managed aquifer recharge (MAR) inputs cease (Figure 2), and nitrate concentrations responding to recharge events prior to water levels (Figure 3). These anomalies cannot be explained with our current level of knowledge, and have never been systematically addressed. We potentially could be seriously under-estimating total N mass in NZ groundwater, whilst also failing to understand its transport to receiving water bodies. The implications for sampling protocols are highly significant: simply put, we do not know what we are sampling and therefore cannot evaluate how effective mitigation to reduce nitrates is.

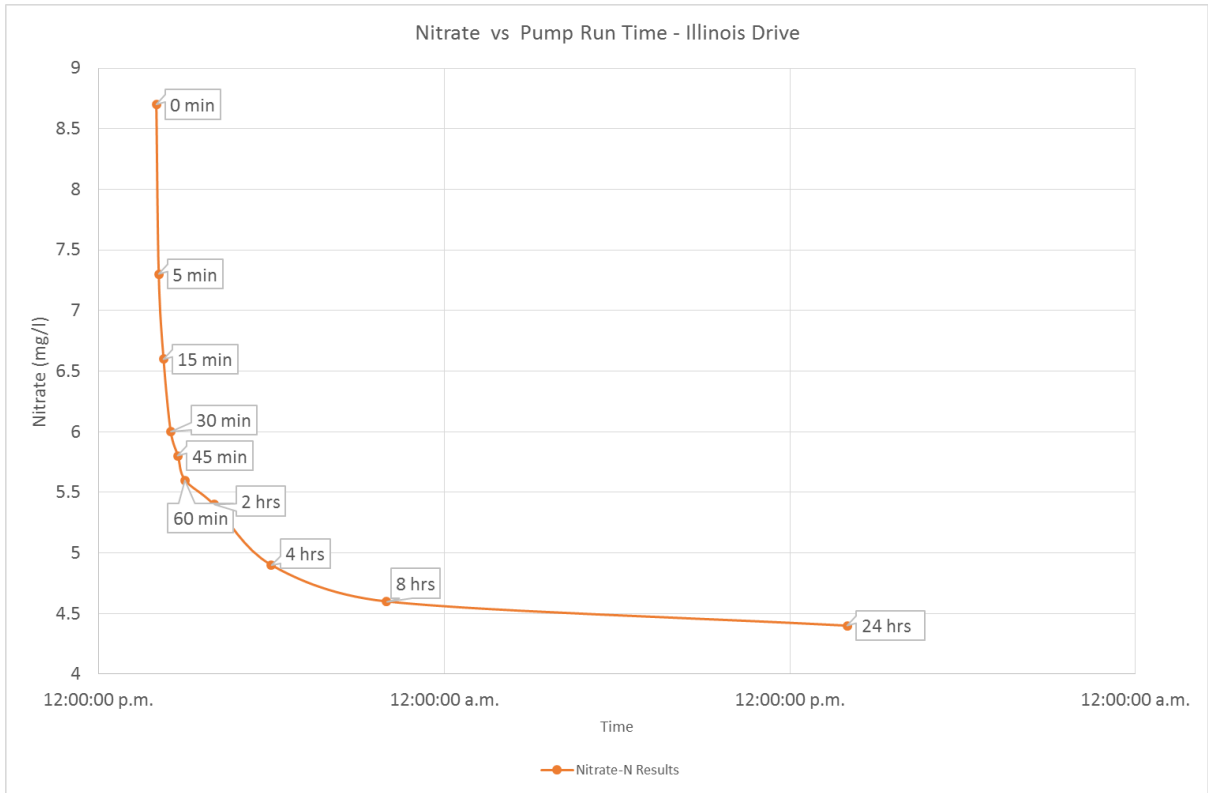


Figure 1

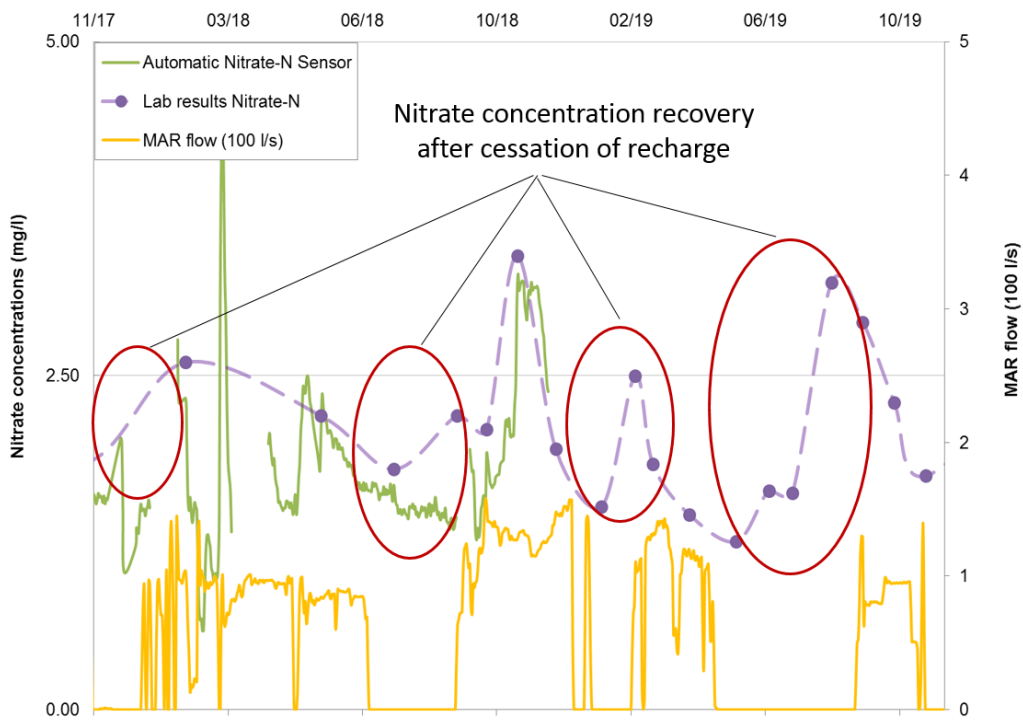


Figure 2

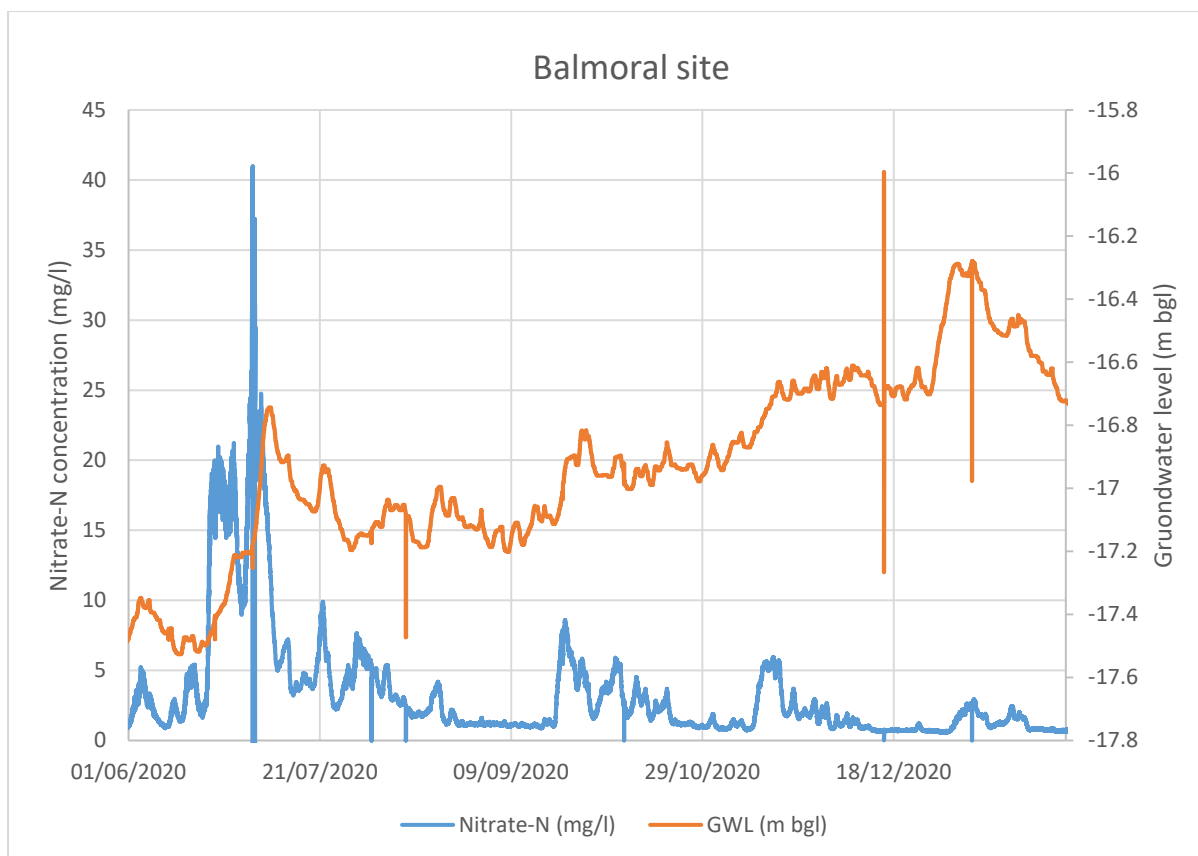


Figure 3

We hypothesise that poorly understood nitrate storage, attenuation and transport processes are contributing to the anomalous results we see in such results.

We know that water from the surface moves rapidly through high permeability (mobile) domains (known as open framework gravels – OFGs) within the alluvial sediments, but a portion of the nitrate losses move into low permeability pore space (immobile). Transport of nitrates through this store can affect ground- and surface-water quality for decades and it can continue for a long time after changes in farming practice that reduce nitrate leaching. Recent work has established that nitrate storage, transport and attenuation is affected by processes occurring between mobile and less-mobile pore spaces, and has led researchers to consider bi-continuum mass-transfer as a controlling process. Overseas, slow transport through relatively immobile pathways, and diffusion between mobile and immobile pathways have been shown to delay nitrate transport through the vadose zone by decades, and proved detrimental to MAR outcomes.

The aim of the research is to fully characterise nitrate transport, storage, and flux, within the Hinds/Hekeao area, where nitrate concentrations are high, and increasing, and MAR has been implemented to mitigate the effects. The outputs from fieldwork will be used to parameterise models, which will then be upscaled to the catchment scale, and used (ultimately) to help to focus land use change. Part of the project will also assess the potential for denitrification, focussing on this in “microzones” where overseas work has identified this occurs. One key outcome from the work will be improved understanding of what we are sampling, and development of optimum sampling protocols.

Ashburton Zone Committee Report

Date 23 February 2021
Report to Ashburton Water Zone Committee
From Dave Moore
Subject Facilitators Update

12 Facilitators 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.

1. Ō Tū Wharekai/Ashburton Lakes field trip

Zone Committee members are invited to join the Regional Councillors on their visit to Ō Tū Wharekai on 3 March. The bus will leave the Ashburton District Council at 9.00am and be back around 4.30pm

2. Ashburton Zone Committee Work Planning

The updated work plan is attached.

Note: the Chairs and Deputy Chairs meeting has been postponed due to a clash of dates. New dates to be advised.

Ashburton Zone Committee – Work Programme 2021

Meeting Dates	26 Jan	23 Feb	23 March	27 April	25 May	22 June	27 July	24 Aug	28 Sept	26 Oct	23 Nov	
Theme	Setting up for the year ahead. Action Plans	Drinking water	O tu Wharekai / Ashburton Lakes Joint field trip with ECan councillors – lake Clearwater, Camp, etc. 3 March	Hinds Field Trip		Carters Creek	Wakanui	Regenerative Farming practice field trip. Possible sites: Ngai Tahu Balmoral. Align Longfield Ealing. Research farm.	Rakaia River			
Updates	Zone Delivery 6-month report. Lake Clearwater Ashburton Consent Reveiws	Andrew Guthrie 3 drinking water update Ashburton Consent Reviews			Te Mana o Te Wai update	Informal progress update to councils					Progress update to councils	
Activities and Events	Election of Chair and Deputy Chair			Postponed Chairs, Deputy Chairs (and Secretaries Meeting) 12 March		Carters Creek field trip. Flood mitigation, stormwater, stock exclusion, planting...			Field trip with Selwyn Waihora ZC	WaterShed (TBC) Chairs and Deputy Chairs (and Secretaries)		
		Refresh Community Members (possibly postponed)										
		Comms	1 March Applications open 25 March Applications close	5-9 April Appointment Workshops 12 April Decisions	May-June Formal Appointments made	Induction of new members						
		Presentation of Annual Progress Report to ECan and ADC Feb – May										
		Noho Marae overnight stay opportunities				Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty) course ECan Timaru Office 11 May – 12 May						
	Takahanga Marae: Kaikōura 28–29 January Tūtehuarewa Marae: Koukourārata, Port Levy 11–12 February Ōnuku Marae: Akaroa 25–26 February 2021	Ngāti Moki Marae: Taumutu Southbridge 5 March Te Wheke Marae: Rāpaki 18–19 March										

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 23 February 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 Drinking Water Update 6
- 9 Ashburton Consent Review Update 7
- 10 Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group update (Angela Cushnie) Verbal
- 11 Aqualink 'Load to Come' Project 10
- 12 Facilitators Update 13
- 13 Other Business
- 14 Close Meeting and Karakia