

# Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee

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**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 23 May 2023, commencing at 1.00pm at Staveley Camp, 133 Sawmill Road, Staveley.

## **Present**

Councillor Richard Wilson, Chris Allen, Adi Avnit, Clare Buchanan, Angela Cushnie, Genevieve de Spa, Bill Thomas (Chair) and Les Wanhalla

## **In attendance**

Environment Canterbury: Dave Moore (Facilitator), Sandy Bowman (minutes) Henry Winchester, Cameron Smith

Hekeao Hinds Lowlands Catchment Group: Tina Bayer and Willie Leferink

1 members of the public in attendance

## **Online**

Heather McCarron, Sidinei Teixeira, and Kate Doran

### **1 Welcome**

Genevieve de Spa opened the meeting with a Karakia.

### **2 Apologies**

**That** apologies for absence be received on behalf of Mayor Neil Brown, Councillor Ian Mackenzie and Arapata Reuben.

Bill Thomas/Chris Allen

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 28 March 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

Bill Thomas/Les Wanhalla

Carried

### **5.1 Matters Arising**

Nil.

## 6 Correspondence

### Inward:

Nil.

### Outward:

Nil.

## 7 Public Contributions

Nil.

## 8 Ōtūwharekai Working Group Update

Cameron Smith (ECan) presented on behalf of Judith Earl-Goulet

Paper attached to the agenda

Cameron Smith referred the Committee to Pages 8 & 9 of the agenda setting out the workstreams with updates delivered by agencies and organisations.

There is extensive work taking place at Ōtūwharekai across all the organisations, agencies and individuals that have a role to play in protecting and restoring the health of this unique and important environment.

- Ag Research keen to visit the area at the end of the month and NiWA is working on wetlands and on individual farm level.
- Ashburton District Council working on authorised and non-authorised vehicle access.
- The Ministry of the Environment, Hon David Parker, releasing report tomorrow on the assessment where the lakes are today and will be publicly available on the website.

Zone Committee disappointed they were not included in the consultation process with their approach to the report.

Bill Thomas commented there was no input from Zone Committees on how it was to be done and to handle situations carefully when we haven't been consulted. Also, no prior advice given on the release of the report is unfortunate. Les Wanhalla to bring this point up at the next Rūnanga Hui.

Report received by Bill Thomas

## 9 2022/23 Season Water Quality update for Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes

Presented by Dr Tina Bayer (ECan)

Paper attached to agenda

The summary of 2022/2023 monitoring with ongoing monitoring of water quality shows that all lakes continue to fail to meet LWRP TL1 objectives. Te Puna-a-Taka/Lake Clearwater has improved to the previous year but a continual decline in water quality of Ōtūroto/Lake Heron.

- Not achieving trophic level state of lakes for this year's target.
- Little indication of 5 year improvement in TL1 yet except Emily.
- Nitrogen levels high the last 2 years due to the volume of rain.
- Lake Clearwater very concerned with the loss of resilience of this lake. Clearwater has improved compared to 2020/2021. Seven piezometers installed to gain data. Data has been really variable and is being monitored to June 2023. Ashburton District Council decommissioned

long-drops (deadline passed) in the village, but high organic material remains and looks to be ongoing.

- Lake Heron is of most concern in Ōtūwharekai given the trajectory of algal growth. However it is not the highest of any lake in NZ.
- Lakes continue to fail to meet LWRP objectives for TLI.

During the presentation there was a slide which Tina described as ‘one to take home’ however, this was not included with the papers in the agenda. She promised to forward to the Facilitator, Dave Moore, for him to distribute to the committee.

Bill Thomas thanked Tina and commented he will watch with great interest. Tina promised to send out her report to the committee.

## 10 Committee Updates

**Dave Moore** approached the zone committee whether they would prefer the normal 27 June meeting, or a workshop in its place to look at the action plan and see if there is anything that needs to be changed. Also set up for the next financial year 2023/2024.

**Angela Cushnie** imperative consult with community in planning for next year, particularly for critical points such as regional planning, freshwater management etc and need conservations with Rūnanga. What are the pinch points and what is the zone committee’s role in this and to be adaptable. This is an opportunity to engage going forward. Also there has been a delay in the CWMS Regional Committee being formalised due to partnership issues. Trying to understand the process and where at and what’s coming next and to be informed of key dates. Honouring Zone Committees what went before.

**Cameron Smith** agreed that there has been a lack of communication with the zone committees and has taken their comments on board. Environment Canterbury’s partnership with Rūnanga; there is presently a lot of work underway in this area and public engagement is scheduled for July. Work around the partnership is massive and is at a high level. Andrew Parrish (Planning) is coming back with a plan in June and it is a very tight timeframe. A timetable will be set what is determined and when, and when being brought down to a community level, what is going on, and how to engage/consult.

Environment Canterbury and Ashburton District Council consult with the community, with input from the Ashburton Zone Committee. Unless advised otherwise, carry on with current goals. Final plan roll out through to vision objectives looking like the end of this year, no firm decisions until then.

**Chris Allen** commented that there is a lot of science known in this catchment and to work out vision and next methods. Goals still valid going forward, refine and use as a guide until the end of 2024.

**Genevieve de Spa** suggested treaty training for members of the Zone Committee and community either a one or two day. Consensus that a two day one would be more beneficial and check if adequate budget available.

Genevieve made the suggestion the Zone Committee be involved in a weekend event in October at Staveley Camp. To involve the community and other groups to participate. If successful it could be an annual event in the future.

At this meeting no decision made if the 27th June date is to be a meeting or a workshop.

## 11 Zone Committee Action Plan Budget

Dave Moore advised Zone Committee a decision has to be made at this meeting, as invoicing has to be completed by 20 June in order to be processed before the end of the financial year.

### 11.1 Action Plan Fund

<b>Applications</b>	<b>Allocated</b>
<b>Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust Brett Painter</b> Maintenance of planting at South Hinds and Maronan Ealing Road	\$8,000
<b>Carters Creek Enhancement Project</b> This is a waterway under pressure from both urban and lifestyle/rural environments and has been of great concern to the community for some time. This application is for science funding to complement Environment Canterbury's work in the background.	\$15,000
<b>Hekeao Hinds Lowlands Catchment Group</b> To monitor the reduction in nitrate (and possibly other nutrients) from this site to demonstrate how such a construction can be completed 'off stream'. Wish to install another sensor in the outflow from the wetland to quantify the nitrate reduction. Benefit that Information could assist other groups.	\$10,000
<b>Pudding Hill Weed Control</b> Weed control in reserve and grasslands and has public access and is a popular area with the community. It is a Ashburton District Council and Environment Canterbury project.	\$8,000
<b>Ecological Garden Mt Hutt College</b> To provide an educational native garden at the school. A plan drawn and work towards eco-sourcing plants and a living laboratory would be the ideal tool to each our rural students sustainability and ways to make farming less harmful to the environment.	\$8,000
<b>Ashburton River Planting – Adele Webb</b> To improve the appearance of the area along the west Ashburton riverbank and contribute to creating a corridor of native vegetation to eventually link with other native plantings eastwards in the Trevor's Road and Chalmers Avenue area.	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

## 12 Other Business

Angela advised Ashburton District Council biodiversity hui coming up in early June and suggested pulling together. It is a big bold ambitious project and helpful if the Zone Committee lend a hand. Ashburton Zone Committee have a seat at the table with the presence of Adi Avnit.

**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 27 June 2023.

The meeting closed at 3.02pm with a Karakia by **Gen de Spa**.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)