



Waitaki
DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI



Mackenzie
DISTRICT COUNCIL



**Environment
Canterbury
Regional Council**

Everything is connected
*Promoting quality of life through
balanced resource management.*

**Notice is given of a Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting
to be held on:**

Date: Friday, 19 August 2022

Time: 9.30am

**Location: Mackenzie Country Hotel
Twizel**

AGENDA

Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting

19 August 2022

This meeting will be digitally recorded by the minute-taker.

Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Membership:

- Simon Cameron (Chair)
- Matthew Bayliss
- Richard Subtil
- John Sunckell
- Joy Paterson
- Kieran Whyte
- Stuart Barwood
- Michael McMillan
- Rynee de Garnham

The purpose of local government:

- (1) The purpose of local government is—
 - (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
 - (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.
- (2) In this Act, good-quality, in relation to local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions, means infrastructure, services, and performance that are—
 - (a) efficient; and
 - (b) effective; and
 - (c) appropriate to present and anticipated future circumstances.

(Local Government Act 2002)

Order Of Business

1	Reports	4
1.1	Minutes of Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting - 20 May 2022	4
1.2	Interests Register.....	10
1.3	Waitaha Impact to Action Fund Update	12
1.4	Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Update	14
1.5	Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024 Progress Report.....	16
1.6	Omarama Stream Water Users Group Project Update.....	23
1.7	Zone Facilitator's Report	24

Upper Waitaki Zone Committee Meeting Friday 19 August 9.30am Mackenzie Country Hotel		
Time	Item	Lead
9.30am	Opening Karakia	
	Welcome	Chair
	Standing Items Apologies, Minutes, Conflicts of Interest, Matters arising	Chair
9.35am	Waitaha Action to Impact Fund update	Adrienne Lomax, Environment Canterbury
9.45am	Waitaki Whitestone Geopark update	Lisa Heinz, Waitaki Whitestone Geopark
10.05am	Progress report on Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021 - 2024	Facilitator
10.15am	Omarama Stream Water Users Group Project Update	Bridget Pringle, Omarama Stream Water Users Group
10.30am	Zone Facilitator's Report	Facilitator
10.40am	General Business	All
10.50am	Closing Karakia	

11.00 – 12.00pm Committee Workshop - Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021 – 2024

1 REPORTS

1.1 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 20 MAY 2022

Author: Arlene Goss, Governance Advisor

Authoriser:

Attachments: 1. Minutes of Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting - 20 May 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 20 May 2022 be received and confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.



Mackenzie

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Unconfirmed MINUTES

**Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management
Committee Meeting**

20 May 2022

**MINUTES OF MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY HOTEL, TWIZEL
ON FRIDAY, 20 MAY 2022 AT 10.30AM**

PRESENT: Chairperson Simon Cameron, Richard Subtil, Cr John Sunckell, Joy Paterson, Cr Stuart Barwood, Michael McMillan,

IN ATTENDANCE: Janine Roux (Facilitator), Chris Eccleston, Tami Woods, Ian Lyttle, Shane Gilmer, Holly Morgan, Graeme Clarke (all from Environment Canterbury), Arlene Goss (Committee Administrator), Rick Ramsay (Aquaculture Group), John Benn (Department of Conservation), Dafydd Pettigrew (XYST Consultant).

1 OPENING

The meeting opened with a karakia from Michael McMillan.

2 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/95

Moved: Cr John Sunckell

Seconded: Mr Richard Subtil

That the apologies received from Matthew Bayliss and Kieran Whyte be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

3 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 18 FEBRUARY 2022

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/96

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson

Seconded: Cr Stuart Barwood

That the Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 18 February 2022 be received and confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

CARRIED

4 RUATANIWHA UPDATE

The purpose of this report, by Dafydd Pettigrew, XYST Consultant, was to update the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee on Mackenzie District Council's Ruataniwha Reserve Management Plan.

Mr Pettigrew joined the meeting online. He introduced himself and said he had been engaged to put this plan together under the Reserves Act. He outlined the consultation process, and the ideas contributed by the public to date.

The chairman passed on a comment from member Matthew Bayliss, who could not attend the meeting. He was concerned about the possibility of the sports ground being moved from the centre of town to this reserve. Mr Pettigrew said there was a lot of work to do before that might happen. Just because it was mentioned in this plan did not mean it had to happen. Feasibility needed to be investigated.

Joy Paterson asked about three islands that were not included. They were not included because they were not within the reserve boundary.

The chairman asked about the launching of boats at the Ohau end of the reserve. This needed tarmac at the ramp. Mr Pettigrew said the management plan would include more of a coordinated approach to the boat ramp areas.

Toilet facilities – Mr Pettigrew updated the committee on two new toilets that were close to being constructed by Mackenzie District Council. Toilets were also needed by boat ramps.

Cr Sunckell asked if there was an environmental impact assessment being done on more intense use of the reserve? Not a formal assessment done. This would be considered as it was fairly standard in the industry. Mr Pettigrew outlined the timeframe for the plan.

He was thanked for his presentation and he then left the meeting.

5 AHURIRI UPDATE

This report was by Ian Lyttle and Shane Gilmer, Environment Canterbury. It followed the Zone Committee workshop held in March 2022.

It provided an update on the work within the Ahuriri Catchment relating to the exceedance of the Trophic Level Index (TLI) and similar work within Ōtūwharekai (Ashburton Lakes) as a case study.

A copy of the presentation given by Mr Lyttle and Mr Gilmer, called Farm Advisory Update, is available as an attachment to these minutes.

They spoke about work with farmers in the Ahuriri catchment to address challenges with nutrient loss.

Member Richard Subtil asked about prioritising and accelerating this work so changes could be made quickly. Janine Roux suggested asking a representative of Irricon to come to a meeting and talk about what they were doing.

Shane Gilmer then gave a presentation on Lake TLI drivers. Discussion took place on farm-based initiatives to move nitrogen/winter grazing onto more appropriate soils. He described it as a paddock by paddock risk assessment, with paddock level mitigations.

Richard Subtil asked about satellite monitoring of farm practices that were happening away from public view. This subject would come back to a future meeting.

6 CWMS ACTION PLAN BUDGET UPDATE 2021/22

This report was by Janine Roux and followed Zone Committee workshops held in March 2022. It provided updated recommendations on the allocation of the CWMS Action Plan Budget for the 2021/2022 financial year.

The committee considered the two applications for funding and approved both. It was noted that about \$1800 was left over in this financial year. The committee decided to split this amount between the two projects.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/97

Moved: Chairperson Simon Cameron

Seconded: Mr Richard Subtil

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee recommends to Environment Canterbury that the CWMS Action Plan budget is allocated to the following two projects:
 - a) Lake Ōhau cotoneaster follow-up control project for \$13,081.00 exl GST.
 - b) Willow Bay and Lagoon funding plan \$4,919.00 exl GST.

CARRIED

5.6 ZONE FACILITATOR'S REPORT

Committee Refresh – Member Joy Paterson said she would not be re-applying for her position. Positions are being advertised currently and more nominations were needed. Current members were extended to August 31, if they wished to stay on until then. Won't be able to hold any official meetings in August. Member Richard Subtil said he would stay on the committee if needed.

Cr Sunckell asked about whether people who did not have a primary residence in the district could apply. Yes.

Next Month's Meeting – Omarama School have suggested a hangi. Did the committee want to hold this in cold weather? A bonfire was suggested. The committee were in favour of this and discussion took place on arrangements. This was planned for June 17.

Chairman reported from the Waitaki Lakes Shoreline Committee – LINZ has just granted a new lease for the Haldon campground. Still don't know if they have done anything about their holding tanks. This was a holding system that did not leak into the lake. Consent was not required.

Twizel River Catchment Group – The chairman said everyone local was concerned about cyanobacteria in the Twizel River. He had spoken to people who were interested in forming a catchment group. A meeting will happen soon.

Status of Overseer - A question was asked by Richard Subtil about where Overseer sat at the moment. Cr Sunckell explained current requirements involving Overseer. Richard Subtil asked for this information to be communicated to farmers and a resolution was passed to this effect.

Recreational water quality monitoring - Discussion took place on recreational monitoring of water quality, in particular the Fraser River and Twizel River. The committee was updated on initiatives to improve reporting to the public on this.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/98

Moved: Mr Richard Subtil

Seconded: Chairperson Simon Cameron

That the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee asks staff to communicate the current situation with Overseer to farmers.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 12.22pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2022.

.....

CHAIRPERSON

1.2 INTERESTS REGISTER

Author: Staff Report, Environment Canterbury

Authoriser:

Attachments: Nil

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the information be noted.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS REGISTER – AS AT 13 MAY 2022

Keeping a Zone Committee Members' declarations of interest register allows Zone Committees to identify and manage a conflict of interest when it arises.

1. The Office of the Auditor General notes a conflict of interest can arise when: "A member's or official's duties or responsibilities to a public entity could be affected by some other interest or duty that the member or official may have."¹

If a member is in any doubt as to whether or not they have a conflict of interest, then the Member should seek guidance from Catherine Schache (General Counsel, Environment Canterbury), the Zone Facilitator and/or refer to the following guidance: <https://oag.parliament.nz/2020/lamia>

Types of Interest to be documented in the register:

Employment, trade or profession carried on by the Member or the Member's spouse for profit or gain

Company, trust, partnership etc for which the Member or their spouse is a director, partner or trustee, or a shareholder of more than 10% shares

Address of any land in which the Member has a beneficial interest and which is in the area of the Zone Committee

The address of any land where the landlord is Environment Canterbury, Mackenzie District Council or Waitaki District Council and:

The Member or their spouse is a tenant;

Or

the land is tenanted by a firm in which the Member or spouse is a partner, a company of which the Member or spouse is a director, or a Trust of which the Member or spouse is a Trustee.

Any other matters which the public might reasonably regard as likely to influence the Member's actions during the course of their duties as a Member.

Any contracts held between the Member or the Member's spouse and Environment Canterbury, Mackenzie District Council or Waitaki District Council. Including contracts in

¹ Office of the Auditor General Good Practice Guide – Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for public entities

which the Member or their spouse is a partner, a company of which the spouse is a director and/or holds more than 10% in shares, or a Trust of which the Member or their spouse is a trustee (noting that no committee member should be a party to a contract with Environment Canterbury or the relevant TLA if that value is more than \$25,000 per annum)

2. Zone Committee members are to ensure that the information contained in this register is accurate and complete.

Name	Committee Member Interests
Stuart Barwood	Mackenzie District Council Councillor, Chairman Assets and Services committee MDC, trustee of Helwood Trust.
Mat Bayliss	Chairs the Meridian Energy Waitaki Community Fund. Asset Maintenance Manager for Meridian Energy in Twizel. Shareholder of Meridian Energy. Consents held CRC142283
Simon Cameron	Local Merino sheep farmer. Trustee of Ben Ohau Farming Trust. Trustee Cameron Investment Trust. Trustee of Mackenzie Wilding Trees Trust. Trustee Aoraki Mount Cook Museum Trust. Resource consents CRC952244, CRC952245, CRC952267, CRC952268, CRC952269, CRC100234,
Joy Paterson	Trustee of LineTrust South Canterbury. Husband is a Mackenzie District Councillor.
Richard Subtil	Farmer and irrigator in Omarama catchment. Member of Omarama Stream Water Users Group. Committee member of Omarama Airfield. Resource consents CRC010693.1, CRC010694, CRC010727.2, CRC110202, CRC122382, CRC174573, CRC194088, CRC194520, CRC203348.
John Sunckell	Environment Canterbury Councillor, Register of interest held by Environment Canterbury
Keiran Whyte	Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Employee of Tuna Trap and Transfer Team.
Michael McMillan	Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua.
Rynee de Garnham	Te Rūnanga o Waihao

1.3 WAITAHA IMPACT TO ACTION FUND UPDATE

Author: Staff Report, Environment Canterbury

Authoriser:

Attachments: Nil

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee receives these updates for its information and with consideration to the committee's 2021-2024 Action Plan priorities.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is by Adrienne Lomax, Senior Strategy Advisor, Environment Canterbury. To provide the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee with an update on the Waitaha Action to Impact Fund as confirmed through Environment Canterbury's 2022-23 Annual Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Waitaha Action to Impact (WAI) Fund is a contestable fund held by Environment Canterbury for community organisations in Canterbury. The fund aims to build community engagement and action for a better environment in the region.

The 2021 funding round was a pilot and was open for applications from 30 August until 11 October 2021. There were 46 applications, totalling over \$810,000, far exceeding the funding available. For 2022/23, applications opened on Monday 18 July and will close at 10am on Monday 12 September 2022.

In 2021/22, all applications were assessed against criteria and twenty applicants were selected to receive funding. In total, \$215,190 was allocated.

One of the requirements of the fund is that successful recipients must provide a minimum of 30% of the total project budget; this may come from funding or equivalent in-kind contributions, such as volunteer hours.

Environment Canterbury's 2022/23 Annual Plan, which was adopted by Council on 16 June 2022, has two significant changes relevant to the Zone Committee:

a) CWMS Action Plan Budget for Implementation to stay at \$500,000 in 2022/23

Included in the draft Annual Plan that was consulted on was a delay to the increase in funding available to zone committees for Action Plan implementation. In the Annual Plan as adopted, the following change to the Long-Term Plan 2021-3 is noted:

"Removing the increase in investment planned for the Working together for healthy water and land programme. This means that the funding for each zone committee to implement their Action Plans will stay at the same level as 2022/23 [\$50,000 per zone] rather than increase, as set out in the Long-Term Plan." (Page 32 of the Environment Canterbury 2022/23 Annual Plan)

b) The Waitaha Action to Impact Fund to increase to \$600,000 in 2022/23

During the Council Meeting on 25 May 2022, as part of the Annual Plan Deliberations, an amendment was moved and agreed to increase the amount of funding available in the new contestable fund for 2022/23. The change is noted as:

“In the Engagement and Influence programme, we are increasing the amount of funding available for community-led initiatives through our Waitaha Action to Impact Fund. There will be a total of \$600,000 to be allocated in 2022/23.” (Page 88 of the Environment Canterbury 2022/23 Annual Plan)

DISCUSSION

How would the Zone Committee like to receive information on any relevant unsuccessful Waitaha Action to Impact Fund applications that fit within the 2021-2024 Upper Waitaki Action Plan priorities?

1.4 WAITAKI WHITESTONE GEOPARK UPDATE

Author: Staff Report, Environment Canterbury

Authoriser:

Attachments: Nil

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report be received.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is by Lisa Heinz, Manager Waitaki Whitestone Geopark, to update the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee on the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark.

BACKGROUND

During the zone committee review in 2020, letters of priorities were sent to the 10 Canterbury water zone committees from their respective Councils. These priorities are included in the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021 – 2024.

Waitaki District Council included six priorities related to water management that they requested the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee to focus on. One of the priorities instructed that “the objectives of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark are supported and strengthened through” particular water management actions.

This presentation is to help the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee better connect with the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark and gain an understanding of what the Geopark is and if there are avenues that the two groups can work together where similar outcomes are sought.

DISCUSSION

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust (“the Trust”) has been set up to establish and govern a UNESCO-accredited Global Geopark within the Waitaki District. Geoparks are not just the preserve of geologists and rock-hounds. They are about telling the stories of how the land (and sea) have supported our existence and shaped our lives.

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark is now an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (aUGGp), having applied to UNESCO for the designation in November 2019. Their desire to become a UNESCO Global Geopark is rooted in their strong commitment to build a generation of people who are more resilient and who will care for the planet and its people by addressing the societal challenges.

Education is at the heart of the Geopark's philosophy. The Trust's purpose is to increase peoples' knowledge, understanding and connection to the Waitaki in a way that ensures their commitment to becoming kaitiaki [guardians].

Geopark actively involve and support local communities and local indigenous people, preserving and celebrating their culture. The Trust is working closely with Te Rūnanga o Moeraki to share their histories and sites with the wider public.

1.5 UPPER WAITAKI WATER ZONE COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2021-2024 PROGRESS REPORT

Author: Staff Report, Environment Canterbury

Authoriser:

- Attachments:**
1. Upper Waitaki Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-24 Action Plan – Report [↓](#) 
 2. CWMS_Upper Waitaki ZC Action Plan_FINAL PRINT [↓](#) 

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee receives this update for its information and with consideration to the committee's 2021-2024 Action Plan priorities.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is by Janine Roux, Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury and provides an update on progress in relation to the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021 – 24 and the CWMS Action Plan Budget.

BACKGROUND

Zone Committee Action Plans were introduced in 2021 as part of the new Terms of Reference. These are intended to help Zone Committees focus on the actions they can advance in their respective zones over a 3-year timeframe.

When developing Action Plans, Zone Committees have worked within their refreshed Terms of Reference, the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) and its targets, and the letters of priorities agreed by Environment Canterbury and local district councils. They are also guided by the local Iwi Management Plan, Zone Implementation Programme and Addendum, as well as associated community engagement and feedback.

The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee confirmed their 2021-24 Action Plan on 21 May 2021.

Upper Waitaki Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-24 Action Plan – Report
For period July 2021 to June 2022

Action	Progress green = on track, orange = started, red = no progress	Comment
<p>We will commit to the enhancement of Nohoanga, improved health of key waterways for customary use and enhancement of mahinga kai opportunities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaining insight into cultural values and areas of significance relating to mahinga kai; • Engaging with schools and youth to illustrate the importance of mahinga kai and the local history • Increasing engagement with Ngāi Tahu regarding enhancement of Nohoanga sites; • Recommending biodiversity funding with a priority focus on mahinga kai sites; • Improving understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi; • Hosting hāngī for stakeholders and local schools. 		<p>a. Recommended the Ōhau Conservation Trust receive \$24,081 of funding for further work to control pest plants, cotoneaster and willows. This work will be around the edges of Lake Ōhau and Lake Middleton respectively, aiming to improve the ecological, cultural, and recreational values of the lakes.</p> <p>b. The annual Hāngī in November 2022 was postponed due to covid19. A further event was scheduled to coincide with Matariki celebrations; this included both Omarama and Twizel Area Schools however was also cancelled due to the weather.</p>
<p>We will commit to the improved management and preservation of recreational values of the Waitaki Lakes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting and enhancing our Love Our Lakes Campaign; 		<p>a. The Love Our Lakes campaign went digital over the 2021/22 summer, encouraging recreational lake users to respect the special Mackenzie environment by using the toilets provided, being responsible with rubbish, washing clothes/dishes away from waterbodies, and to “Check, Clean, Dry” their equipment to stop the spread of pests. A waste-free picnic prize pack was given away as part of the campaign. A new avenue of engagement was also trailed by including the Love Our Lakes and LAWA ‘Can I swim here?’ information on the Camper Mate travel phone app.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with agencies, catchment groups and stakeholders to enhance and protect recreational areas such as the Twizel River and Lake Ruataniwha; • Educating the community about how to protect our environment through actions such as responsible toilet use. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. The Zone Committee supported the annual Twizel canal clean-up in November 2021. The organisers were provided with 'Love Our Lakes' merchandise. c. The 'Poo in the Loo' campaign ran over the 2021/22 summer. The years focus was on boating on the lakes and reminded people to plan ahead to use the toilets. New permanent signs were installed around Lake Ruataniwha with a call to action - 'Boating about? Don't get caught out!' d. There has been ongoing engagement with Mackenzie District Council (MDC) regarding the enhancement of Lake Ruataniwha Recreational Reserve and toilet facilities. This included feeding into the new Management Plan being commissioned by MDC and supporting the installation of portable toilets in two locations next to Lake Ruataniwha over the 2021/22 summer. e. Land Information New Zealand presented their Aquatic and Terrestrial update for 2022 with a focus on Lagarosiphon.
<p>We will support catchment groups taking collective action to reduce losses of contaminants, prioritised where they are addressing identified at-risk areas by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways, such as the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group; • Supporting establishment of new catchment groups and build on what is already on the ground in the community; • Requesting bi-annual reports from Environment Canterbury on Farm Environment Plan audit results and consenting follow-up and sharing this information with relevant catchments; • Requesting briefings from Environment Canterbury on the state of our water resources and results from monitoring and sharing with relevant catchments. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hosted community workshop in July 2021 for the Ahuriri River catchment landowners. Environment Canterbury presented the latest Trophic Level Index results and discussed implications for local consent holders. b. Recommended financial support of \$21,000 for the Omarama Water User Group to investigate and implement technology that can improve nutrient loss management in the Omarama / Ahuriri catchment. c. Discussions held on presence of cyanobacteria in Whakatipu Twizel River; this included a presentation from Environment Canterbury science team. There is ongoing work to encourage the formation of a local catchment group for the Twizel River.

<p>We will communicate and engage with our communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating additional channels for sharing the Zone Committee story within local townships around the Upper Waitaki zone; • Increasing engagement with local community boards, such as Tekapo Community Board, and discussing opportunities for collaboration; • Developing and maintaining relationships with industry, rūnanga, councils, and catchment groups to be an intermediary for when community members need advice; • Sharing and celebrating successes. 		<p>a. Tekapo Trails Incorporated have been funded to enhance two areas within the Lake Tekapo region: To develop, in agreement with LINZ, Genesis and Mackenzie District Council, a 1.2 km walk/cycle trail from Pines Beach in the Regional Park to Willow Bay and, too plant natives and establish rabbit proof fencing for plants to enhance a lagoon on Sawdon Station Lagoon walking and bike trail.</p>
--	--	---

CWMS Action Plan Budget 2021/22 for the Upper Waitaki Zone

Project Name	Grant Recipient	Budget approved by Zone Committee	Total Cost	Budget / Cost Difference
Lake Ōhau cotoneaster follow-up control project	Ohau Conservation Trust	\$13,081.00	\$13,081.00	0
Lake Tekapo Willow Bay and Lagoon planting project	Tekapo Trails Society Inc	\$4,919.00	\$4,919.00	0
Lake Middleton Willow Control	Ohau Conservation Trust	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	0
Omarama Soil Moisture Monitoring Pilot Project	Omarama Stream Water Users Group	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	0
	TOTAL		\$50,000	

Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024



Image - Native planting at Twiddle's Swamp

This summary highlights the key actions agreed by the zone committee for the next three years.

For more detail on the zone committee and plan, visit ecan.govt.nz/upper-waitaki-water-zone

Our purpose:

To uphold the mana of the freshwater bodies within the Upper Waitaki Zone by facilitating enduring land and water management solutions that give effect to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) vision, principles and targets in our zone.

The CWMS aims to enable present and future generations to gain the greatest social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits from our water resources within an environmentally sustainable framework.

Our role:

- To get involved in an active programme of community engagement on freshwater management matters;
- To facilitate relevant advice to councils and other organisations contributing to freshwater management;
- To extend the resources available to implement the CWMS by: working with stakeholders across all sectors and seeking opportunities to promote, support, leverage and expand catchment-based initiatives that deliver the CWMS;
- To report back annually to councils and Rūnanga on progress towards delivery of the zone-specific priorities.

Our Councils' priorities for our zone committee are:

Waitaki District Council

- Safe drinking water free of contaminants for humans and animals;
- Rivers and wetlands have healthy ecological flows and high water quality;
- Rural and urban communities are fully engaged and have ownership of water management processes;
- Native and indigenous wildlife associated with waterways have adequate habitats;
- The objectives of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark are supported and strengthened through the above;
- The objectives of the Mackenzie Basin Alignment Programme are supported and strengthened through the above.

Mackenzie District Council

- Managing impacts of recreational use on lakes and rivers;
- Enabling biodiversity enhancement;
- Understanding cultural values – rehabilitation of nohoanga and mahinga kai.

Environment Canterbury

Kaitiakitanga Wāhi Taonga and mahinga kai targets

Grow support and resources to achieve the goal of five mahinga kai projects.

Ecosystem health and biodiversity targets

- Increased riparian management to protect aquatic ecosystems;
- Reducing the number of fish barriers;
- Protection and enhancement of wetlands.

Recreation and amenity targets

Achieve the 2025 target to restore priority freshwater recreation opportunities in each zone.

This taniko (woven pattern for clothing) Pātikitiki, represents lashing or binding together. The smaller diamonds represent pātiki (flounder). The Aramoana are white chevron shaped spaces representing the ocean waves. Together they represent the sustainment of our waters and the binding organisations that protect them. Pātiki is also the symbol for abundance.

- Ariki Creative

Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024



Image - Lake Ruataniwha

We will commit to the enhancement of Nohoanga, improved health of key waterways for customary use and enhancement of mahinga kai opportunities by:

- Gaining insight into cultural values and areas of significance relating to mahinga kai;
- Engaging with schools and youth to illustrate the importance of mahinga kai and the local history
- Increasing engagement with Ngāi Tahu regarding enhancement of Nohoanga sites;
- Recommending biodiversity funding with a priority focus on mahinga kai sites;
- Improving understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- Hosting hāngī for stakeholders and local schools.

We will commit to the improved management and preservation of recreational values of the Waitaki Lakes by:

- Supporting and enhancing our Love Our Lakes Campaign;
- Engaging with agencies, catchment groups and stakeholders to enhance and protect recreational areas such as the Twizel River and Lake Ruataniwha;
- Educating the community about how to protect our environment through actions such as responsible toilet use.

We will support catchment groups taking collective action to reduce losses of contaminants, prioritised where they are addressing identified at-risk areas by:

- Exploring opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways, such as the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group;
- Supporting establishment of new catchment groups and build on what is already on the ground in the community;
- Requesting bi-annual reports from Environment Canterbury on Farm Environment Plan audit results and consenting follow-up and sharing this information with relevant catchments;
- Requesting briefings from Environment Canterbury on the state of our water resources and results from monitoring and sharing with relevant catchments.

We will communicate and engage with our communities by:

- Investigating additional channels for sharing the Zone Committee story within local townships around the Upper Waitaki zone;
- Increasing engagement with local community boards, such as Tekapo Community Board, and discussing opportunities for collaboration;
- Developing and maintaining relationships with industry, rūnanga, councils, and catchment groups to be an intermediary for when community members need advice;
- Sharing and celebrating successes.

Upper Waitaki Water Zone



Want to get involved?

Head to ecan.govt.nz/upper-waitaki-water-zone



1.6 OMARAMA STREAM WATER USERS GROUP PROJECT UPDATE

Author: Staff Report, Environment Canterbury

Authoriser:

Attachments: Nil

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report be received.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is by Bridget Pringle, Facilitator, Omarama Stream Water Users Group to update the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee on the Soil Moisture Monitoring Pilot Project funded through the 2021/22 CWMS Action Plan Budget.

1.7 ZONE FACILITATOR'S REPORT**Author:** Staff Report, Environment Canterbury**Authoriser:****Attachments:** 1. **Overseer review - Environment Canterbury Response**  **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the report be received.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is from Janine Roux, Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury.

This report provides information that may be of interest to the Zone Committee that is not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

1. Twizel River update

Update from Mat Bayliss - I met with the parks and reserves manager from the Mackenzie District Council (MDC) and talked about the concept of funding the development of a spatial plan for the Twizel River. There is some MDC capital funding for development, but no budget for planning and design. I would like to propose the Zone Committee collaborate with MDC (and possibly Department of Conservation (DOC)) on a funding application to use the CWMS Action Plan Budget for 2022/23.

MDC do need to complete repair works in this area following the flooding, which will go ahead regardless of the spatial plan. I'm volunteering myself to draft an application and solicit input and support from the Zone Committee, MDC, DOC and Environment Canterbury.

2. Overseer review - Environment Canterbury Response

Following discussions at the previous Zone Committee meeting, attached is information regarding the current use of the Overseer tool from Environment Canterbury.

3. Updated Action List

The Action List below updates the committee on progress on items identified at previous zone committee meetings. Items that have now been completed are not included in this list.

Upper Waitaki Zone Committee – Action list

Meeting date	Action	Who	Status
18 June 2021	Progress the Twizel River Restoration initiative further with conversation with Mackenzie District Council and DOC.	Matt Bayliss and Joy Paterson	In Progress, see Facilitator's report (point 1.)

Overseer review - how we have responded

Last updated: 9 May 2022

Overseer is a tool to model nutrient losses from land. It's used in a variety of ways by regulators, auditors and farmers. The Government's review indicated that Overseer in its current form should not be used as the only way to measure nutrient losses from farms.

With a view to the need to notify a new plan under the [Essential Freshwater package](#), we needed to find a way to continue to administer our current planning framework until at least that time.

- Find out more [about our response to the Overseer review](#).
- Find out more about the [Government's response to the Overseer review and read the full review report](#).
- Find out more about the [review of the tool](#).

Our interim solution

We have been working with mana whenua and industry groups on an interim solution to the Overseer review. After a pause, we have started consent processing and Farm Environment Plan auditing again.

We have now resumed auditing in central and far southern parts of the region. We have not resumed auditing north of the Hurunui River or consenting in the far south, where discussions with the local Rūnanga have not yet concluded. We will contact affected landowners at the appropriate time.

If you are unsure how your situation is impacted, contact us on [0800 324 636](tel:0800324636).

How the interim solution applies to FEP audits

We have changed the way auditors determine compliance with a farm's nitrogen loss limit.

The new approach puts more emphasis on change to the farming system and the likely impact of those changes on nitrogen losses to water.

Overseer budgets can still be a valuable form of evidence to support your audit process. If you are unsure whether you need an Overseer budget, please contact your FEP auditor.

Auditors already have new guidance that they are working under.

- Unless you use an Overseer nutrient budget for other farm management reasons, don't book an Overseer budget before you have discussed the need for this with your auditor.
- Discuss your situation with your auditor. Explain any on-farm changes that have been made since you received your consent or since your last audit.
- Your auditor will advise you what additional information you may need to provide for your audit if there have been significant changes to your farming operation since consenting or your last audit.

- Talk to your industry body, farming consultant or FEP auditor if you need support. [Find a list of Environment Canterbury certified auditors.](#)

Further information on FEP audits

If the new FEP auditing process applies to you, this information is relevant:

- Allow sufficient time to arrange for your audit to be carried out.
- [Find Environment Canterbury certified auditors.](#)
- Make sure your FEP is up to date to reflect your consent conditions.
- Talk to your industry body, farming consultant or FEP auditor if you need support.
- Let us know if your FEP will be audited under an irrigation scheme or ISO programme, or if the audit has already been completed.

Contact us on [0800 324 636](tel:0800324636) or email fep.audit@ecan.govt.nz.

How the interim solution applies to consents

New consents and existing consents will now need to use a mixture of inputs (such as irrigation area, winter grazing area, farm system category) and outputs (nitrogen loss risk, for example).

If you are making a new or replacement consent application, we will need to assess any current or baseline nutrient budget you have in order to determine your farm system category and any increased nitrogen loss risk.

Only consider changes in land use if you have evidence to show that what you're proposing won't lead to higher nitrogen loss risk. We would advise you against making changes to your farming system without strong evidence that you will be able to meet your nitrogen loss limit.

We're obliged to consider each application individually under our statutory direction, but with the need to notify a new land and water plan in future, certainty may best be served by granting relatively short-term consents.

Should I use Overseer now? What for?

You must have an Overseer budget if you are applying for a consent. This is a requirement of the Land and Water Regional Plan.

You can also use a budget if you're being audited. For both consents and audit, your Overseer budget will be just one line of evidence and will need to be supported with other evidence.

If you have changed your farm practices since the last time you were audited, an Overseer budget may be required as one line of evidence.

[Talk to your auditor](#) or consent planner to find out whether this applies to you.

In all cases, you can use an existing nutrient budget as a line of evidence. See also the next question.

Should I do a nutrient budget now? Why should I invest in one if it's only one type of evidence?

You will need an Overseer budget to apply for a consent. An existing budget may be sufficient - talk to your consent planner to find out what applies to your situation.

You can prepare a new nutrient budget for your [FEP audit](#) if you wish, but an existing one may be sufficient as a line of evidence.

When you book an [FEP audit](#), discuss your situation with your auditor. They will be able to decide whether in your situation an Overseer nutrient budget, or other sources of evidence, will be needed for the audit.

Note that nutrient budgets provide you, your rural professional and auditor with useful information about farming systems and how different management practices contribute to the farm's overall nitrogen losses.

Overseer also provides information to develop effective nitrogen loss mitigations which will help you meet your nitrogen loss targets and any required reductions.

Can I use an equivalent model?

At present we are implementing the interim solution to determine a farm's nitrogen loss limit.

This is based on a farm narrative (farm system category and descriptors – see table below) rather than using OverseerFM to calculate the nitrogen loss rate (50 kg N/ha/yr, for example).

If you choose to use an equivalent model, we will assess the model against the policies, objectives and community aspirations we deliver on, and make a decision accordingly.

What are the farm system categories?

SYSTEMS	DESCRIPTION
Dairy 1	Tonnes DM/ha (Calculate feed eaten per ha, as per defined process)
Dairy support	A mixture of crops and pasture grown for rearing of dairy replacements and/or wintering of milking cows
Sheep and beef	A mixture of pasture and crops grown for breeding sheep, beef and/or deer, and could include a mixture of breeding and finishing
Stock finishing	A mixture of pasture and crops grown for stock finishing
Deer	A mixture of pasture and crops grown for deer breeding and/or finishing
Outdoor pigs	Management of land for production of pigs
Other livestock	Horses, camelids and other livestock categories
Cut and carry	Production of a range of forage crops for use off paddock
Arable 1	A mixture of crops (small seed, cereals and/or vegetables) grown for harvest
Arable 2	A mixture of crops (small seed, cereals, pasture and/or vegetables) grown for harvest and stock grazing
Horticulture	Fruit, nuts and/or vegetables grown for harvest
Viticulture	Production of grapes grown for wine production
Other	A mixture of farming systems not clearly covered by the above

How do I know what farming category(ies) my farm falls into?

The system categories are broad and will usually be clear (see above table). There is a subdivision of dairy farms based on a calculation using easily identified inputs.

For more information on this methodology, discuss with your consultant, FEP auditor or dairy company.

How can the narrative system work, especially on a mixed farm?

The system categories are broad. We will therefore use a single system category if possible (for example, arable with stock compared with arable without stock), but where there are clear distinctions between systems on a single farm, these can be defined separately if required.

What should I do differently to prepare for my first audit?

[Book in with your FEP auditor](#) early to ensure all necessary information can be prepared for your FEP audit.

Discuss your situation with your auditor and explain any farm system changes that have been made since you received your consent or since your last FEP audit.

Your FEP auditor will advise you what additional information you may need to provide for your FEP audit if there have been significant changes to your farming system since consenting or your last audit.

Each situation is different. Therefore it is important to talk to your auditor so they understand the farm and any system changes.

What should I do differently to prepare for my subsequent audit?

Unless you use an Overseer nutrient budget for other farm management reasons, don't create an Overseer budget before you have discussed your situation with your FEP auditor.

Access any existing nutrient budget. If you are changing your farm practices, an Overseer budget may be required as a line of evidence. Talk to your auditor about this.

Will processing my consent be more expensive?

Generally not, unless you are seeking to intensify your land use and additional evidence is required to show you will not be increasing your farm's nitrogen loss risk.

How long will it take to process my consent application?

We are likely to receive more consent applications than in the past. However, we are currently experiencing [delays in processing resource consents](#).

Am I likely to get a short-term consent only? Why?

We're obliged to consider each application individually under our statutory direction, but with the need to notify a new plan, certainty may best be served by granting relatively short-term consents.

I want to change my farm practices – what should I do?

[Talk to us](#), particularly if you believe that what you are proposing may lead or amount to change in land use or increase your farm's nitrogen loss risk.

Why has consent processing and Farm Environment Plan auditing started again in some areas but not others?

In developing the interim solution, we undertook to engage with mana whenua. Conversations have concluded with two of the four Tangata Whenua Advisory Service agencies but are ongoing with the other two.

We have restarted consent processing and FEP auditing in most areas of Canterbury. We have now also resumed auditing in far southern parts of the region. We have not restarted auditing north of the Hurunui River or consenting in the far south. We will contact affected landowners at the appropriate time.