



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, 20 May 2022

Time: 10.30am

**Location: Mackenzie Country Hotel
Twizel**

AGENDA

Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting

20 May 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
Rynnee 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)

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Upper Waitaki Zone Committee Meeting Friday 20 May 10.30am Mackenzie Country Hotel			
Time		Item	Lead
10.30am		Opening Karakia	
		Welcome	Chair
		Standing Items Apologies, Minutes, Conflicts of Interest, Matters arising	Chair
10.40am		Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan update	Dafydd Pettigrew, XYST Consultant
11.00am		Ahuriri Catchment update	Ian Lyttle and Shane Gilmer, Environment Canterbury
11.30am		Confirmation of CWMS action plan budget projects	Facilitator
11.40am		Zone Facilitator's Report	Facilitator
12.00am		General Business - Twizel River Catchment group	All
12.30am		Closing Karakia Lunch will be provided	

1 REPORTS

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

Author: Arlene Goss, Governance Advisor

Authoriser:

Attachments: 1. Minutes of Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting - 18 February 2022

RECOMMENDATION

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.



Mackenzie

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Unconfirmed MINUTES

**Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management
Committee Meeting**

18 February 2022

MINUTES OF MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL**UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING****HELD ON ZOOM****ON FRIDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Chairperson Simon Cameron, Matthew Bayliss, John Sunckell, Joy Paterson, Stuart Barwood, Michael McMillan, Rynee de Garnham

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Miriam Morton (Waimate District Council), Arlene Goss (Committee Secretary), Viv Smith-Campbell, John Benn (DOC), Rick Ramsay (Aquaculture Group), Dave Moore (Ecan), Kate Doran (Ecan), Cr Elizabeth McKenzie (Ecan), Murray Griffin, Shaun Thomason and Tracey Burton (LINZ), Douglas ?, Chris Eccleston (Ecan), Graeme Clark (Ecan)

1 OPENING

The meeting opened with a karakia from Dave Moore.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from members Richard Subtil and Keiran Whyte.

The chairman said kaumatua Peter Ramsden passed away on February 3, and former member Cr Ross McRobie in December. The loss of both was very sad and he called for a moment's silence to remember them.

3 REPORTS**3.1 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 17 SEPTEMBER 2021**

John Benn from DOC raised the matter of removing trout from Lake Middleton and replacing with eels. He had spoken to stakeholders and there was no support for this.

The minutes were received with no corrections.

3.2 PRESENTATION FROM LINZ

Shaun Thomason and Tracey Burton from Toitū Te Whenua / LINZ gave a power point presentation on their aquatic and terrestrial weed control programmes.

This presentation can be viewed as part of the recording of the meeting on Mackenzie District Council's YouTube channel.

Questions included how well native plants would grow back into the areas treated with herbicide. The herbicide does not affect native plants. The native plants are able to quickly re-colonise the area.

Discussion took place on the effects of diquat and whether it collects in the sediment of the lake. Tracey Burton offered to get back to people with questions she could not immediately answer.

Other matters discussed included who does the work, and whether it was impossible to get rid of oxygen weed completely.

Shaun Thomason spoke about weed and pest control work on river beds in the basin.

Following the presentation they were thanked by the chairman.

3.3 BENTHIC CYANOBACTERIA IN THE WHAKATIPU/TWIZEL RIVER

Shirley Hayward gave a presentation on cyanobacterial cover in the Twizel River. This presentation can be viewed as part of the recording of the meeting on Mackenzie District Council's YouTube channel.

Discussion included the following points:

The recent heavy rain and flush in the river had reduced the algal mats to 15% but it needed two events to reduce it fully.

Climate change will be an influencer because it will raise water temperatures.

Nitrate levels in the Twizel River are increasing. This possibly comes from agricultural development. And other possibilities.

Only way to get rid of a bloom was with river freshes in autumn. It's a natural part of the ecosystem and has always been there. The question is why it is dominating the ecosystem.

The committee were not comfortable to sit and watch this worsen. What action can the zone committee take to address this? Mat Bayliss would like to see something in the action plan.

Shirley Hayward was thanked for her presentation.

3.4 CWMS ACTION PLAN BUDGET

This report was by Janine Roux, Environment Canterbury, and followed on from zone committee workshops held in October. It provided recommendations on the allocation of the CWMS Action Plan Budget for the 2021/2022 financial year. This report outlines projects to the sum of \$50,000.

The committee discussed the projects. The Omarama Stream project was a showcase and could be a model for other streams in the catchment. The catchment group was making real progress. This amount was granted.

Viv Smith-Campbell spoke in support of the application from the Ohau Conservation Trust. There was discussion on which financial year the money would be spent. The chairman asked if it was possible to plant something like beech to provide shade after the willows were cleaned up. Viv Smith-Campbell said the old willows would be left, and there were plans to do some planting after the willow control was completed. It was recognised that three Runanga had an interest in this area and all would be consulted.

Facilitator Dave Moore then outlined the other three projects in the action plan that would receive the remaining money from this year's budget and the committee agreed to support these.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/95

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson

Seconded: Cr John Sunckell

1. That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee recommends to Environment Canterbury that the CWMS Action Plan budget is allocated to the following project:

Omarama Stream Water User Group Irrigation project for \$21,000 excl GST.

CARRIED**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/96**

Moved: Cr John Sunckell

Seconded: Ms Joy Paterson

2. That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee recommends to Environment Canterbury that the CWMS Action Plan budget is allocated to the following project:

Ōhau Conservation Trust, Lake Middleton willow control for \$11,000 excl GST.

CARRIED**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/97**

Moved: Chairperson Simon Cameron

Seconded: Cr Stuart Barwood

3. That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee recommends to Environment Canterbury that the remainder of the budget is allocated to the remaining three projects listed in the Upper Waitaki CWMS Action Plan Budget 2021/22.
4. That the Upper Waitaki Zone committee agrees that if any of the projects cannot go ahead before the end of the financial year, the committee will make further recommendations to reallocate that budget to other projects in April 2022.

CARRIED**3.5 ZONE FACILITATOR'S REPORT**

This item was not discussed.

The Meeting closed at 11.00am with a karakia from Rynee de Garnham.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on 18 March 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 RUATANIWHA UPDATE

Author: Staff Report, Environment Canterbury

Authoriser:

Attachments:

1. Lake Ruataniwha Background Document 2022 [↓](#) 
2. Lake Ruataniwha Reserve Map [↓](#) 

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is by Dafydd Pettigrew, XYST Consultant, to update the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee on Mackenzie District Council's Ruataniwha Reserve Management Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be received.

DISCUSSION

Notification of the intention to prepare a reserve management plan for Lake Ruataniwha was undertaken from mid-March to mid-April 2021.

Information about the consultation went live on 10 March 2022 through several mediums including the 'Let's Talk' page on the Mackenzie District Council website.

Overall, comments were received from 91 individuals or organisations. Most feedback was positive and focused on the potential opportunities to develop the reserve and enhance the visitor experience.

This is a link to the summary of feedback received from the first round of consultation <https://letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz/76015/widgets/367328/documents/231456>

NEXT STEPS:

The aim is to have draft plans completed in late May/early June.

The draft plan(s) will then need to be workshopped and approved by elected members of Mackenzie District Council prior to the drafts being released for public consultation.

Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan

Background Information

February 2022

Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan - Background Information

REVISION HISTORY

Date Created:	
Review Date:	February 2022
Department:	
Responsible Officer:	
Sponsor:	
Approved by:	
New Review Date:	

Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan – Background Information

1



The area covered by the Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan (inside red border)



68.77 ha of reserve land



7km+ of lake frontage



1 Playground



2.5 km of park roads



4 boat ramps



2 public toilets

*Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan – Background Information***Purpose of this background document**

The purpose of this document is to provide a high level overview of the Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve, why council is preparing a reserve management plan and the process for developing the plan.

What is the Lake Ruataniwha Reserve Management Plan?

This plan will be a high level policy document rather than a detailed operational plan. The purpose of the plan is to assist the Council and Twizel Community Board to make quality decisions about how this park is used and protected as well as what needs to be considered when developing and enhancing the park into the future.

What the plan WILL include?

- The plan will include 68.77ha of land classified as recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977
- The Reserve Management Plan will be supported by a non-statutory concept plan.

What the plan WON'T Include:

- Information and management direction for land outside the reserve's legal boundary e.g. Meridian Rowing Centre, Lake Ruataniwha Holiday Park or Meridian Energy land, road reserve or the lake. However, the plan may identify an advocacy approach to working with the land owners or managers.
- Investment priorities, action or implementation plans or detailed development plans.
- Park maintenance methods and specifications.

*Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan – Background Information***Reserve concept plan**

- A concept plan will be prepared for the reserve to provide a graphic representation of the vision and development aspirations provided for in the reserve management plan.
- It will include a visual overview of the reserve and a more detailed look and feel for some areas within the reserve (e.g. lagoon area, boat ramp areas).
- Given funding needs to be allocated and further detailed feasibility and investigation will be required to deliver the concept plan, it will remain a nonstatutory document that supports the management plan.

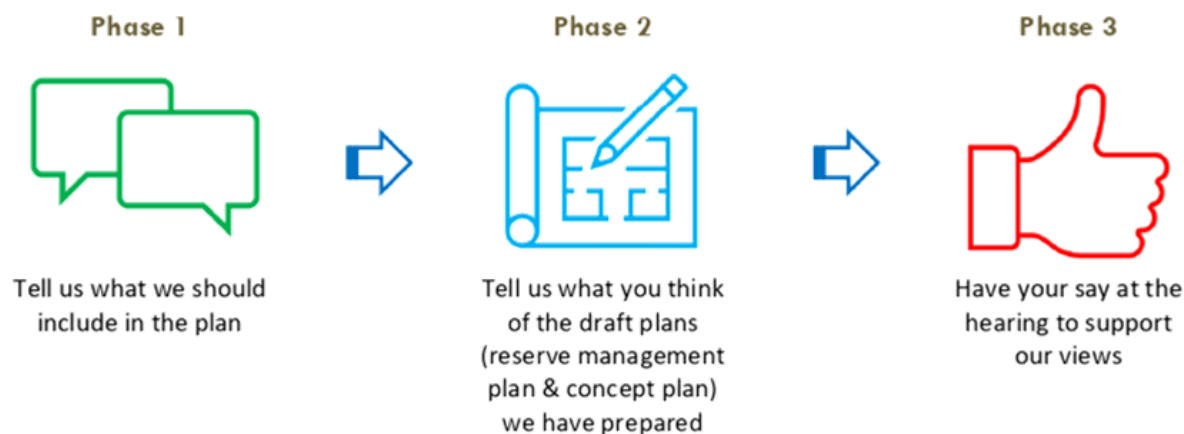
What type of feedback are we seeking?

We would like to understand what you value about Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve, what you think the key issues are and what experiences you would like from this Reserve.

Maintenance specifications are set in contracts, and specific parks projects and budgets are set through the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan. While feedback on these topics are important, the reserve management plan and concept plan will deal with how we manage activities on parks and how the park might be developed into the future and will leave the budgeting and contract specifications to these other documents.

Consultation Process

Development of this plan will follow the statutory consultation requirements for developing reserve management plans under the Reserves Act 1977.

Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan – Background Information

What we have heard from key stakeholders to date

- Ruataniwha reserve is Twizel's jewel in the crown
- Lagoon area highly valued for informal recreation
- Retaining wind protection and shade is important
- Progressive wilding pine removal and replacement with appropriate species
- Support for:
 - Area recently cleared of pines to be used for sport fields
 - Walking and biking connections through the reserve
 - Organized approach to carparking (including boat trailer parking)
 - Upgrade of playground, and picnic areas
 - Better access and connection to the lake edge

Public engagement

To encourage the public to help us with developing this plan there will be a public notice and public interest story in the Timaru Courier, public interest story in the Twizel Events and Promotions, and short survey and background document on the council's let's talk page.

*Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan – Background Information***How to provide feedback****5**

Visit letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz/lake-ruataniwha-recreation-reserve-management-plan and complete the online feedback form.

Email dafydd@xyst.co.nz with the subject line 'Ruataniwha RMP'.

Write to:

Ruataniwha RMP Feedback
Mackenzie District Council
Service Agency
Market Place
TWIZEL 7944



Mackenzie
DISTRICT COUNCIL



1.4 AHURIRI UPDATE

Author: Staff Report, Environment Canterbury

Authoriser:

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is by Ian Lyttle and Shane Gilmer, Environment Canterbury and follows on from the Zone Committee workshop held in March 2022. It provides 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.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be received.

BACKGROUND

An increase of the Trophic Level Index (TLI) for Lake Benmore's Ahuriri Arm in 2021 triggered a regulatory process to determine whether consent holders in the area are either partly or wholly responsible for the TLI trigger exceedance of 2.75.

Following this, the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee hosted a meeting in July 2021 with the catchment farmers to discuss this issue and possible solutions.

With this being the second exceedance (the first having occurred in 2019), it provided a strong argument for a whole-of-catchment response, encouraging greater catchment participation in mitigating nutrient losses to the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore rather than just focusing on consent holders.

Following the second exceedance, Environment Canterbury's Southern Zone delivery team developed a project to transition the catchment farmers to Freshwater Farm Plans on the basis that:

Greater collective action from all farmers would be more effective in reducing contaminants to water

All farmers in the catchment will be required to have Freshwater Farm Plans within a few years.

Environment Canterbury's Regional team have committed to support this project.

The Zone Committee felt there was also a need within the catchment to enhance irrigation practices. As such, \$21,000 from the CWMS Action plan budget was recommend to Environment Canterbury for the Omarama Water User Group to investigate and implement technology that can improve nutrient loss management in the Omarama catchment.

DISCUSSION

Environment Canterbury's work programme in the Ahuriri Catchment focuses on several aspects including wetland management and farm risk assessments with advice on selecting appropriate management practices being offered.

This work has started by engaging with local catchment groups such as Quail Burn group, Omarama Stream Water Users Groups, Ahuriri Catchment Community Group and Morven/Glenavy/Ikawai Irrigation Ltd (MGI) - who manage Benmore Irrigation Company (BIC).

The approach is built around identifying local issues, working at a whole catchment, sub catchment and farmer level.

A rigorous risk assessment is undertaken to identify inherent risk, system risks and current management risks on each property.

The risk assessment is the basis for selecting and implementing good management practices and considering additional management practices where current GMP is not able to sufficiently mitigate that risk.

A similar approach is being used within Ōtūwharekai (Ashburton Lakes) with some success already being seen. This work can be used to support and enhance Environment Canterbury's approach in the Ahuriri. The techniques and approach used will be shared by Shane Gilmer.

1.5 CWMS ACTION PLAN BUDGET UPDATE 2021/22

Author: Staff Report, Environment Canterbury

Authoriser:

Attachments:

1. CWMS Action Plan Budget [↓](#) 
2. Lake Ōhau cotoneaster follow-up control project 2022 [↓](#) 
3. Willow Bay and Lagoon funding plan [↓](#) 

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is by Janine Roux, Environment Canterbury and follows on from Zone Committee workshops held in March 2022. It provides updated recommendations on the allocation of the CWMS Action Plan Budget for the 2021/2022 financial year. This report outlines projects to the sum of \$48,198.70.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

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 \$11,900.00 exl GST.
 - b) Willow Bay and Lagoon funding plan \$4,298.70 exl GST.

BACKGROUND

The CWMS Action Plan Budget was launched in 2021 with the purpose of the funding to allow Zone Committees to focus on implementing their action plan and leverage other funding opportunities to achieve the CWMS priorities.

Each of the ten water zones in Canterbury has \$50,000 to recommend on projects that relate to their Zone Committee Action Plan 2021 - 2024. The budget is administered, allocated, and monitored by Environment Canterbury.

Two proposals have been recommended and approved to date equating to \$32,000 excluding GST:

- Omarama Stream Water User Group Irrigation project for \$21,000 excl GST
- Ōhau Conservation Trust, Lake Middleton willow control for \$11,000 exl GST

PROPOSALS

Two proposals have been circulated to the committee for consideration:

- a. Lake Ōhau cotoneaster follow-up control project for \$11,900.00 exl GST
- b. Willow Bay and Lagoon funding plan \$4,298.70 exl GST

Upper Waitaki Zone Committee CWMN Action Plan Budget 2021/21**– confirmed in February 2021. Updated 13 May 2022 for Zone Committee consideration**

What	Action relating to Zone Committee Action Plan	Zone Committee Priority	Estimate budget EXCL GST
Omarama Stream Water User Group Irrigation project to supporting the Ahuriri catchment farmers with improved irrigation and farming practices.	<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; 	support catchment groups taking collective action to reduce losses of contaminants, prioritised where they are addressing identified at-risk areas	Confirmed @ \$21,000 Contract signed and invoice received
Support Lake Ohau planting project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways; Recommending biodiversity funding with a priority focus on mahinga kai sites; 	We will communicate and engage with our communities	Confirmed @ \$11,000 Contract signed and invoice received
Support Lake Ōhau cotoneaster follow-up control project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways; Recommending biodiversity funding with a priority focus on mahinga kai sites; 	We will communicate and engage with our communities	Proposal for \$11,900.00
Support Willow Bay and Lagoon cycle way planting and restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways; Recommending biodiversity funding with a priority focus on mahinga kai sites; 	We will communicate and engage with our communities We will commit to the improved management and preservation of recreational values of the Waitaki Lakes	Proposal for \$4,298.70 (to cover GST)
Total			\$48,198.70

Initiative to be considered for future funding

What	Action relating to Zone Committee Action Plan	Zone Committee Priority
Support conservation efforts around Lake Alexandrina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways; • Recommending biodiversity funding with a priority focus on mahinga kai sites; 	We will communicate and engage with our communities
Youth engagement through Mōkihi workshop and additional hāngi in Twizel in early part of 2022.	<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; • Hosting hāngi for stakeholders and local schools. 	We will commit to the enhancement of Nohoanga, improved health of key waterways for customary use and enhancement of mahinga kai opportunities
Host wananga with local runanga and install pou signifying importance of the area that the session is held (area to be confirmed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaining insight into cultural values and areas of significance relating to mahinga kai; 	We will commit to the enhancement of Nohoanga, improved health of key waterways for customary use and enhancement of mahinga kai opportunities



Lake Ōhau cotoneaster follow-up control project

The Ōhau Conservation Trust (the Trust) proposes the following project at Lake Ōhau, in the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee's (Zone Committee) rohe. We wish to apply for funding from the Zone Committee for this project.

Project Description

Coordinated cotoneaster control work has been undertaken by the Department of Conservation (DOC), Environment Canterbury (ECan) and the Trust at Lake Ōhau for the last 8 years. This project proposes to continue this control work by undertaking follow-up treatment of cotoneaster, focussing on the lake shore and low terraces on the western side of Lake Ōhau road, where cotoneaster has re-grown or established, since the last control operation. See Map 1 in the Appendix for the proposed treatment area.

Background

The first joint control work was undertaken after a May 2015 agreement between the three organisations. Treatment of cotoneaster occurred in a 50ha area to the south and west of the Lake Ōhau Lodge. The Trust received a \$20,000.00 grant from the ECan Biodiversity Strategy Fund for this work. The Trust's grant and funding from DOC were combined and Te Manahuna / Twizel DOC staff supervised the contractor.

In May 2018, the Trust, Te Manahuna/Twizel DOC, and ECan entered into an agreement to undertake control of cotoneaster in an area between the Lake Ōhau Village and Lake Ōhau Lodge.

Here is a link to the December 2017 ECan media release about the project - <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/zone-news/upper-waitaki/cotoneaster-the-plant-you-dont-want-for-christmas/>

The Trust received \$81,278.55 in funding from the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Immediate Steps Fund.

The Trust also received a grant from the DOC Community Fund of \$28,458.00 in June 2018 for cotoneaster control over 2 years in the area between the Lake Ōhau Village and Lake Ōhau Lodge.

The Te Manahuna/Twizel DOC office contributed funding and coordinated the work being undertaken, funded by DOC funds, the Trust's ECan grant and the Trust's DOC Community Fund grant. The DOC staff managed the contractor undertaking the cotoneaster control.

The aim of these projects has been to remove cotoneaster from this area to protect the existing biodiversity values and allow natural succession to occur. It focussed firstly on removing “outlying” plants or infestations to reduce the overall control area, and then concentrated effort on the worst area of infestation on the hills to the west and south of the Lake Ōhau Lodge.

Map 1 in the appendix shows the cotoneaster control areas treated in the funding from 2015 to 2022.

There has been a significant reduction in the amount of cotoneaster found within the treatment area over this time. In particular, there are fewer “outlier” locations with cotoneaster. In taking photographs for this proposal, visits were made to areas known to contain cotoneaster in the past. Cotoneaster was still found, but at a much less frequency and density than previously. There has been significant effort put into the control of the worst infestation near the Lake Ōhau Lodge. This has made a difference but there will be an ongoing programme of work to eradicate cotoneaster in this area.

Why is cotoneaster control important?

Cotoneaster is a garden escapee, with its seeds (in berries) being spread by birds. It thrives at Lake Ōhau, particularly in amongst the native shrublands along the lake shore and terraces immediately across Lake Ōhau road. The worst infestation is to the west and south west of Lake Ōhau Lodge, where it originally spread from the Lodge’s garden (cotoneaster was planted in days gone by as a specimen plant in many gardens and also for its berries for birds) and is now very well established in the neighbouring shrublands.

Cotoneaster plants produce large amounts of highly viable seed, matures quickly, very long-lived, and forms dense (often pure) stands, outcompeting native shrub species in a wide range of habitats. Cotoneaster plants will often re-grow after treatment and new plants readily establish between control operations. It is important to keep up surveillance of treated areas and re-treating them as new plants appear.

South of Parsons Creek, cotoneaster was burnt, along with the native shrublands in the October 2020 wildfire. Cotoneaster plants have in some places, readily re-sprouted and grown since the wildfire, much more so than the native plants.

The Zone Committee has recognised the need to control cotoneaster in the upper Lake Ōhau catchment with the Emergent Pest Species project - <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/zone-news/upper-waitaki/major-weed-control-project-in-dobson-and-hopkins-valleys-gets-go-ahead/>



Burnt native shrubland plants and cotoneaster re-growth on margin of Lake Ōhau

Project Method

Understanding where cotoneaster has re-established will be the first step for the project. Trust volunteers will undertake monitoring along the lake shore between the Village and the Lodge and to the west of Lake Ōhau road and supply this information to DOC. This work can be undertaken in winter. The cotoneaster plants are relatively easy to find in the area south of Parsons Creek as they have grown back at a faster rate than the surrounding native shrubland species that were burnt in the October 2020 wildfire.

This will help to identify particular concentrations of plants for the control work, although there are likely to be plants scattered throughout this area.

In summer 2022/23, DOC staff will engage a contractor to undertake the control work, as part of DOC's weed control programme at Lake Ōhau. The cotoneaster treatment will be undertaken in the period between October 2022 and April 2023 (autumn) depending on contractor availability.

The Trust continues to raise awareness in the Lake Ōhau community about the threat from cotoneaster and the need to remove it and not plant it in gardens. Undertaking some more control work will be a good opportunity to repeat this message to the community. The cotoneaster control resources prepared in 2017 by the organisations involved in these projects are a key resource for spreading the message. (see link to these resources in the ECan media release of December 2017 above)

Aims / Objective

The project aims to undertake follow-up control of cotoneaster along the Lake Ōhau shore line and adjacent areas between the Lake Ōhau Village and Lodge, to protect the existing riparian biodiversity values and allow natural succession to occur.

The objective is:

To ensure the water quality, ecological, habitat, cultural, social and recreational values of the native riparian ecosystems of Lake Ōhau are not detrimentally effected by the spread of cotoneaster.



Cotoneaster on the shores of Lake Ōhau

Funding breakdown

Based on previous control work undertaken, costs consist of staff time, staff travel and herbicide. Ground control is around \$55.00 per hour. It is not proposed to use helicopter control methods for control.

An estimated cost is \$9900.00 for staff time/travel and \$2000.00 for herbicide (total of \$11,900.00). With GST added the total cost is \$13,685.00. The Trust is not GST registered so will fund the \$1785.00 of GST needed to make up the total cost.

The Trust will donate in-kind contributions of volunteer's time to find and report on cotoneaster infestation locations to DOC and to liaise with DOC through the time the contractor is engaged.

Te Manahuna / Twizel DOC staff will contribute their time and expertise to manage the contractor and the funds to get the best return from the funds available.



Empty Conservation Trust plant protector (plant burnt in wildfire), burnt native shrubland plants and re-growing cotoneaster in the riparian zone of Lake Ōhau (from left to right in photo)

How the project links to the Zone Committee Action Plan

This project will assist in up holding the mana of Lake Ōhau by ensuring the natural environment is protected from a highly invasive plant pest that could out complete and overtime destroy the native riparian ecosystems.

By continuing to control cotoneaster spread, with an aim of eradicating it from this area, natural riparian ecosystems supporting a range of indigenous wildlife and plant species associated with Lake Ōhau will be better able to thrive. Natural resources of interest to Ngāi Tahu as mahinga kai will be enhanced.

Treating cotoneaster will ensure the natural setting of the Lake Ōhau margins is maintained so the experience from recreational activities on the water and around the lake margins, is enhanced.



Cotoneaster plants along the margins of Lake Ōhau

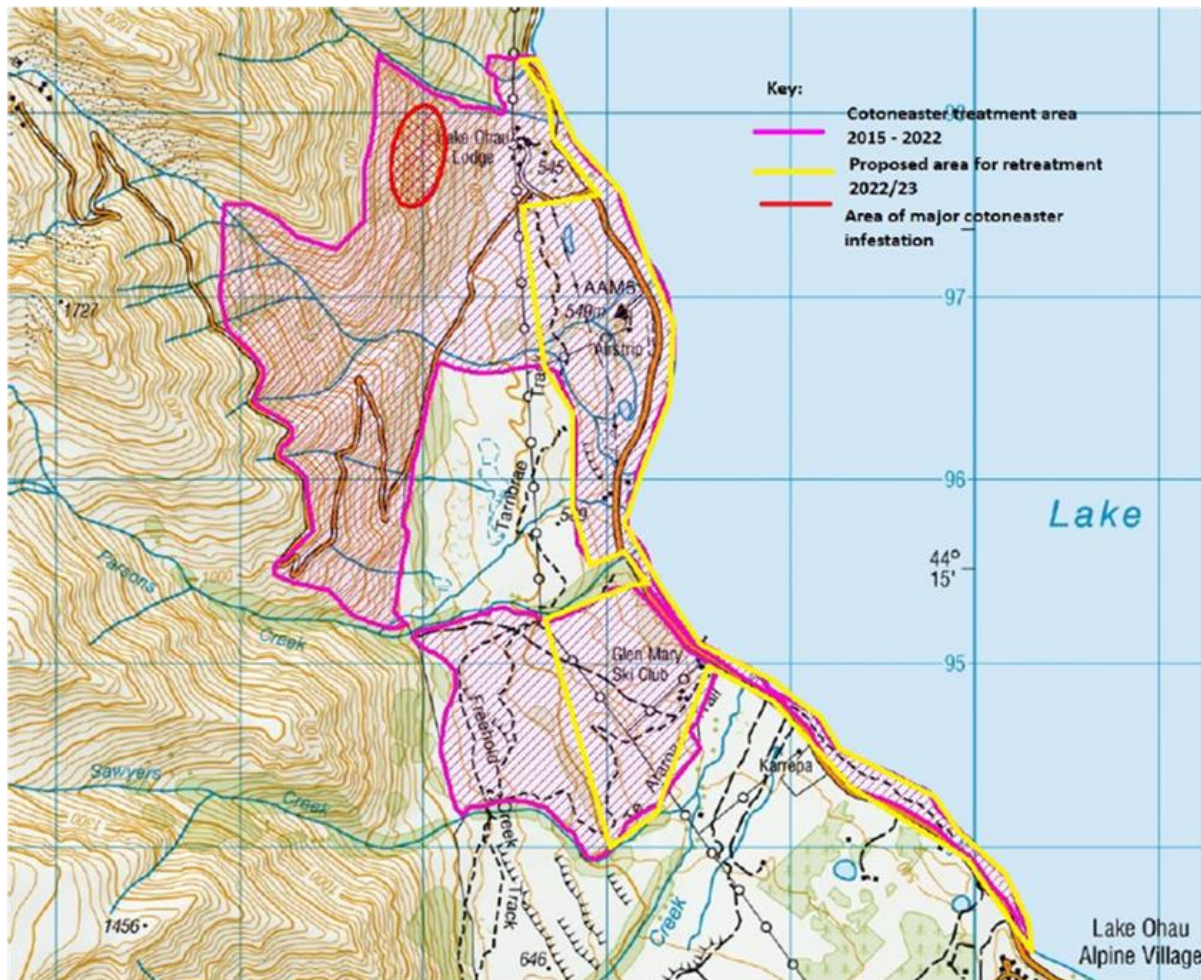


Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal for your consideration.

By working together, ECan, DOC and the Trust have been able to make progress with cotoneaster control at Lake Ōhau. As with many plant pests, ongoing control to remove re-growth and new infestations is required in order to achieve the long term aim of eradicating cotoneaster from our special natural environment at Lake Ōhau.

Viv Smith-Campbell
Chairperson, The Ōhau Conservation Trust
May 2022

Appendix 1 – Map showing area of cotoneaster treatment since 2015 and area proposed for follow-up treatment in 2022/23



Plan for Planting Native Species on Tekapo Trails tracks.

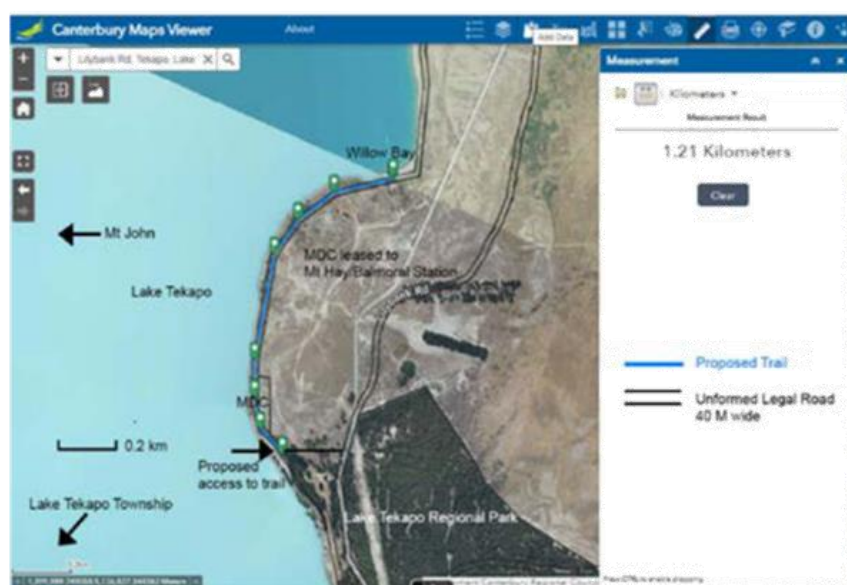
1. Pines Beach to Willow Bay

2. Native planting around lagoon on Sawdon Station Lagoon trail

1. Pines Beach to Willow Bay

Background:

Tekapo Trails Society Inc, also a registered charity has been given consent by LINZ, Genesis and Mackenzie District Council (MDC) to construct a 1.2 km by 900 mm wide walk/cycle trail from Pines Beach in the Regional Park to Willow Bay on the shores of Lake Tekapo. The MDC approval is subject to Resource Consent. The trail will be built by a professional track builder (Cam Bisset of Dirt Trail Building in Methven), and metalled to a high standard like that of Alps to Ocean. The metal we intend to use contains a mixture of clay and fine metal that reduces run-off and erosion.



Benefits to the Environment

Vegetation along this proposed trail consists mainly of rosehip, grazed tussock, grass, exotic tree species including willows, poplars and a few wilding pines but also matagouri and oleria. The lease land is lightly grazed and there are plenty of rabbits.

Tekapo Trails would like to enhance the trail by planting 10 groups of native species including kowhai, ribbonwood, green tussock and mountain flax. The plantings would include the tree species on the right side of the track which, when established provide a natural barrier to stock entering the lake. On the bottom side of the track, random groups of tussock and flax would be planted to mitigate run-off from the track and to help hide the trail from lakeview. We feel random plantings as opposed to lines of planting would look more natural.

During the trail build, removal of matagouri or other native species would be easy to avoid. The ULR is 40 M wide and curves can be made to do this.

Planting Plan

10 groups of mixed species to be planted along the eastern side of the trail.

Random plantings of flax and tussock on the western side of the trail.

Plantings to be protected by rabbit proof fencing and waratahs with caps.

Easy access for watering by Trails members once the trail is established.

Plants to be sourced from local nurseries such as Orari Nursery or Matai Nursery when plants are available.

Costings

Rabbit netting 200 M	\$988
Waratahs x 60 ex PGG Wrightson in Fairlie	\$360
Waratah caps	\$27
Native Plants:	
- 30 x kowhai (<i>sophora microphylla</i>) Large	\$200
- 30 x ribbonwood (<i>Plagianthus regnins</i>)	\$90
- 42 mountain flax	\$91
- 84 silver tussock	\$182
Total	\$1938

Benefits to the public

This proposed trail would be built on the 40 Metre wide Unformed Legal Road (ULR) which is amidst lightly grazed land leased to Mt Hay/ Balmoral Station. Until recently, there was public vehicle access to Willow Bay, a popular destination for picnickers and boaties and even swimmers in the summer as it drops off quite quickly from the sheltered bay with beautiful views in all directions. However, since new management took over the Mt Hay lease, there was a new fence constructed along Lilybank Rd, and while the owners kindly let locals know the combination to the locked gate, general public access is denied and no-one is aware there is a ULR to gain access by foot or bike.

Literally hundreds of campers use the Motor Caravan Park in the Regional Park are looking for places to walk and bike. Recently, the Regional Park Society formed a vehicle track to the fence at Pines Beach and our trail would simply continue from this point. We intend to allow wheelchair and disabled trike access, with No Motorbike signage lessening the risk of motorbikes using the trail.



Willow Bay



View from the trail



Proposed access design at start of trail

2. Native planting around lagoon on Sawdon Station Lagoon trail

Background

Tekapo Trails officially opened an 8.2 km trail on Sawdon Station in April 2021. This trail is accessed from the Regional Park south east corner and has proved extremely popular with walkers and MTBikers. A 3 km loop trail within the 8.2 km trail is popular with families and leads to a large erratic we call Frog Rock. To be able to ride without permission on a high country station in the Mackenzie is a huge privilege and we thank Snow Loxton and Sue Allen for the forethought of gaining LINZ consent to be able to construct this trail. It was mostly done by hand, trail members removing rocks large and small and spending hours smoothing, widening sheep trails and metalling and marking this trail.



LAGOON TRAIL



Description: An open track with panoramic views in all directions. Walk or mountainbike following light blue markers
Distance: Full loop ~ 8.5 km E-bike friendly
Grade: Easy - Moderate **Cellphone coverage:** Yes



A glacial erratic spine of rock that has been the size and type of rock since the time of the last ice age. "Trotter" is the name of the rock and was named by the glacialist, after a number of years of field work.



SAWDON STATION IS A WORKING FARM. NO DOGS - NO EXCEPTIONS





E-bike access



Picnic table at lagoon



Metalled trail



Lagoon



View across lagoon to Mt Edward

The Lagoon

The lagoon is the obvious destination for this ride and as shown is in a beautiful landscape with a backdrop of the Two Thum Range. The Lions donated a picnic table and everyone will naturally stop there for a break.

Tekapo Trails would love to enhance this area with some native plantings also and these would have to be singularly protected by rabbit proof netting or in small groups. We are adverse to the plastic surrounds or even the cardboard surrounds as this is a high wind, exposed area and they tend to blow away.

We will need to engage with Michael Midgely, a local native plant specialist and the owners as to what species is best for this area but having spoken to them they are happy to do this. The plants would also be locally sourced and low so as not to block views but in time scrappy willows could be replaced by kowhai and ribbonwoods.

We would be estimating \$1800 to plant up this area. All planting and fencing will be undertaken by volunteers from Tekapo Trails. Our current membership is 103 which is really good for our small town.

Therefore Tekapo trails is applying to ECAN for the total sum of \$3738.00

1.6 ZONE FACILITATOR'S REPORT

Author: Staff Report, Environment Canterbury

Authoriser:

Attachments: Nil

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the information be noted.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is from Janine Roux, Environment Canterbury. It provides information that may be of interest to the Zone Committee that is not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

1. Zone Committee community member refresh

The CWMS Zone Committee Refresh cycle has been adjusted to April – July 2022 from the previous cycle of September – November 2021.

Councils approved the extension of the appointment of the CWMS Zone Committee members listed below to 31 August 2022:

- Mat Bayliss (UWZC)
- Simon Cameron (UWZC)
- Richard Subtil (UWZC)
- Joy Paterson (UWZC)

Current timeline for member refresh

Media advertising and applications are open www.ecan.govt.nz/waiwecare	April 2022
Applications close	30 May 2022
Applicant workshops	Mid-June 2022
Councils' recommendations and member approval	July and August
New members first meeting / workshop	August

2. June meeting

Decision from the committee is needed on whether to host a hāngī in Omarama on 17 June. This would link in with Matariki Day which is the following Friday.

3. CWMS Regional Committee

Last year, the Co-Chairs were appointed to the CWMS Regional Committee, followed by the six community representatives at the 9 December Environment Canterbury Council Meeting. The selection process for Ngāi Tahu representatives is underway.

The six community representatives will be announced once the Ngāi Tahu representatives have been appointed. These appointments were based on the selection criteria outlined in the Committee's Terms of Reference and are considered to represent a balance of backgrounds, experience, and interests from across the region.

Once the Regional Committee has its full membership, there will be an induction session for members prior to its first meeting.

4. 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	No further progress.
16 October 2020	Report back to Zone Committee on whether there is an increased risk of TLI limits for the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore being exceeded after exploring any differences between the modelled assumption.	Graeme Clarke, Environment Canterbury	No further progress.
17 May 2019	Changes to Ahuriri delta – find out whether there is new LIDAR or other data that provides new information on build-up of the delta and sedimentation of the lake. If new data available, then advise committee and indicate whether this can be analysed and brought to the committee.	Graeme Clarke, Environment Canterbury	No further progress.