



ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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

DATE: Tuesday 24 September 2024

TIME: 1.00 pm

VENUE: Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakaterere
2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

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

ATTENDEES: Chris Allen
Adi Avnit
Clare Buchanan
Angela Cushnie
Bill Thomas
Sidinei Teixeira
TBC (Te Runanga o Arowhenua)
Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)
Jess Hobbs (Te Taumutu Runanga)
TBC (Tangata Whenua Facilitator)
Councillor Richard Wilson (Ashburton District Council)
Councillor Ian Mackenzie (Environment Canterbury)
Mayor Neil Brown (Ashburton District Council)

Zone Facilitator

Jaimee Grant

Tel: 027 220 2694

jaimie.grant@ecan.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury

Committee Advisor

Carol McAtamney

Tel: 307 9645

carol.mcatamney@adc.govt.nz

Ashburton District Council

Tangata Whenua Facilitator

TBC

Environment Canterbury

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 24 September 2024

Meeting Commences: 1.00pm

Order of Business

- 1 Welcome, Karakia
- 2 Apologies
-
- 3 Extraordinary Business
- 4 Register of Interest 4
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- 6 Correspondence
 - Inward
 - o Environment Canterbury - Balmacaan Stream Diversion to Lake Camp/
Ōtautari
 - o Environment Canterbury – Investigating options for ecosystem resilience for
Greenstreet Creek
 - Outward
 - o Nil
- 7 Public Contributions
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- 11 Other business
- 12 Close Meeting and Karakia

4 Register of Interests

Chris Allen	Farm owner of sheep, beef, lambs, crop Water resource consents to take water from tributary of Ashburton River and shallow wells Member of Ashburton River Liaison Group
Adi Avnit	Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust - Treasurer
Clare Buchanan	Head of Environment & Innovation at Align Farm Align Farms holds an irrigation resource consent to take water from shallow wells hydraulically linked to the Ashburton river Align Farms holds MHV water and Fonterra Shares Align Farms suffered significant flood damage on their support block
Neil Brown	Mayor Acton Irrigation Limited - Director Irrigo Centre Limited - Director Acton Farmers Irrigation Co-operative Limited - Director Browns Farm Limited – Director and Shareholder
Angela Cushnie	Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust - Trustee Hinds Reserve Board Committee member Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective – Coordinator Secretary for Hekeao Hinds Lowlands Catchment Group
Jess Hobbs	
Ian MacKenzie	Environment Canterbury Councillor
Arapata Reuben	Trustee – Tuhono Trust Trustee – Mana Waitaha Charitable Trust Member - National Kiwi Recovery Group Rūnanga Rep – Christchurch – West Melton Water Zone Committee
Bill Thomas	Farm owner of Longbeach Estate Ltd (sheep, beef, lambs, arable, dairy) Member of Eiffelton Irrigation Scheme Hekeao/Hinds Water Enhancement Trust – Settler Director of Longbeach Estate & Longbeach Dairies
Sidinei Teixeira	Masters student at Lincoln University studying a Master’s in Water Resource Management Former Head of Science at Mt Hutt College and Chemistry teacher at Christ’s College Recipient of the Callaghan Innovation fund to conduct research on the impacts of the May/June 2021 rainfall event through MHV Water Passionate about the sustainable use of natural resources
Richard Wilson	Ashburton District Councillor Dairy Farmer at Hinds Shareholder in MHV Irrigation

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Unconfirmed Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 27 August 2024, commencing at 1.06pm in the Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Councillor Richard Wilson, Councillor Ian Mackenzie, Chris Allen, Angela Cushnie, Jess Hobbs, Sidinei Teixeira (via MS Teams) and Bill Thomas (Chair).

Non attendance

Arapata Reuben.

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Jaimee Grant (Facilitator) and Ashburton District Council: Carol McAtamney (minutes)

Department of Conservation: John Benn

3 members of the public in attendance.

1 Welcome

Jaimee Grant opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

That apologies for absence be received on behalf of Mayor Neil Brown, Clare Buchanan and Adi Avnit.

Thomas/Wilson

Carried

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

Nil.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 23 July 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

Thomas/Wilson

Carried

1. Matters Arising

Nil.

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil.

Outward:

Letters to Environment Canterbury, Ashburton District Council and Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Lake Camp

Ashburton District Council resolved at a meeting on 20 August that an Officer's report be requested to understand the costs and implications of applying for a resource consent to divert Balmaccaan Stream into Lake Camp. The report is expected to be completed within a month.

Hydrology of Lake Camp

John Waugh is a retired Hydrologist and former member of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee. John was invited to present on the hydrology of Lake Camp.

- There appears to be no ecological reason to divert water into Lake Camp
- Best option is to leave the Lake to operate as a natural system
- Lake Camp has shown considerable level fluctuation seven when water was being diverted during the 1980's
- Divert water skiing, jet boating and jet skiing onto Lake Clearwater when Lake Camp falls below pre-determined levels
- The lowest level for Lake Camp is 5.184m recorded on 18 August 2024, a reading on 24 August 2024 has risen 49mm to now 5.233m.
- A copy of the paper is to be forwarded to the Ashburton District Council officers that are preparing the report on the costs and implications of applying for a resource consent.

Resolved:

That the Ashburton Water Zone Committee received the presentation on Lake Camp.

Thomas/Allen

Carried

9 HHWET Progress Update

Brett Painter, Fleur Tompsett 1.42pm – 3.09pm

Learnings since 2016 and 2023/24 progress towards HHWET objectives are were presented.

Next steps:

- New MAR/NRR consents, lodged December 2022. Hearing in October 2024
- eClean bioreactor trial beside Northern Drain – consented, with pre-operations underway
- constructed wetlands on true right and left of lower Hinds, supplied from O'Shaughnessy's and Montgomery's drains. Consent application in preparation.
- First pasture-base irrigation nutrient recycling trial from Spring 2024
- Monitoring and analysis: MHV/BCI/HHWER, catchment groups and Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective
- On-going enhanced TSA on the Windermere Drain with ECGIS
- New supplementary TSA consent applications underway for Hekeao/Hinds, Taylors, O'Shaughnessy's and Parakanoi Drains
- Continuation of Hekeao Hinds Science Group initiatives (including radiometric Surveys, VMS project and catch crop trials) and post-graduate research.

Resolved:

That the Ashburton Water Zone Committee received the presentation on the Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust progress.

Thomas/Cushnie

Carried

10 Zone Committee Updates

Recommendation:

That the Zone Committee:

- 1) Receives the updates
- 2) Confirms the Committee will continue to use its 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plan, with any required amendments, until the requirements for a 2024-2027 CWMS Action Plan are clarified.

Thomas/Allen

Carried

11 Other Business

Rakaia Catchment Environment Enhancement Society

Ange Cushnie provided an update:

- This funding round was oversubscribed, a couple of larger applications from several agencies
- Suggested it would be helpful to see mapping of the projects undertaken to date, and therefore the cumulative effect of the funding
- Suggested letters of support from landowners and/or Landcare/Catchment Groups where relevant would ensure there is good coordination across projects
- Questioned how widely this fund is promoted, outside of the usual applicants
- Questioned where this fund fits within the overarching vision and strategy of this expansive catchment, mindful a coordinated approach delivers more enduring outcomes
- Questioned whether the final grant's allocated, or declined, could be shared with AWZC as Correspondence In for the next meeting
- Suggested it would be helpful to hear from Whitcombe Landcare Group who have been operating for almost 30 years now

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held in the Ashburton District Council Chamber Hine Paaka at 1:00pm on Tuesday 24 September 2024.

The meeting closed at 3.22pm with a Karakia by Jaimee Grant.

Dated this 24th day of September 2024 _____ (Chair)

5 September 2024

Bill Thomas
Chair of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee
Sent via email: w.d.thomas@xtra.co.nz

Customer Services
P. 03 353 9007 or 0800 324 636
200 Tuam Street
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140
www.ecan.govt.nz/contact

Tēnā koe Bill,

Balmacaan Stream Diversion to Lake Camp/Ōtautari

Thank you for your letter of 31 July 2024 on behalf of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee highlighting the support for the Lake Clearwater Hut Holders Association proposal to take water from Balmacaan Stream and divert it to Lake Camp/Ōtautari.

We recognise that the current low levels of Lake Camp are causing concern within our community, with people asking questions about the health of the lake and the potential recreational impacts for people using the lake for water skiing and boating this summer.

Our view is the very dry conditions we are facing are likely to continue into spring. So although we don't have concern about the ecology of the lake, due to its very deep centre, there is a possibility the lake will be less suitable for some recreation activities this year. This doesn't mean the low levels will get lower each year and the lake will 'dry up'. It's more likely that it will continue to fluctuate from higher to lower levels, as it has done historically.

You'll be aware that there is a need for a resource consent for such an activity as diverting water. I highlighted this fact in February at the LCHHA AGM and subsequently provided information on the consenting process. In addition, Environment Canterbury staff, along with other agencies, met with representatives to discussing this matter prior to their presentation given at your July Zone Committee meeting.

Environment Canterbury, along with colleagues from the Department of Conservation and Central South Island Fish and Game Council NZ, participated at a workshop for Ashburton District Councillors on Lake Camp/Ōtautari and low lake levels. We provided up-to-date information on the lake's current ecological state, the history of the previous diversion, and the consenting process required for any new water take, in order to consider and manage impacts, both positive and negative. The Ashburton District Council has subsequently requested staff to prepare a report to inform any future action they decide to take in relation to this matter.

Referring to your initial request, we can't 'enable' a consent to be granted as this would contradict our role as a consenting authority under the Resource Management Act, but we are happy to meet with any group that would like to apply for consents to undertake this proposal and discuss what would likely be involved and required. With permissions needed from the Department of Conservation as well, we would also consider a joint pre-application process to streamline and ensure shared information for any applicant.

Our ref:
Your ref:
Contact:

Thank you again for raising this issue with me.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Judith Earl-Goulet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'G'.

Judith Earl-Goulet

General Manager – Catchment Implementation

10 September 2024

Customer Services
P. 03 353 9007 or 0800 324 636
200 Tuam Street
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140
www.ecan.govt.nz/contact

Bill Thomas
Chair of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee
Sent via email: w.d.thomas@xtra.co.nz

Re: Investigating options for ecosystem resilience for Greenstreet Creek

Tēnā koe Bill,

Thank you for your letter of 18 July 2024 on behalf of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee about options discussed at your meeting relating to Greenstreet Creek.

As a region, our waterways are continuing to be impacted by the low rainfall over the past six months, which affects all water-users including landowners, irrigators, recreationalists, and of course the related ecosystems.

We are aware the community is concerned about low flows and note that there is not likely to be any 'more' water within our catchments, with little recharge over winter. Greenstreet Creek is one example of a waterway that is likely to experience reduced water flow.

Environment Canterbury is willing to explore options and opportunities put forward by consent holders and the community.

Actions like the Environment Infrastructure Concept and Augmentation of Upper Greenstreet Creek put forward by Dr Painter all require further understanding, and the best way to progress this will be by meeting together. This will enable a better understanding of how everything connects, opportunities for collaboration with infrastructure owners, exploring consenting pathways and considerations of the current plan provisions.

One of our staff will be arranging that opportunity to meet, especially having had recent discussions with the representative for Greenstreet Irrigation Society on this year's approach.

At the Zone Committee meeting this month we will be providing an update on our approach to Greenstreet as conditions dry over the summer months. A key reflection for us, relating to Greenstreet, has been the need for communities to know what they can expect and that we are now proactively communicating this information.

Thank you again for raising this issue with me.

Our ref:
Your ref:
Contact:

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judith Earl-Goulet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 't'.

Judith Earl-Goulet
General Manager – Catchment Implementation

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 8	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Whitcombe Landcare Group
KAITUHI/AUTHOR:	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 24 September 2024

Purpose

To update the Ashburton Water Zone Committee on the work that the Whitcombe Landcare Group has been undertaking, and our goals for the future.

Recommendation

That the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee receives the update from the Whitcombe Landcare Group.

Report

1. Background

Provide some details about the Whitcombe Landcare Group:

The Whitcombe Landcare Group was established in 1992 by landowners in the Upper Rakaia and currently has 11 active members. It recently joined forces with the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective. The Whitcombe Landcare group collectively has over 65 kilometres of river frontage to the Rakaia River and vastly varied land types from irrigated farmland to extensive high country native ecosystems that they are very proud of.

Achievements of the group include:

- Establishing long-term vegetation monitoring sites on each property, extensive weed surveys that enabled successful funding applications to control weeds such as cotoneaster, elderberry, and sycamore.
- Fencing off a significant number of waterways with the support of Fish & Game and Environment Canterbury.
- The successful elimination of a significant portion of wilding pines in the catchment to the point the area is almost wilding-free. This included 80 volunteer hours recently to remove 2,500 wilding pines.
- Working closely with Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand Environment Canterbury, Fish & Game
- Support provided by MCCC to test water quality within the catchment
- Education visitors to the area on environmental impacts.

2. Presentation

The presentation will provide an update of the:

- Group's catchment area and resources
- Achievements of the Group to date
- Challenges, opportunities, and threats
- Future aspirations of the group.

A PowerPoint presentation will be provided at the meeting.

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 9	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Greenstreet update
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 24 September 2024

Purpose

To provide the Ashburton Water Zone Committee with an update on how ECAN will approach water scarcity management on Greenstreet going forward.

Recommendation

That the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee receives the update on Greenstreet.

Report

1. Background

In March, dry conditions and low flow resulted in the loss of aquatic life in Ashburton's Greenstreet Creek with the local community and Fish & Game undertaking fish salvage work. The community expressed their frustration with the situation and Environment Canterbury's response. Subsequently, Dr Stefanie Rixecker, CE of Environment Canterbury, made the decision to allow additional water diverted from O'Shea's Creek.

Following the event, Environment Canterbury staff have been reviewing our strategy to this type of situation.

2. Greenstreet Creek update from Environment Canterbury

The information below has been shared with members of the Greenstreet Irrigation Society.

Judith Earl-Goulet, General Manager – Catchment Implementation and Marcelo Wibmer, Team Leader - Water and Land from Environment Canterbury will provide the Committee with an update.

Environment Canterbury approach to managing water scarcity in Greenstreet

Issue:

In March 2024 drying conditions and reduced river flows resulted in water takes being on restrictions. Water take consents associated with the Ashburton River were reviewed to give effect to the Land and Water Regional Plan and as a consequence 2023/24 was the first year the new consents with higher minimum flow restrictions were in place and operating.

When restrictions came into effect due to the ongoing dry conditions and sustained low flows, and Greenstreet Irrigation Society operated to its consent ceasing the taking of water, there was reduced instream flows into Greenstreet Creek. The community expressed concern of that, the subsequent effect on aquatic life and the absence of both proactive communication of that impact and support to address that impact.

We have had ongoing dry conditions this year and with low river flows and start of irrigation season it is likely that low flow restrictions will be in place early in the season.

For the Greenstreet community and specific consent holders who expressed concern around the impact of these restrictions on instream values we acknowledge the need to be communicating with them more proactively.

We want to ensure that:

- The community and consent holders are prepared for the impacts of dry conditions on water availability as we implement the low flow conditions as they are written.
- That the community knows what to expect as the impacts related to dry conditions come into play (periods of no flow in some waterways) and understands what it can expect from Environment Canterbury.

There are several things that Environment Canterbury **will not be doing**:

- We will not be providing emergency provisions of diverting water from O'Shea's Creek
- We will not be considering a Plan Change at this time – we will begin to consider a new integrated plan in 2027, which will include a review of the Ashburton River planning framework.
- We will not be changing consent conditions for consent holders. Any consent holder can explore options for changing conditions, but they need to be in line with the policies and provisions within the LWRP.

There are several things that Environment Canterbury **will be doing**:

- We will be communicating our approach to the situations when conditions are drying and the expected impact on waterways so individuals and community will know what to expect (i.e. drying conditions, restrictions, dewatering and fish salvage may be needed)
 - The communication plan identifies the different audiences and how we will communicate with them and the key messages and sequence.
 - As flow levels recede, we will be proactively communicating that impact on instream conditions are likely and work to support action may be needed (i.e. fish salvage)
- We have an Environment Canterbury fish salvage protocol in place and are connecting with Arowhenua Rūnanga, Central South Island Fish & Game and Department of Conservation on this protocol and how we could work together.
- We will be ensuring compliance with the consent conditions that are in place.

- We will support consent holders and community if they want to explore different options.

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 10	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Committee Updates
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 24 September 2024

Purpose

To update the Committee on actions from the previous meeting, relevant information, and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Recommendation

The Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Receives the updates and provides feedback
2. Confirms its support for a variation to grant agreement 1322-139 between Environment Canterbury and Methven Lions Club for the Garden of Harmony project as follows:
 - a. Re-purpose full amount of the grant go towards costs for a Landscape Concept Plan

Report

1. Zone Committee Action Plan Budget Progress Report: Staveley Camp Committee Community Possum Trap Library

Progress reports are a requirement for all recipients who receive funding from the CWMS Zone Committee Action Plan Budget. A progress report has been received from the Staveley Camp Committee for their Community Possum Trap Library which received funding last financial year. A copy of the report has been attached as **Agenda Item 10.1**.

2. CWMS Committees Review

And update is currently being prepared and is expected to be available for this meeting.

3. Methven Lions Club Garden of Harmony – grant variation request

Last financial year, the Committee recommended and Environment Canterbury approved a grant of \$7,306 go the Methven Lions Club's (MLC) Garden of Harmony project to pay for native plants. The Garden of Harmony project is expected to be on ADC land.

MLC have now been advised that a Landscape Concept Plan and associated planting plan are required to secure the proposed site. The estimated cost for the preparation of the required plans is around \$10K and a request has been received to vary the grant agreement to repurpose the \$7,306 to go towards these costs. A change of the completion date for the proposed work will also likely be required.

The Committee's support is requested for a variation before requesting a variation from Environment Canterbury.

An option for the Committee to consider is to advise the MLC to submit an application for funding this year to cover some/all plan costs. A variation may still be required to change the completion date for the existing grant agreement.

4. Plan change 8 process underway

This change proposes:

1. Introducing freshwater-related provisions for agricultural intensification and intensive winter grazing. This would limit new conversions to dairy and enable more targeted management of intensive winter grazing – to ensure added intensification doesn't further degrade water quality.
2. Introducing a permitted activity rule for wetland construction. This would remove some of the current consenting barriers to constructing new wetlands.
3. Providing low-cost, low-impact pathways to improved environmental outcomes by enabling stormwater management for infrastructure projects and allow changes in use for consented water.

There would also be consequential changes to the Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan and the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan, both of which relate to water allocation.

Perhaps the most important of the proposed changes would provide a pathway for the creation of stormwater collection basins, such as those needed to manage run-off and help prevent surface flooding near developments such as new roads or subdivisions - even in fully allocated groundwater zones.

As part of the same plan change process, we will also seek to make it easier for land-users to construct wetlands - to improve groundwater recharge, to achieve biodiversity outcomes, as a nature-based strategy, and for improving water quality or to mitigate flood-risk.

And finally, we would make other targeted changes relating to intensification, to ensure our plans continue to protect water quality.

Targeted plan changes (PC8) as part of a single process can address specific water issues effectively, thereby reducing the cost to ratepayers and respect people's time by consolidating consultation in one process.

We anticipate the first wider-public step of notifying the draft changes would be in November 2024, but the actual date will be a Council decision. Notification signals the start of a fully public consultation process where anyone can give us feedback by making a submission on our draft.

5. Actions from previous meetings/workshops:

#	Received	Who	What
1.	23/04	J Grant	Provide Wakanui Hāpua information Environment Canterbury and Ashburton District Council have on file to Wakanui. <i>Completed.</i>

2.	23/07	J Grant	Follow up on correspondence regarding Greenstreet Emergency powers. <i>Greenstreet update provided at this meeting.</i>
3.	23/07	Cr McKenzie	Check if Environment Canterbury has an archivist. <i>Completed.</i>
4.	27/08	J Grant/A Cushnie	Invite Paul Ensor, Chair of Whitecombe Landcare Group to present to the Committee. <i>Completed.</i>
5.	27/08	J Grant	Query to Environment Canterbury – what monitoring and science is it doing at Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes, in particular for Lake Camp e.g. recordings and monitoring. <i>Environment Canterbury runs several monitoring programmes that monitor water quality in the Ōtūwharekai basin to help build a long-term picture of a lake’s health – including detecting any changes of concern. These programmes are noted on Environment Canterbury’s website - Water quality monitoring in the Ōtūwharekai basin. River flow data is also monitored at the for Lake Camp - River Flow for Lake Camp at South Lake.</i>
6.	27/08	J Grant	Query to ECan - The Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation hearing noted that the Hakatere/Ashburton hāpua is degraded. The Committee requests an Environment Canterbury staff member to come and present to the Committee on: 1. What factors considered to determine if an area is degraded e.g. ecology, TLI, etc. 2. What reports were used to determine Hakatere/Ashburton hāpua was degraded? (were there any others besides the three sent: NIWA Anecdotal state of river mouth users; Science Summary - hāpua fish survey 2020-21; NIWA report - potential drivers of the decline of hāpua fish populations <i>Underway. Noted that staff are unable to present.</i>

6. Zone Committee Calendar 2024

22 Oct	Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone Committee Action Plan project considerations and/or recommendations
26 Nov	Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone Committee Action Plan Budget recommendations TBC