

Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora - Work Programme Progress update 30 June 2018

Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora Work Programme Summary:

Over the last year Zone Team members have been working closely with the local community to provide education and support around topics such as Good Management Practice, sediment control and nutrient management. There have been a number of Healthy Catchment project events throughout the community, and there has been continued support for the eight catchment groups in the zone. A catchment-wide consenting process in the Kakahu River catchment has simplified the installation of sediment traps, which help reduce sediment loss, and protect colonies of native fish and invertebrates. Significant resources have been put into a number of community native planting programmes, such as that along the Ohapi Creek, again looking at improving water quality. Away from the all the work on improving water quality, the zone team has also been active in supporting the development of the Zone Implementation Plan Addendum, and the community engagement sessions that have assisted with its development. The focus in the coming year will include more activities looking at urban water quality and biodiversity such as in the Waitarakao/Washdyke lagoon, and with continued programme of work around Saltwater Creek.

Outcome	Status	Progress update
Good management practice (GMP) All land is managed at Good Management Practice	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to work with and alongside land owners to further the knowledge and understanding of Good Management Practices Numerous small educational events have been held at catchment group level and supported by zone team staff Industry partnerships have provided expertise for extension activities such as Beef and Lamb Farm Environment Plan workshops and field days Regional messaging for the current year has continued to focus on nutrient management requirements and these have been tailored to the needs of the OTOP Zone Sediment traps, which help reduce erosion and run-off into waterways, can now be installed on farms as part of a catchment-wide consent process in the Kakahu River catchment, near Geraldine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Canterbury has approved the Kakahu catchment-wide consent to install sediment traps to improve water quality and help protect populations of native fish and invertebrates. Key water quality issues for the Kakahu River include increasing trends in nitrogen concentrations and elevated phosphorus and E. coli concentrations compared to other hill-fed streams in the area. An Environment Canterbury land management advisor has been working closely with the Kakahu Catchment Group (near Geraldine) to identify locations for these traps to be installed in the catchment. Previously, the landowner would have to go through the cost and expense of installing these traps themselves (approximately \$1725 per consent). Six farm surveys have also been completed. Landowners with large properties in Community Drinking Water Protection Zones (CDWPZ) received one-on-one farm visits by local Land Management Advisor to support their management practices.
Biodiversity Protection and enhancement of the zone's biodiversity, particularly biodiversity corridors and sites valued for mahinga kai and Wahi taonga resources.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided \$100,000 in Immediate Steps funding to support local initiatives that protect and enhance the local environment. As an example, more than 4,000 native plants have been planted along the Ohapi Creek waterway to help safeguard the water quality of the creek and improve the habitat for native species, as part of the partnership project between local farmers and Environment Canterbury. The contractor who carried out most of the planting for dairy farmers Frances and Aaron Coles, says she has already noticed positive changes with "amazing" native regrowth. Eight new water level and flow gauging sites were set up in Waitarakao/Washdyke Lagoon in 2017 to gather information to help identify how to improve the lagoon habitat, which is home to aquatic life and 60-plus species of birds, including wrybills and dotterels. This water monitoring information, along with other scientific input, contributed to recommendations on the future of the lagoon in the committee's Draft Zone Implementation Programme Addendum. A new collaborative project will protect the endangered South Canterbury pekapeka long-tailed bat population from predators in the Raincliff area. Staff from Environment Canterbury, the Department of Conservation and forestry company Port Blakely, have set 200 predator traps on Port Blakely's land – to help boost the local bat population by removing possums, rats, weasels and stoats from the area.

Outcome	Status	Progress update
Community Engagement A shared responsibility for catchment health and widespread community engagement.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collaborative Healthy Catchments Project, involving the community in decision making, continued through 2017. It has resulted in a suite of more than 100 recommendations designed to improve water management in the zone. • Throughout the year, a series of Healthy Catchments Project events were held in the main centres of South Canterbury to give people a chance to have input into the water zone committee's recommendations. Workshops, public meetings, drop-in days and catchment groups provided an opportunity for stakeholders in the OTOP zone to have their say on future water management planning in 2017. At the workshops, community members were shown what impact different scenarios for water management would have on river water quality, supply of irrigation for farming and the cultural and recreational importance of the waterways. Participants were able to ask questions about the scenarios, and then worked in groups to talk about aspects of the scientific work that they would like the zone committee to consider as part of its solutions package. • The eight catchment groups in the zone also provided a vital link between people who live around a particular river and its tributaries, and the zone committee. The groups met regularly throughout the year and also attended workshops with the zone committee to highlight their suggestions and raise issues.
Healthy Catchments Optimise the use of existing water and investigate how the introduction of additional alpine water could contribute toward achieving the CWMS targets.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further investigation of flow and allocation regimes that allow cultural, ecological and economic values to be realised as part of the Healthy Catchments Project.
Community understanding Widespread community understanding of and compliance with the LWRP, Orari, Opihi and Pareora Regional Plans and water metering regulations.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work of the Waitarakao/Washdyke Working Group has continued through this year, with a set of recommendations being presented to the committee. These were accepted and now form part of the Draft ZIPA. • The Saltwater Creek Working Group also presented its recommendations to the Zone Committee. The group includes representatives from Waihao rūnanga, Environment Canterbury, the Timaru Rowing Club, Timaru District Council, Department of Conservation, Fish and Game New Zealand, and local farmers. • Further work has been completed around Community Drinking Water Supply Zones including public engagement with the Waihi and Te Moana Catchment Group field trip • The protection of ancient Māori rock art – tuhituhi o neherā - was supported in the development of its future water management planning in its Draft Zone Implementation Programme Addendum. Hundreds of local drawings on limestone rock, some of which could be up to 1,000 years old, are susceptible to damage or destruction from changes to land use, exposure to the elements and environmental changes. Such sites are a taonga to Ngāi Tahu, who are actively involved in their conservation and ongoing management. South Canterbury has one of the highest densities of tuhituhi o neherā in New Zealand and, while some locations are public, the vast majority are on private property. • A community planting day at Awarua Wetlands was supported by Environment Canterbury staff. • Regular communication with the local community through a variety of mediums, including newsletters, articles and advertisements highlighted the role of the zone committee, Environment Canterbury and other agencies working to improve water and biodiversity outcomes.