

Selwyn Waihora - Work Programme Progress update 30 June 2018

Selwyn Waihora Work Programme Summary:

The zone team is connecting effectively with partners and stakeholders in terms of breaking down barriers, improving cohesion and synergising efforts to achieve actions on the ground. The Selwyn Waihora zone is recognised as showcase of farming good management practice, leveraging off mahinga kai values, innovative farmers, strong collectives and motivated stakeholders. Priority wetlands, spring-fed and hill-fed streams, culturally significant sites (or complexes of these) are identified and their ecological and cultural quality is sustained and improved. A step change in biodiversity protection and enhancement is achieved by supporting landowners, working closely with Central Plains Water, the Department of Conservation, Selwyn District Council, QEII Trust, community groups and other agencies to undertake biodiversity protection and enhancement projects. The territorial authority manages and delivers sustainable supply of quality water that can be affordably treated to comply with drinking water standards. Zone Team Resource Management Officers are focusing on monitoring their regionally significant consents, high-risk dairy farms, daily water alerts and other follow-up from the annual water monitoring project. High-value freshwater recreational opportunities such as Coes Ford which do not meet freshwater health, ecological and amenity requirements of users are steadily improving.

Outcome	Status	Progress update
A Healthy Te Waihora Collaborating and support with various public and private agencies, Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga, landowners and community in priority locations around the lake, maintain and where possible enhance and improve connectivity and health of the ecosystem in lowland streams, wetlands and the lake to provide an exceptional cultural, recreation and biodiversity treasure for rūnanga, residents and visitors alike.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A significant project to improve the health of Te Waihora is Whakaora Te Ahuriri. The project has been initiated and contracted, and works are on track. The organisation has also been working on the Te Waihora Wetland Project. A guidance document for wetland/wet pasture is being developed with site visits now underway helping to improve the document and understanding of ecological complexities. In addition, effort is being made to support landowners around the lake regarding wetland protection and retirement. The cultural significance of the area has recently been highlighted by the Cultural Land Values Management Area (CLVMA) campaign, where letters were sent in April to landowners in the CLVMA with properties larger than 10 ha and not part of the first campaign outlining requirements and drop-in session information. Phone inquiries were positive with site visits being arranged by the Land Management Advisor. These visits are progressing well, working with landowners towards improving the wetland ecosystem and supporting good land management decisions. There has been increased interest at drop-in sessions, with additional support from consent planning providing advice to landowners. In addition, options to investigate legacy phosphorus will be discussed by the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group and stakeholders.
Healthy Lowland Streams Collaborate and deliver connected programmes related to the Waikirikiri and other lowland streams that deliver improvements in water quality and quantity across the zone, the Silverstream catchment / Coes Ford, protect culturally significant sites within the CLVMA, re-establish taonga species habitat, support near river recharge projects, focus on significant spring heads and wetlands, support and deliver targeted land management advice including sediment and erosion risk reduction, industry collaboration, land use consents and farming at Good Management Practice.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The zone team, including monitoring compliance, biodiversity and land management officers, are focusing on supporting water quality improvements in the Waikirikiri /Selwyn River and its tributaries. One of the projects is the Targeted Stream Augmentation project for improving flows in lowland streams. Recent site visit highlighted the potential to restore the lowland stream, recreate mudfish habitat and improve cultural values. The Selwyn Waihora zone is recognised as a showcase of farming good management practice, leveraging off an understanding of mahinga kai values, innovative farmers, strong collectives and motivated stakeholders. The zone team is working on delivering this through the Swimmable Selwyn @ Coes Ford project in collaboration with landowners, industry groups, CAREX and Fish & Game across the Silverstream catchment. The recreation project on Snake Creek stage 1 has been completed. An additional 'Million metres' stream campaign on the Silverstream is up and running to enhance another 1 km. The next Consent to farm campaign is underway including phosphorus and sediment risk areas and the CLVMA, outlining requirements and drop-in session information. Phone inquiries and drop-in sessions highlight increased interest from farmers with an overall positive response. Of the 356 priority farms (more than 50ha of irrigated land), all are on track with having applied for a consent, currently consented or do not require a consent. Our cultural land management advisor is holding very successful mahinga kai model farm shed talks, showcasing successful industry support. The advisor intends to further educate landowners and industry groups to help with the land use consent and auditing process. The zone team has a large irrigation scheme, Central Plains Water, to monitor - Infrastructure design aspects of the project progressing well within plan and budget. Weather delayed other aspects of CPW stage 2+. Land procurement and subdivision processes have taken longer than planned, but are still on track to conclude as expected in year 1.

Outcome	Status	Progress update
Hororata Successfully establish and maintain an ecological corridor with a focus on wetlands, springs and native bush remnant and planted stepping stones along the river which provide habitat for native fauna. In addition, drive the protection of key taonga species (mudfish) and collaborate with industry to achieve Good Management Practice and drive improved river ecosystem health and recreational opportunities by 2022.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The biodiversity officer for the zone is focusing strongly on scoping and delivering on the biodiversity corridor and stepping stones within the Hororata River catchment. Significant efforts have been made to work from the top of the catchment downstream with various springs, wetlands and riparian corridors protected, enhanced and restored linking to some of the last beech forest blocks in the zone. The Hororata catchment has some of the most significant mudfish habitat in Canterbury. Staff are currently investigating biodiversity projects to promote mahinga kai values and mudfish around the Haldon Pasture area as a cross agency collaboration with the Department of Conservation and interested landowners and partners. The zone team has a close working relationship with Central Plains Water to progress biodiversity opportunities within the Hororata catchment around wetlands. In addition, the strong relationship with Te Ara Kakariki around restoration plantings on private land in the area has delivered several thousand plants in the ground, strong community buy-in and ownership along the Hororata River and its feeder streams delivering on the green corridor vision.
Healthy Hill-Fed Streams Develop projects that target specific threats such as sediment and erosion control and proactive monitoring land use consents and good management practice through industry collaboration in combination with delivering a biodiversity corridor to improve water quality and quantity aligned with Canterbury Water Management Strategy and zone committee outcomes.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The biodiversity and land management advice in the foothills of the zone focuses on delivering linkages between native bush remnants and existing restoration projects along the river in combination with good management practice on farm to reduce sediment and erosion risk for the freshwater corridor. A key element of this effort is working closely with industry bodies on land use management and best practice to mitigate surface water runoff, as well as advice and consulting with individual landowners through successful community drop-in sessions in Darfield.
High Country Values Support landowners, community groups and industry to deliver and collaborate on biodiversity step change with the expansion of the biodiversity corridor of the Waimakariri Basin and protect catchments, wetlands and springheads.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our biodiversity officer has successfully developed numerous relationships with high country landowners, advisors and community groups in the Upper Waimakariri and Waikirikiri catchment and delivered biodiversity projects including QEII covenants. Multi-year projects are currently being delivered in collaboration with the University of Canterbury, Department of Conservation and Kiwirail. In addition, the team is working with and supporting several community groups, such as Waimakariri Environmental and Recreational Trust and Waimakariri Ecological and Landscape Restoration Alliance, around biodiversity, wilding control and recreational management plans in the upper Waimakariri basin. The land management advisors are working closely with landowners around the sensitive lakes consents which are all are on track with either having applied or currently consented.
Access to Safe Drinking Water A sustainable supply of water that meets needs of present and future generations and complies with drinking water standards in an affordable manne	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selwyn District Council is currently seeking comment from the community on options for introducing chlorination to community water supplies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce chlorination for water supplies which would receive the greatest benefit, based on a risk assessment 2. Introduce chlorination for all Council water supplies 3. No additional chlorination Over the last quarter, Council has completed the UV upgrade on all its Rolleston bores which now provides a second barrier of protection from contamination.
Kaitiakitanga Leverage the unique cultural heritage and ecological significance of the Selwyn Waihora Zone, the Waikirikiri catchment and Te Waihora for mahinga kai, innovative farmers, strong collectives and motivated stakeholders to lead and become a showcase for culturally aware and appreciative farming, Good Management Practice in the zone and beyond	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cultural land management advisor in the zone team has had a strong focus on mahinga kai model farm shed talks held throughout the year. These were well supported and received good feedback from industry. This coincided with the stock exclusion rules and roll-out of the campaign highlighting the importance of keeping stock out of waterways and mahinga kai values. The advisor delivered a successful Farm Environment Plan Auditors' Noho Marae at Taumutu. The canterburywater.farm website was updated with mahinga kai information. In addition, we have made significant progress in raising the mahinga kai profile via symposiums, meetings, industry gatherings and local community groups. The advisor has also provided significant support to the Kaikōura Co-Governance Group and Hurunui Zone Committee with visits and presentations on the role and mahinga kai.
Biodiversity protection and enhancement Support landowners, NGOs and other agencies and demonstrate biodiversity step change with the expansion of the corridor.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The zone team biodiversity officer is focused on wetlands, springs and significant biodiversity areas such as drylands. The work is being done in collaboration with land management advisors, landowners and public and private entities. Projects include several springheads along the Waikirikiri / Selwyn River, wetlands within the Hororata corridor and work with groups such as Te Ara Kakariki, Waihora Ellesmere Trust, Enviroschools and Selwyn District Council. We are supporting the Significant Natural Areas programme delivered by the district council. The Council, in collaboration with LivingWater, is developing a management plan for Tarerekautuku / Yaars Lagoon and the Ararira / L2, one of the wetland gems on the plains, with very high cultural values. Recent efforts have focused on continuation of protection projects in combination with taonga species such as tuna/eel and mudfish across the zone and particularly around the Haldon Pastures area near the confluence of Hororata River and Waikirikiri.

Outcome	Status	Progress update
Relationships, Respect, Communications and Leadership Everyone who lives, works or plays in Selwyn Waihora zone has a part to play in improving our local waterways. Our aim is to build and strengthen partner, stakeholder and community connections and do so in a manner that respects their values, shares and has the output of getting stuff done.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Youth Zone Committee project has started with over 40 children from the EnviroSchools programme aiming for representation at the October 2018 Zone Committee meeting. • A close working relationship with West Melton Well Group was developed by an educational seminar series provided around groundwater levels and well monitoring. • A mahinga kai shed talk series was facilitated by the Selwyn Waihora Cultural Land Management Advisor in collaboration with industry bodies and landowners. There was a Noho Marae visit to Ngāti Moki Marae in September by staff and Farm Environment Plan auditors; and mahinga kai, Treaty training, managing silent files series facilitated by Cultural Land Management. A Zone Committee, Environment Canterbury educational visit was made to a Selwyn dairy farm, seeking to understand key challenges and mitigations around improvement of nitrogen losses. The zone team-led community drop-in sessions at Leeston and Darfield continue to be well attended. Advice was given on land use consent to farm campaigns within the phosphorous and sediment risk and cultural land values management areas.
Compliance and Monitoring Programme To ensure that all consents in the Selwyn Waihora zone that need monitoring are monitored, the Farming to Good Management Practice Project is implemented, high-risk pollution incidents are responded to and that consent holders' practices are aligned with the CWMS and the zone's Community/Committee outcomes.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone Team Resource Management Officers are focusing on monitoring their regionally significant consents, high-risk dairy farms, daily water alerts and other follow-up from the annual water monitoring project. Good progress has been made via the various consent to farm campaigns. There has also been a proactive irrigation take monitoring campaign throughout the summer. Consents which are affected by low-flow restrictions have been identified and site visits undertaken. • There has also been a focus on subdivision meetings and staff training, with a joint approach to subdivision monitoring in the Halswell and Lincoln areas - Te Whariki stage 3 development. • Regular visits have been made to the Bathurst mine site. Overall compliance is improving following proactive work from the Resource Management Officer. • Water consent monitoring, water restriction and low-flow monitoring has been completed. The annual water monitoring programme starts later in the year.