

ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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

DATE: Tuesday 26 July 2022

TIME: 1:00 pm

VENUE: Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, 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
Genevieve de Spa
Bill Thomas
Sidinei Teixeira
James Meager (Te Runanga o Arowhenua) (via MS Teams)
Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)
Les Wanhalla (Te Taumutu Runanga)
Brad Waldon-Gibbons (Tangata Whenua Facilitator)
Councillor Stuart Wilson (Ashburton District Council)
Councillor Ian Mackenzie (Environment Canterbury)
Mayor Neil Brown (Ashburton District Council)

Zone Facilitator

Dave Moore

Tel: 027 604 3908

dave.moore@ecan.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury

Committee Advisor

Carol McAtamney

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Ashburton District Council

Tangata Whenua Facilitator

Brad Waldon-Gibbons

Tel: 027 313 4786

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Environment Canterbury



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 National board member Fed Farmers of NZ with responsibility for RMA, water and biodiversity 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	Owner of Country Copy, a communication and promotion business based in Mid Canterbury Freelance writer for Latitude Magazine Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust - Trustee Hinds Reserve Board Committee member Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective - Coordinator
Genevieve de Spa	Owner of Kakariki Camps focusing on ‘Head, Hands, Heart’ approach to biodiversity education Contractor and member of Staveley Campsite Committee (Previous recipient of Immediate Steps Funding) Rakaia Environmental Enhancement Trust
Ian MacKenzie	Environment Canterbury Councillor
James Meager	Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society Committee – Arowhenua Representative Senior Solicitor at Simpson Grierson (who act for a number of Territorial Authorities, Regional Councils and Ngai Tahu) Resident at Ross Farms, Laghmore – no financial interest (150ha arable cropping) Founder and Principal, Oath Advisory
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	Chemistry Teacher at Christ’s College Master student at Lincoln University Studying Masters in Water Resource Management Intern at MHV Water (groundwater scientist) Past Head of Science at Mt Hutt College Passionate about use of natural resources sustainability
Les Wanhalla	Returning good health and mauri O Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Kaitiakitanga, Whakapapa Rugby league, life member, honorary south Kiwi Trustee – Central Plains Water for Selwyn District Council
Stuart Wilson	Ashburton District Councillor A son who is a Director of Mayfield Hinds Irrigation Co and Chair of RDR

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Unconfirmed Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 24 May 2022, commencing at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

Councillor Stuart Wilson, Bill Thomas (Chair), Chris Allen, Adi Avnit (via MS Teams), Clare Buchanan, Angela Cushnie, Genevieve de Spa, James Meager, Les Wanhalla (via MS Teams) and Sidinei Teixeira (via MS Teams).

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Dave Moore (Facilitator) and Carol McAtamney (minutes)

2 members of the public in attendance

1 Welcome

Karl Russell opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

Absence - Mayor Neil Brown and Councillor Ian Mackenzie

Lateness – Chris Allen (1.10pm)

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 22 March 2022 be taken as read and confirmed.

Meager/de Spa

Carried

5.1 Matters Arising

Nil.

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil.

Outward:

Mid Canterbury Catchment Collection – support for application for funding from MPI's Essential Freshwater Fund

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Hekeao Community Wetland

A report was circulated providing an update on the Hekeao Community Wetland project.

9 Action Plan Budget Funding Allocation

Recommendation: That the remaining funding of \$10,000 from the Action Plan funding pool be allocated as per the following:

- Wakanui Working Group - \$4,000
For the clearance of 26 pines trees in preparation for future planting of natives.
- Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective Incorporated - \$6,000
To develop a project that will co-ordinate a significant resource of historical and current catchment information across the Ashburton zone.

Thomas/Allen

Carried

10 Te Rākau Kōhanga Project

Sefeti Erasito (Project Manager) gave an overview of the Te Rākau Kōhanga project.

Central Government's Jobs for Nature funding has provided \$2.7 million for the Te Te Rākau Kōhanga project. The project is creating a plant nursery at Arowhenua Marae near Temuka that will provide employment and training and qualifications in growing native plants. It is expected that the nursery will grow about 180,000 eco-sourced plants over three years.

11 Mt Harding Creek Study – Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement)

Environment Canterbury biodiversity and land management specialists have explored the stream catchment of Mt Harding Creek to establish the catchment's surface water sources and better understand biological and human values and influences throughout the length of the stream.

Recommendations for going forward to be further discussed with the Water Zone Committee, Ashburton District Council, irrigation companies, farming industry bodies, Ecan river engineers and the farmers who have been visited:

- Explore potential for maintaining continuous annual flow
- Remove yellow flag iris
- Identify with farmers the 'hot spots' of likely stream pollution within farms
- Identify, with several farmers, suitable locations for fence-protected riparian planting
- Woody-weed control assistance into an extension of that planting undertaken by the farmer
- Encourage erection of small durable signs
- Encourage removal of unused farm bridges and wire structures
- Improve fish passage

Mt Harding Creek is not currently noted as one of the Zone Committee priorities, this will be revisited when setting budgets for the next financial year.

Members agreed that a site visit to Mt Harding Creek in the near future would be beneficial.

12 Committee Update

Zone Committee Refresh Process

- Expressions of interests close on 30 May not 23 May as reported
- Promotion will be undertaken from 4 May to 31 May
- Selection workshop is scheduled for 23 June

Meeting Dates

- 28 June – Meeting will be replaced with a field trip to the MAR site. A request was made for an Arowhenua representative to be at the site visit to explain the cultural aspect to members.

13 Other Business

Wakanui History

The Chair tabled a paper outlining the history of the Wakanui Beach site, including the naming of the area and spelling, showing that there was no (h) required in the spelling of the name.

Sidinei Teixeira

Sidinei briefed members on the research project of what is causing changes to nitrate concentrations that she is currently undertaking:

- Financial support has been received from HHWET and MHV
- Requesting support from the Zone Committee to assist with connecting with the farmers
- Sidinei to email details of the area that she is researching and Zone Committee members will help her with introductions to contacts
- Feature to be included in the Zone Committee newsletter

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held in the Ashburton District Council Chamber at 1:00pm on Tuesday 26 July 2022.

The meeting closed at 2.53pm with a Karakia by Karl Russell.

Dated this 26th day of July 2022

_____ (Chair)

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 8	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes Committee update
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Judith Earl-Goulet, GM Regulatory Services, Environment Canterbury	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 24 May 2022

Purpose

To present to the Committee the first Ōtūwharekai (Ashburton Lakes) Update on the work underway to address declining water quality and ecosystems values.

Recommendation

The Zone Committee receive the Ōtūwharekai Update

Report/Background

The attached Ōtūwharekai Update has been produced by the Ōtūwharekai Working Group, recognising the need to provide more visibility of both the agencies, organisations and individuals who are working to address decline within Ōtūwharekai and the types of activities that are been undertaken.

If the Zone Committee would like more information on a particular workstream then we are happy to facilitate the attendance of the lead agency of that workstream at future Zone Committee meetings to give an update and be available to answer questions.

With this in mind, Environment Canterbury would like to present to the Ashburton Zone Committee the water quality data findings from the 2021/2022 season at the next meeting if the committee wishes.

A webpage is currently under development that will bring together ‘all things Ōtūwharekai’ into one place. We will post these updates on that webpage, along with links to articles, stories and work of other agencies. The webpage development is an important means to ensure information is accessible for all.



Ōtūwharekai Update Ashburton Zone Committee

July 2022

This is a progress update from the Ōtūwharekai Working Group, which aims to work collectively to halt and reverse the degradation of Ōtūwharekai ecology and values. This group meets monthly to share progress on individual and collective actions; discuss emerging issues; and explore the opportunities to progress new initiatives.

Membership of Working Group:

- Rūnanga: Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua; Te Taumutu Rūnanga; Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRoNT)
- Ashburton District Council (ADC)
- Department of Conservation (DOC)
- Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)
- Central South Island Fish & Game (CSIF&G)
- Ministry for the Environment (MfE)
- Environment Canterbury (ECan)
- Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)
- Farmers: Castleridge, Arrowsmith, Mt Possession and Lake Heron Stations

Update on work programmes:

There is extensive work taking place at Ōtūwharekai across all the organisations, agencies and individuals that have a role to play in protecting and restoring the health of this unique and important environment.

This update is to provide you with visibility and understanding of the range of activities that are underway. It is important to note that some of these activities relate to an agency's normal business-as-usual work, while others are additional activities that go above and beyond.

If you would like to know more about a specific workstream then feel free to make a request to the relevant lead agencies.

A summary of key workstreams occurring within Ōtūwharekai is presented in the table below. This is work that is delivered by a range of agencies and organisations.

Workstream	Description
<p>Lake Monitoring</p> <p>Lead: Environment Canterbury</p>	<p>This programme includes Environment Canterbury’s long-term monitoring programmes, as well as new site-specific monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed water quality information is being collated and analysed by the science team to give a better understanding of each lake’s unique ecology and how nutrients, algae, and oxygen are interacting with each other. Helicopter sampling to test water quality at the Ōtūwharekai Lakes occurs between December and April each year. Monitoring takes place monthly at Lake Heron / Ō tū Roto, Lake Denny, Lake Emily, Lake Emma / Kirihonuhonu, Lake Camp / Ōtautari, Lake Clearwater / Te Puna a Taka and the Māori lakes, for nitrogen, phosphorous, algal biomass and turbidity. We take monthly mid-lake water quality samples at Lake Heron / Ō tū Roto (since October 2020), Lake Emma / Kirihonuhonu (October 2020-September 2021) and Lake Clearwater / Te Puna a Taka (since September 2021). We test the main swimming sites at lakes Lake Camp / Ōtautari and Clearwater / Te Puna a Taka for bacterial contamination weekly over the summer months. This programme is now complete for this season and data is being analysed. Lake Heron / Ō tū Roto and Lake Clearwater / Te Puna a Taka have continuous monitoring equipment installed, which measures dissolved oxygen and temperature, plus turbidity, and chlorophyll a at Lake Clearwater / Te Puna a Taka.
<p>Stream Monitoring</p> <p>Lead: Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury</p>	<p>The Department of Conservation’s stream water quality monitoring sites are illustrated in Appendix 1. The lake catchment boundaries are delineated in blue and are associated with Lake Heron, Māori Lakes, and Lake Clearwater. Sites shown as red points have been sampled since 2012, while sites in green have been sampled since December 2019.</p> <p>In addition,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC has commissioned NIWA to undertake stream health sampling (aquatic invertebrates) of streams in Ōtūwharekai. This work is ongoing and is due for completion by the end of 2022. A report on Kākahi (freshwater mussel) populations is publicly available on the website and it provides a commentary of the lake surveys that have been undertaken: www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/freshwater-restoration/arawai-kakariki-wetland-restoration/sites/otuwharekai/restoration-otuwharekai/.

	Environment Canterbury added a new continuous nitrate logger was installed at Gentleman Smith Stream in October 2021.
Groundwater Monitoring Lead: Environment Canterbury with Ashburton District Council	<p>In late February, a series of shallow monitoring bores were installed between Lake Camp/Ōtautari and Lake Clearwater/Te Puna-a-Taka to monitor ground water levels and determine rates of water movement between these water bodies. In addition, monthly water quality sampling is being undertaken of the groundwater.</p> <p>This monitoring will inform understanding of the effects of the settlement on groundwater quality being received into Lake Clearwater / Te Puna a Taka and the effectiveness of ADC's programme to decommission long drop toilets.</p>
Farm Nutrient Risk Assessments Lead: Environment Canterbury	<p>Environment Canterbury and landholders are working together to identify high nutrient loss areas and the mitigation options to reduce nutrient loss.</p> <p>All four farms are working together on a holistic approach for the whole catchment.</p>
Mātauranga Māori and Cultural Health Assessment Lead: Aoraki Environmental Consultancy and mana whenua	<p>Arowhenua rūnanga have been leading the work on the cultural health monitoring in the catchment. Photos from the field work are provided at the end of this update.</p> <p>Arowhenua have applied to Ministry for the Environment for funding to support ongoing Mātauranga Māori monitoring in the catchment.</p>
Oversight of LINZ-leased land Lead: Toitū te Whenua (LINZ)	<p>The Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill has now been passed and has received royal ascent. LINZ is currently working through the implementation of the Bill and what this will look like in terms of LINZ administration.</p> <p>Tenure review has formally ended for all those without a substantive proposal put to them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LINZ has begun consultation on proposed regulations and standards to support the implementation of the Crown Pastoral Land Reform (CPLR) Act which will come into effect on 17 November 2022 • We have worked closely with our Treaty partners, High Country Accord, High Country Advisory Group, and the Department of Conservation to develop the proposed regulations and standards. • We are seeking feedback to ensure the regulations and standards are robust and workable, while supporting the outcomes of the CPLR Act. • Consultation on the proposed regulations and standards closes Friday 19 August 2022. • More information, including how to make a submission, is available on the LINZ website. • The proposed regulations include prescribing the information required for consent applications, matters the Commissioner of

	<p>Crown Lands (Commissioner) must consider in deciding the level of adverse effects of a pastoral activity on inherent values, and infringements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new standards have also been proposed: A standard set by the Commissioner for accessing applications for easements, transfers, and subleases of Crown land pastoral land. A LINZ Chief Executive Standard providing a framework for the Commissioner to follow when considering applications for discretionary pastoral activities, commercial recreation permits and stock exemptions. LINZ is holding a series of sessions over the coming weeks for leaseholders and the public to attend to ask any questions they may have. This will be promoted shortly and details will be available on the LINZ website.
<p>Future of Clearwater Settlement Area Consultation</p> <p>Lead: Ashburton District Council</p>	<p>This public consultation was undertaken earlier this year to inform the creation of a future strategy for the hut settlement and recreation around Lake Clearwater and Lake Camp. Feedback from more than 150 people who shared their views on the future of the area was received. The draft plan was subsequently shared with the Ōtūwharekai Working Group agencies for feedback in June recognising that the discussion through Ōtūwharekai Working Group meetings also informed aspects of the plan content.</p> <p>The plan will go to the Ashburton District Council meeting on 27 July 2022 and the working group members will be involved in implementation as appropriate going forward.</p>
<p>Game Bird Survey</p> <p>Lead: Central South Island Fish and Game</p>	<p>Central South Island (CSI) Fish & Game currently undertake an annual survey in late January/early February of paradise shelduck and black swan within the Ōtūwharekai area.</p> <p>More detail around this programme of work is provided in Appendix 2.</p>
<p>Geese Population Management</p> <p>Lead: Department of Conservation and Toitū te Whenua (LINZ)</p>	<p>Canada geese were monitored by CSI Fish & Game annually in June/July between 1986 and 2010. Counts were undertaken using the same method as for paradise shelduck and black swan. In 2011 Canada geese were removed from the schedule 3 (game) and placed on schedule 5 (unprotected wildlife) and as a result annual surveys for the species ceased.</p> <p>Earlier this year LINZ, DOC and landholders co-ordinated efforts on controlling geese populations in Ōtūwharekai</p>
<p>Collective approach to managing inappropriate 4WD use in area</p> <p>LEAD: Multiple agencies</p>	<p>ADC, ECan and DOC are all agencies who all have some regulatory role on the impact and effects of the inappropriate use of Four-Wheel Drive vehicles (4WD), either in the environment or on their respective land.</p> <p>Inappropriate 4WD use also impacts farmers in the area and it clashes with the values that other groups or individuals have in utilising this environment.</p>

	<p>We recognise that this issue is not unique to Ōtūwharekai and that there are some very real challenges to implement compliance actions. We will continue to work together and communicate non-acceptance of inappropriate use of these vehicles.</p>
<p>Pest Plant control on DOC land</p> <p>Lead: Department of Conservation</p>	<p>The Department of Conservation has an ongoing programme of work relating to the control and plant pest species on its land. This also includes the control of willow species.</p>
<p>Clearwater Settlement long drop decommissioning</p> <p>Lead: Ashburton District Council</p>	<p>In 2021 ADC began a programme of work to decommission all long drops in the Clearwater settlement area. This has now been completed.</p>
<p>Joint Agency Communications Group</p> <p>LEAD: Multiple agencies</p>	<p>Communications staff from across the crown agencies and Ngāi Tahu meet online monthly. A key focus has been creating website information and updating each other on progress on the work taking place to share with stakeholders.</p> <p>A website for which information relating to the Ōtūwharekai programme of work is under development and will be able to be found at www.ecan.govt.nz/otuwharekai</p>

Photos of some key milestones:



Four monitoring stations (mid-lake at Lakes Clearwater and Heron, and near the shore at Lakes Camp and Emma) were [installed to provide detailed information the project.](#)

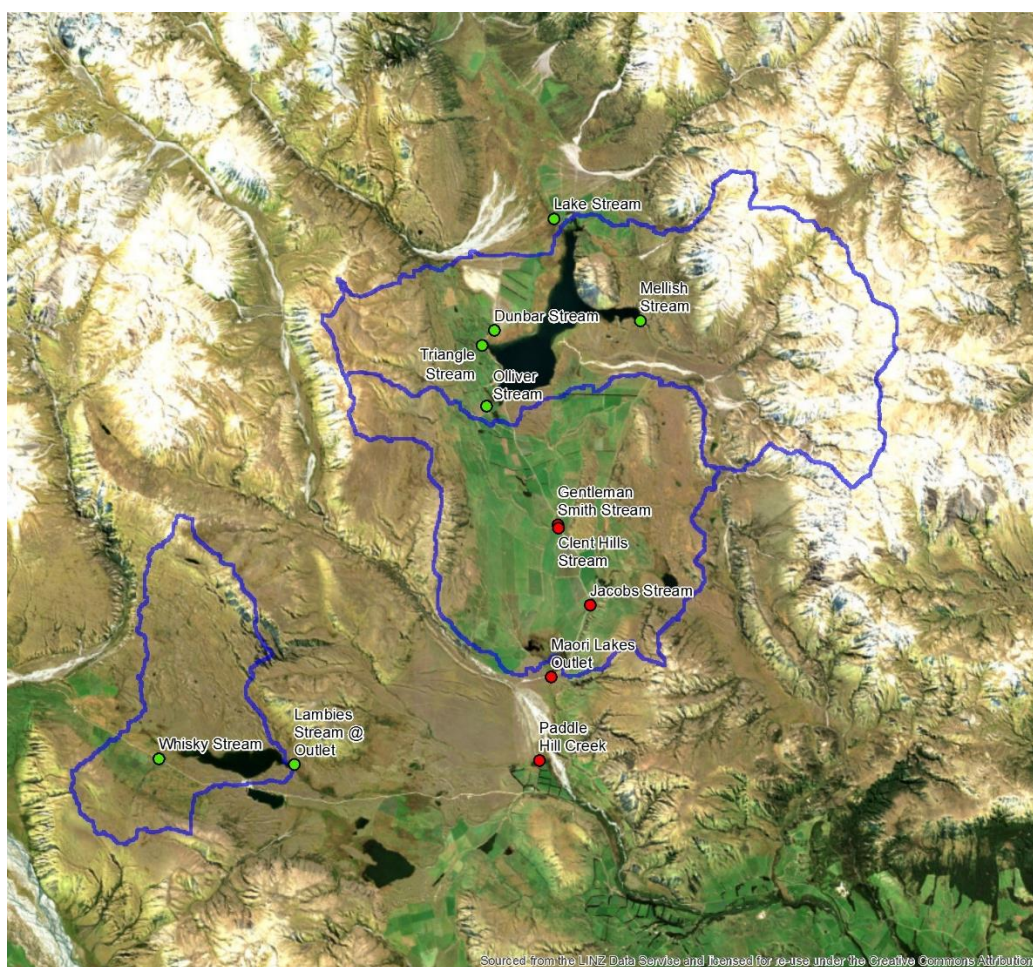


[ECan Groundwater team installed a series of piezometers at the Clearwater village](#) area to measure and sample groundwater.



A rūnanga-led team undertook field work for three days as part of a Cultural Health Assessment project

Appendix 1: Map of Department of Conservation stream water quality monitoring sites.



Appendix 2: Central South Island Fish & Game Bird Surveys within Ōtūwharekai

Central South Island (CSI) Fish & Game currently undertake an annual survey in late January/early February of paradise shelduck and black swan within the Ō Tū Wharekai area.

During summer large flocks of paradise shelduck congregate on traditional moult sites with the peak moult period occurring around late January-early February. The moulting period provides game bird managers with an opportunity to survey large concentrations of congregating paradise shelduck to identify population trends that would otherwise be difficult to monitor when the birds are dispersed throughout the region.

Counts are completed from a fixed wing aircraft with a high wing to give the best visibility for observers, usually a Cessena 180 or similar aircraft. Counts are undertaken just above stall speed and where required multiple passess are completed to count each species. The survey covers the entire CSI Fish & Game Region and is completed over two days however the Ōtūwharekai area is counted on the same day.

Consistent data for individual lakes has been collected since 1991 for paradise shelduck and since 2000 for black swan, with some additional records for both species going back to 1974. Overall

population trends for both paradise shelduck (1991-2020) and black swan (2000-2020) have decreased within Ōtūwharekai (Fig 1 & 2).

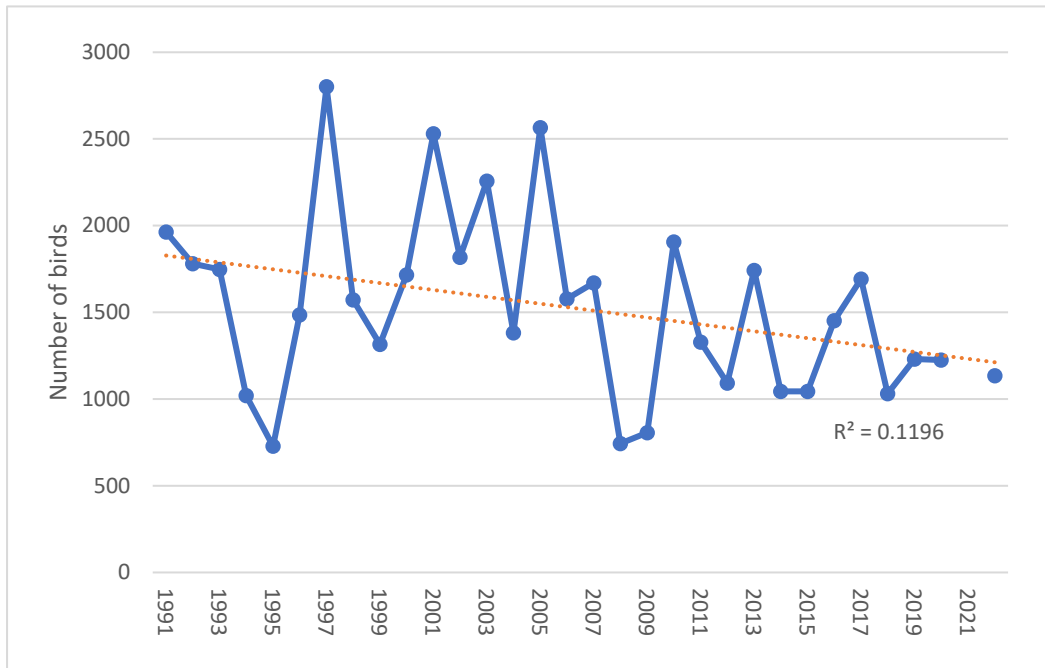


Figure 1: Paradise shelduck moult population trend for Ōtūwharekai between 1991 and 2022

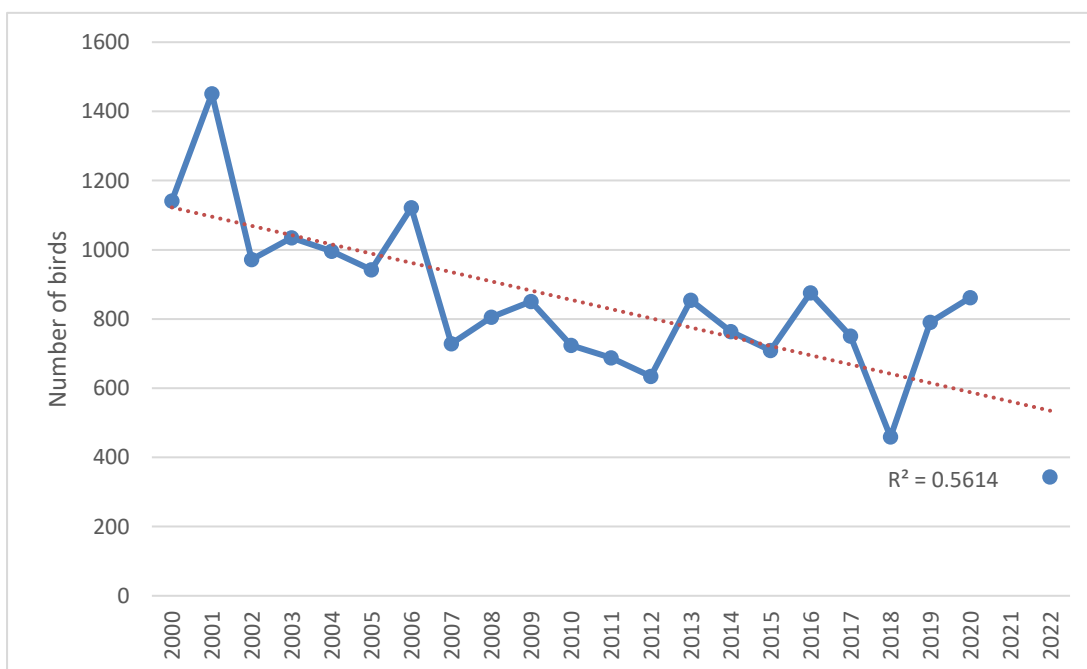


Figure 2: Black swan population trend for Ōtūwharekai between 2000 and 2022

Canada geese were monitored by CSI Fish & Game annually in June/July between 1986 and 2010. Counts were undertaken using the same method as for paradise shelduck and black swan. In 2011 Canada geese were removed from the schedule 3 (game) and placed on schedule 5 (unprotected wildlife) and as a result annual surveys for the species ceased.

Canada goose trend counts showed major declines in 1995, 2001, 2005 and 2009 within Ō Tū Wharekai (Fig 3). This can be explained by significant culling operations undertaken by Fish & Game in the same years (Fig 4). Canada goose numbers post 1995 were held between 250 and 1200 birds.

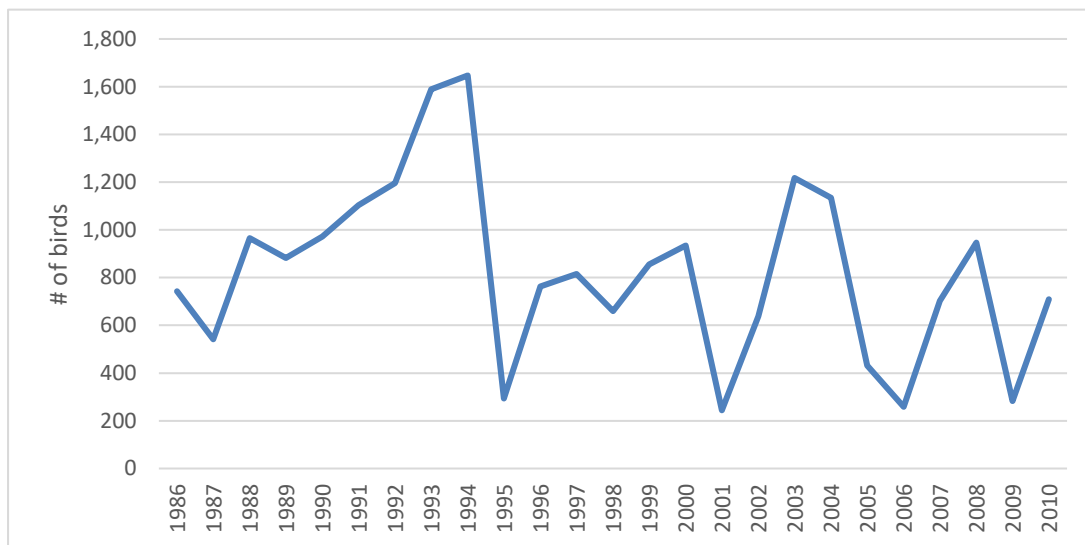


Figure 3: Canada goose population trend for Ō Tū Wharekai between 1986 and 2010

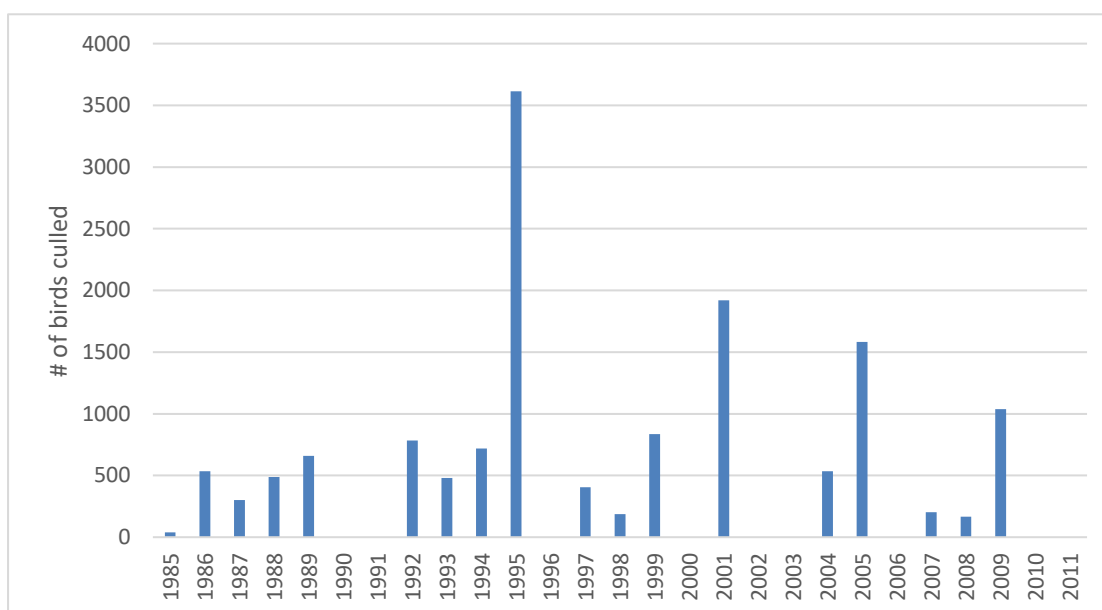


Figure 4: Canada goose culled within Ō Tū Wharekai by Fish & Game between 1985 and 2011

Future Bird Surveys

In addition to annual surveys for paradise shelduck and black swan, CSI Fish & Game will now include a count of Canada geese as part of this survey to better inform bird numbers within Ō Tū Wharekai.

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 9	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Ashburton Consent Reviews Update
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Bianca Sullivan	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 26 July 2022

Purpose

To update the Committee on Hakatere / Ashburton River consent review process.

Recommendation

The Zone Committee receive the update

Report

Environment Canterbury is reviewing 88 water permits in the Hakatere / Ashburton River catchment. The reviews are to implement the minimum flow limits required by our Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) that take effect from 1 July 2023. These minimum flows will have significant impacts on water availability for some consent holders, however there will be many benefits to the river system. These won't be seen until the 2023/24 irrigation season.

In this update, we would like to outline the following to the Zone Committee:

1. the progress we have made since our last update,
2. some of the assumptions that were made and whether they have played out,
3. the next steps for the consent reviews.

The project team will provide a short presentation at the Zone Committee meeting and be available to answer questions.

1. Progress to date

To date, 71 of the 88 consent reviews have been resolved. Of these, 62 now have the LWRP minimum flow applied. Table 1 below provides a summary of the consent review outcomes.

Consent holders have investigated options to improve water availability to reduce the effects of the LWRP minimum flows. Many have swapped from surface water or connected groundwater to deeper, unconnected bores, as provided for by the LWRP. Other consent holders have investigated on-farm or shared water storage, or connection to an irrigation scheme.

There are 17 reviews remaining, held by eight consent holders, and we are in regular contact with these consent holders, or their representatives. Three of these reviews, held by two consent holders, were publicly notified on 9 July 2022. The submission period closes on 5 August 2022, with hearings likely later this year. The other remaining consent holders are either close to a way forward or are still in the process of swapping from direct surface water takes/hydraulically connected groundwater takes to deep groundwater takes. We continue to work with Environment

Canterbury's consents staff to ensure these swap consents are progressed in a timely and consistent manner.

2. Ashburton District Council stock water network

The LWRP and Zone Implementation Plan both anticipate that Ashburton District Council (ADC) would progressively decrease abstraction for community stock water to provide additional water for instream values and for abstractors. Many consent holders have requested information regarding the steps taken by ADC towards achieving the plan outcomes. The project team has engaged in discussions with ADC since the beginning of the consent reviews and ADC has now provided information to confirm that their stock water takes are within that sought by the LWRP and ZIP. We understand that ADC has decommissioned some stock water races and is proposing further race closures.

Consents associated with ADC's stock water races have been reviewed and the LWRP minimum flows applied.

3. Likely benefits to the Hakatere / Ashburton River

While the LWRP minimum flows will apply from 1 July 2023, the actual benefits of the consent review to the Hakatere / Ashburton River system will not likely be seen until the irrigation season is underway. Some of the desired outcomes will take longer to become apparent, as the groundwater and surface water hydrology, and associated ecosystems, will take time to reach a new equilibrium.

To estimate the likely benefits to river flows we used the results of the water availability assessment presented in July 2019. The consent review has so far delivered the intended outcome of aligning all water abstraction permits (surface water and hydraulically connected groundwater) with the LWRP minimum flow regime. We therefore consider the assumptions made in the water availability modelling to still be relevant and appropriate in assessing relative change in surface flow. The 2019 modelling results show:

- More water will be left in the system (increased surface flow and/or higher connected groundwater water levels compared to the current state)
- An increase in time that the Hakatere/Ashburton River spends above 6 m³/s at SH1, especially in years with drier summers. It is important to note however that the river will still naturally fall below the minimum flow under dry climate conditions, even after all consents are on restriction and abstractions have ceased.

Available flow data suggests there is very little gain or loss in surface flow from the Hakatere/Ashburton River below SH1, where flows are continuously monitored, down to the hāpua. Therefore, the benefits seen at SH1 are assumed to be representative for the lower reaches of the river as well.

4. Next steps

The next steps involve continuing to provide technical and procedural advice to affected consent holders.

As highlighted in previous updates, the project team are aware that the consent reviews, in combination with other factors including COVID-19 and *Micropasma bovis*, may be affecting some consent holders' wellbeing. We continue to monitor this situation and have processes in place to identify and obtain assistance for these consent holders.

Table 1: Summary of the consent reviews

Granted	62	These consent reviews have been decided, with the new minimum flow condition added to the consent.
Declined	6	These consent reviews have been decided, with the proposed new minimum flow not being added to the consent.
On hold	14	These consent reviews remain in process but on hold. The timeframes have been extended at the request of consent holders while they either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• continue any assessments and decide if they will propose any changes to the CRC proposed new minimum flow conditions. There are 8 consent reviews on hold for this reason; or• are waiting for other consent applications to be processed (changes of conditions or to swap the allocation for deep groundwater). The outcome of those consent applications may impact the consent reviews. There are 9 consent reviews on hold for this reason.
Public notification	3	There are 3 consent reviews for two consent holders that were publicly notified on 9 July. The submission period is 20 working days.
Surrendered	3	The consent holder has surrendered the water permit that was under review, so the review was no longer required.
Total	88	

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 10	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Zone Committee updates
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Dave Moore	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 26 July 2022

Purpose

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

Recommendation

The Zone Committee receive the update and provides Feedback.

Report

1. Zone Committee Community Member Refresh process

A selection workshop was held on 28 June. Two appointments were recommended by the selection panel. These appointments are expected to be confirmed by Ashburton District Council on 27 July and Environment Canterbury on 28 July.

2. Action Plan Budget

The 2021/22 budget was allocated as shown below.

Recipient	Project	Amount
MHV Water	Hekeao Community Wetland Contribution to Sensors	\$10,000
Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective	Coordination, strategy, marketing and administration	\$30,000
Ashburton District Council	Clearance of 26 pine trees at Wakanui/Whakanui hāpua in preparation for future planting of natives.	\$4,000
Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective	Develop a project that will co-ordinate a significant resource of historical and current catchment information across the Ashburton Zone.	\$6,000
Total		\$50,000

2022/23 Budget

\$50,000 has been allocated by Environment Canterbury to support the Ashburton Zone Committee's Action Plan initiatives in this financial year (1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023).

3. 2022 Work Programme Update

23 August - Meeting

Due to local body elections this will be the only formal meeting until November. We will use this meeting to review the Action Plan to reflect any changes in priorities and to elect the Chair and Deputy Chair.

27 September and 25 October

Due to local body elections, no formal meetings will be held in September and October, however workshops or field trips will be possible.

22 November – Meeting

This will be the first official meeting with newly appointed Ashburton District Council and Environment Canterbury Councillors.

4. Regional Groundwater Long-Term Trends update for the Natural Environment Committee

At their 6 April 2022 meeting, the Natural Environment Committee (NEC) of Environment Canterbury received a report on the Long-Term Trends for Groundwater which focussed on nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in groundwater. Environment Canterbury is currently developing surface water analysis tools and statistics and building data viewers to share long-term surface water state and trend.

Key points from the paper:

- Environment Canterbury's long term monitoring network enables staff to assess changes in water resource state and trends over time.
- Nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in Canterbury groundwater have been increasing since farming began in the region. Even by the 1970s/1980s, concentrations were well above natural levels.
- Analysis of 30 years of data shows that the rate of change is slow and nonlinear, but the overall direction of change is generally an increase in nitrate-nitrogen concentrations.
- It can take time for changes to land management to result in changes in water quality, although lag times in some locations in Canterbury are likely to be sufficiently short to see responses. For the most part, the time lag between land use change and the start of resulting effects on groundwater nitrate concentrations is on the order of five to ten years. Shorter lags exist where receiving environments are close to land sources. The full effects of changes may still take decades to come through, particularly for large catchments.

- It can be difficult to tease out the reasons for changes in groundwater quality; factors such as climate, natural events, permitted activities, and on-the-ground actions as part of plan implementation will be affecting water quality and it may be difficult to isolate the effects of specific interventions.
- Data analysis is currently being undertaken to prepare information to contribute to the development of the new regional planning framework.
- The focus of the paper is on the long-term water quality trends that are being identified through our groundwater monitoring programmes. Understanding why these trends are occurring, and what role the regional planning framework and on-farm changes have played in any change, is the focus of work being developed to inform the integrated regional planning framework.

Due to document size restrictions, a link to the paper has been provided below. The paper is Agenda Item 8.3 of the NEC Agenda Papers for the 6 April 2022 meeting (pgs. 109-120).

[For more information, go to Council and Committee Meetings – 6 April 2022 - Natural Environment Committee - Agenda Papers | Environment Canterbury \(ecan.govt.nz\)](#)

5. Regional Surface Water Long-Term Trends update for the Natural Environment Committee

At their 19 May 2022 meeting, the Natural Environment Committee (NEC) of Environment Canterbury received an update focussing on surface water ecology, quality and quantity in our rivers and lakes. The state and trend data and statistics presented in the paper are from data viewers currently in development to support the ki uta ki tai integrated planning framework. As such, they are an initial look at the data; further refinement of these tools will be undertaken over the coming years.

Key points from the paper:

- Regional trends in surface water indicators are useful for overall patterns of change, but detailed site analysis is required to identify specific drivers of change. Changes in our indicators can be driven by a range of factors including anthropogenic activities, climate variability, and change in species. There are often complex interactions between these drivers that complicate understanding of trends.
- The ecological health of our streams has been in decline over the last 20 years at 54% of sites. In contrast, there are 22% of sites that are relatively stable and 24% are improving. It is notable that many sites with improving trends are those in a poorer state close to the coast on the Canterbury Plains, while inland areas previously in good health have a relatively high number of deteriorating sites.

- Surface water quality trends for nitrate-nitrite nitrogen are similar to those for groundwater quality trends. This is due to groundwater being the dominant source of nitrate-nitrite nitrogen in our rivers, with 63% of sites demonstrating an increasing trend over the 22-year data period.
- Conversely, long term dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) trends indicate that concentrations have improved at 55% of sites over the 22-year period examined. Turbidity (essentially the cloudiness of water and a surrogate for suspended sediment) has shown a shift and has improved over the last 9 years at 71% of our river sites. These parameters are the ones we would expect to use as early indicators of improvements in water quality due to actions such as fencing and stock exclusion.
- Trend analysis of high-country lakes data 2007-2022 (24 lakes) showed that chlorophyll a is increasing in most lakes (>80%). This has mostly resulted in a shift from National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) attribute band A to band B for these lakes, which is a significant shift for these sensitive lakes.
- River flow data is showing decreasing low flows in 10-year trend analysis, but no clear changes over 30 years - many of our lower catchment sites have only been installed in the past two decades. Other indicators and additional data from newer sites will be needed to further understand long term effects.
- Long term monitoring programmes were not originally designed to monitor the efficacy of localised catchment/land management interventions but will ultimately reflect largescale changes in land use and land management. Environment Canterbury has modified our monitoring networks over time to enable assessment of plan efficacy at a regional scale, but many of the datasets are not yet sufficient to determine long-term trends or changes resulting from interventions.

Due to document size restrictions, a link to the document has been provided below. The paper is Agenda Item 8.4 of the NEC Agenda Papers for the 18 May 2022 meeting (pgs. 67-89)

[For more information, go to Council and Committee Meetings – 19 May Natural Environment Committee – Agenda Papers | Environment Canterbury \(ecan.govt.nz\)](#)

6. CWMS Regional Committee

Four info sessions have been held with the current CWMS Regional Committee members which have been organized in lieu of formal committee meetings. The info sessions provide the committee members with information on topics that will support their mahi in the future. Topics have included a session on mana whenua and freshwater management, strategic water issues, CWMS Targets Reporting and Three Waters.

The CWMS Regional Committee is keen to have its full cohort, including its Ngāi Tahu membership, before making decisions around their work programme and commencing formal meetings.

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 11	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Waitaha Action to Impact Fund
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Dave Moore / Ali Bower	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 26 July 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

2. This presentation by Alison Bower, Community Partnerships Coordinator, Environment Canterbury, is to provide the Ashburton Zone Committee with an update on the *Waitaha Action to Impact Fund*, as confirmed through Environment Canterbury's 2022-23 Annual Plan.

BACKGROUND

3. The Waitaha Action to Impact (WAI) Fund is a contestable fund held by Environment Canterbury for community organisations in Canterbury. The fund aims to build community engagement and action for a better environment in the region.
4. The 2021 funding round was a pilot and was open for applications from 30 August until 11 October 2021. There were 46 applications, totalling over \$810,000, far exceeding the funding available. The timing and processes for next year (2022/23) are currently being reviewed
5. All applications were assessed against criteria and twenty applicants were selected to receive funding for 2021/22. In total, \$215,190 was allocated.
6. As part of the criteria, successful recipients must provide a minimum of 30% of the total project budget; this may come from funding or equivalent in-kind contributions, such as volunteer hours.
7. In the 2021/22 financial year Bike Methven was awarded \$10,000 for Mt Hutt Forest Bike Park XC Rejuvenation Project for eradicating wilding sycamores and re-planting with native plants endemic to the Mt Hutt/Ōpuke Region.
8. Environment Canterbury's 2022/23 Annual Plan, which was adopted by Council on 16 June 2022, has two significant changes relevant to the Zone Committee:

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

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

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

"In the Engagement and Influence programme, we are increasing the amount of funding available for community-led initiatives through our Waitaha Action to Impact Fund. There

will be a total of \$600,000 to be allocated in 2022/23.” (Page 88 of the Environment Canterbury 2022/23 Annual Plan)

DISCUSSION

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

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 26 July 2022

Timetable		
Time	Item	
1:00 pm	Meeting Commences	

Order of Business

- 1 Welcome, Karakia
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Extraordinary Business
- 4 Register of Interest 1
- 5 Confirmation of Minutes 2
- 6 Correspondence
 - Outward
 - o Nil
 - Inward
 - o Nil
- 7 Public Contribution
- 8 Ōtūwharekai Update 5
- 9 Ashburton Consent Reviews Update 9
- 10 Committee Updates 19
- 11 Waitaha Action to Impact Fund 24
- 12 Other Business
- 13 Close Meeting and Karakia