

# Agenda

## Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee

Monday 6 November 2023  
at 4pm

Council Chamber  
215 High Street, Rangiora

**Members:**

Claire Aldhamland  
Kirk Blumers  
John Cooke (Te Ngai Tūāhuriri Rūnanga)  
Tim Fulton (WDC Councillor)  
Ruby Gill-Clifford (Youth Representative)  
Erin Harvie  
Martha Jolly  
Carolyne Latham  
Claire McKay (ECan Councillor)  
Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tūāhuriri Rūnanga)



**AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 4PM.**

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by the Council

**BUSINESS**

**PAGES**

**KARAKIA**

**1. BUSINESS**

1.1 **Apologies**

1.2 **Welcome and Introductions**

1.3 **Register of Interests**

*Advice of any changes or updates.*

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**2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

**3. REPORTS**

3.1 **Rangiora Stormwater Management Plan – Update – Murray Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan) and Sophie Allen (Water Environment Advisor, WDC)**

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*RECOMMENDATION*

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this information taking into consideration the Committee's 2021/24 Action Plan and Community Engagement priorities.

3.2 **Waimakariri Zone Delivery Team, ECan – Update – Murray Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

8 - 9

*RECOMMENDATION*

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information and with consideration to the Committee's 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plan and Community Engagement priorities.

3.3 **Mandeville Resurgence Channel Upgrade – Update – Murray Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan) and Jason Recker (Stormwater and Waterways Manager, WDC)**

10 - 11

*RECOMMENDATION*

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this information with consideration to the Committees 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plan and Community Engagement priorities.

4. **COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (CWMS FACILITATOR, ECAN)**

4.1 **Zone Committee Working Groups.**

4.2 **Environment Canterbury Updates.**

4.3 **Waimakariri District Council Updates.**

4.4 **Related Waimakariri Stories.**

4.5 **Action points from the previous Zone Committee meetings.**

*RECOMMENDATION*

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**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this information with consideration to the Committees 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plan and Community Engagement priorities.

5. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

5.1 **Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee Meeting – 2 October 2023**

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*RECOMMENDATION*

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 2 October 2023, as a true and accurate record.

6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**KARAKIA**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee is scheduled for 29 January 2024 at 3:30pm.

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO: 1.1</b>	<b>Register of Interests</b>
<b>Waimakariri Water Zone Committee</b>	<b>MEETING DATE: 6 November 2023</b>

# WAIMAKARIRI WATER ZONE COMMITTEE

## Register of Interests – at 1 October 2023

Keeping a Zone Committee Members' declarations of interest register allows Zone Committees to identify and manage a conflict of interest when it arises.

The Office of the Auditor General notes a conflict of interest can arise when: "A member's or official's duties or responsibilities to a public entity could be affected by some other interest or duty that the member or official may have."<sup>1</sup>

If a member is in any doubt as to whether or not they have a conflict of interest, then the Member should seek guidance from General Counsel, Environment Canterbury, the Zone Facilitator, and/or refer to the following guidance: <https://oag.parliament.nz/2020/lamia>

Types of Interest to be documented in the register:

- Employment, trade or profession carried on by the Member or the Member's spouse for profit or gain.
- Company, trust, partnership etc for which the Member or their spouse is a director, partner or trustee, or a shareholder of more than 10% shares.
- Address of any land in which the Member has a beneficial interest and which is in the area of the Zone Committee.
- The address of any land where the landlord is Environment Canterbury, Mackenzie District Council or Waitaki District Council and:
  - The Member or their spouse is a tenant; or
  - The land is tenanted by a firm in which the Member or spouse is a partner, a company of which the Member or spouse is a director, or a Trust of which the Member or spouse is a Trustee.
- Any other matters which the public might reasonably regard as likely to influence the Member's actions during the course of their duties as a Member.
- Any contracts held between the Member or the Member's spouse and Environment Canterbury, Mackenzie District Council or Waitaki District Council. Including contracts in which the Member or their spouse is a partner, a company of which the spouse is a director and/or holds more than 10% in shares, or a Trust of which the Member or their spouse is a trustee (noting that no committee member should be a party to a contract with Environment Canterbury or the relevant TLA if that value is more than \$25,000 per annum).

Zone Committee members are to ensure that the information contained in this register is accurate and complete.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Committee Member Interests</b>
<b>Claire Aldhamland</b>	- Teacher – Rangiora High School
<b>John Cooke</b>	- Director/Shareholder – Executive Limousines 2015 Limited - Director/Shareholder – Express Hire Limited - Director/Shareholder – Testpro Limited

<sup>1</sup> Office of the Auditor General Good Practice Guide – Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for public entities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Acropolis Wedding and Event Hire Limited</li> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Pines Beach Store Limited</li> <li>- Director/Shareholder – Coastal Dream 2005 Limited – 4Ha property, Kaiapoi</li> <li>- Interim Trustee – Section 6 Survey Office Plan 465273 Ahu Whenua Trust</li> <li>- Member – Kaiapoi Club executive</li> </ul>
<b>Cr Tim Fulton</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waimakariri District Councillor</li> <li>- Freelance Writer in the agricultural business sector</li> </ul>
<b>Erin Harvie</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director – Bowden Consultancy Limited, trading as Bowden Environmental</li> <li>- Co-ordinator - Waimakariri Landcare Trust</li> <li>- Member – NZ Hydrological Society</li> <li>- Member – NZ Institute of Primary Industry Management</li> <li>- Involvement with Cust River Water User Group</li> </ul>
<b>Martha Jolly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Veterinary surgeon (Companion animal)</li> <li>- PhD Student in Water Resource Management (2nd year)</li> <li>- Volunteer assistant the Styx Living Laboratory Trust</li> <li>- Volunteer educator Vets for Compassion</li> <li>- Volunteer clinician SPCA NZ</li> <li>- Member – Forest and Bird NZ</li> </ul>
<b>Carolyn Latham</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmer – Sheep and Beef</li> <li>- Director – Latham Ag Ltd Consulting</li> <li>- Shareholder – Silver Fern Farms, Farmlands</li> <li>- Registered Member – New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management</li> </ul>
<b>Cr Claire McKay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Canterbury Regional Councillor</li> <li>- Dairy grazing</li> <li>- Ihenga Holdings – Partner (with spouse)</li> <li>- McKay Family Trust – Trustee (spouse also a Trustee)</li> <li>- Shareholder – Waimakariri Irrigation Limited, Ravensdown Ltd, Balance Agri-nutrients Ltd, Fonterra, and Farmlands</li> <li>- Member – Federated Farmers, Irrigation NZ</li> <li>- Water take and use consents CRC: 050222.1</li> <li>- Domestic Wastewater discharge consents CRC: 102594, 122318, 144865</li> </ul>
<b>Arapata Reuben</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trustee – Tuhono Trust</li> <li>- Member – National Kiwi Recovery Group</li> <li>- Rūnanga Rep – Christchurch/West Melton Water Zone Committee</li> <li>- Rūnanga Rep – Ashburton Water Zone Committee</li> </ul>

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO: 3.1</b>	<b>SUBJECT MATTER:</b> Rangiora Stormwater Management Plan – update
<b>REPORT TO:</b> Waimakariri Water Zone Committee	<b>MEETING DATE:</b> 6 November 2023
<b>REPORT BY:</b> Murray Griffin, ECan Facilitator & Sophie Allen, WDC Water Environment Advisor	

## PURPOSE

This agenda item provides the Water Zone Committee with an update and overview of the Rangiora Stormwater Management Plan scheduled to be completed by 1 January 2025.

This update will also include the WDC's 2021-22 monitoring report for the Rangiora Stormwater

## RECOMMENDATION

### That the Zone Committee

**Receive** – this update for its information, and with consideration to the committee's 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plan and community engagement priorities.

## BY WHO

This update is provided by:

- **Sophie Allen, Water Environment Advisor, Waimakariri District Council**

## BACKGROUND

### Rangiora Stormwater Management Plan

An overview will be provided of this plan's development will be provided at the meeting.

### For more information:

Link - <https://www.waimakariri.govt.nz/services/3-waters/stormwater-and-drainage>

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO: 3.2</b>	<b>SUBJECT MATTER:</b> Waimakariri Zone Delivery Team, ECan – update	
<b>REPORT TO:</b> Waimakariri Water Zone Committee		<b>MEETING DATE:</b> 6 November 2023
<b>REPORT BY:</b> Murray Griffin, CWMS Facilitator, ECan		

## PURPOSE

This agenda item provides the Zone Committee with an update and overview of recent priorities for the Waimakariri Zone Delivery Team (ECan) that align with the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

This update will cover:

- The recent industrial wastewater spill and incident response in the Sefton Area
- An overview of the key information provided by the ECan Zone Delivery at the Rangiora A&P Show held at Labour Weekend.

## RECOMMENDATION

### That the Zone Committee

**Receive** – this update for its information and with consideration to the committee’s 2021-2024 CWMS Acton Plan and community engagement priorities.

## BY WHO

This update will be led by:

- **Nerida Theinhardt, Zone Delivery Lead – Waimakariri, ECan**
- **Kiri Kirkwood, Senior Resource Management Officer, Incident Response – ECan**

## BACKGROUND

### 1. Industrial wastewater spill and incident response in the Sefton Area

Kiri Kirkwood will provide the committee with an update on this incident.

On Friday 1 September Environment Canterbury was alerted to a factory wastewater spill at Saltwater Creek in North Canterbury, and an investigation was initiated. The following key points were provided on 1 September to clarify the situation.

- The spill has stopped, but it has affected the waterway from the Beatties Road end, through to the estuary on the upper side of State Highway One.
- Several signs have been put up warning the public to stay away from the water and to keep animals away.
- Water tests are being carried out.
- Staff from various agencies are on the ground alerting the public, including whitebaiters.
- Fish, including bullies and tuna/eels, are affected. It’s important that people do not fish, whitebait or harvest mahinga kai in the area.
- Those who know people who could be heading to the creek or estuary over the weekend, such as for whitebaiting, are asked to share this message.
- If you see affected wildlife, do not touch it - call [0800 765 588](tel:0800765588).

For more information on this incident and investigation go to:

Webblink - [Discharge to waterway, Saltwater Creek | Environment Canterbury \(ecan.govt.nz\)](https://www.ecan.govt.nz/discharge-to-waterway-saltwater-creek/)



Further updates have been provided over the weeks following the original incident. The most recent update (at the time of writing) was on Thursday 12 October, as provided below:

**Update 11: Thursday 12 October**

Latest update from Environment Canterbury and Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand.

- After further investigation into the impact of the spill on shellfish and public health, shellfish gathering in Saltwater Creek and the wider Saltwater Creek and Ashley/Rakahuri estuary can now resume.
- Warning signs will be removed.
- Canterbury Medical Officer of Health, Dr Matthew Reid, said the risk of eating shellfish related to the spill has now returned to what it was before the incident.

“Water quality in Saltwater Creek Estuary has a history of being poor or variable. Please note that swimming is not recommended in the estuary due to the long-term elevated risk to public health from contact with the water.”

- Environment Canterbury zone delivery lead for Waimakariri, Nerida Theinhardt, acknowledges the frustration felt by many in the community to get to this point.

“However, public health has had to remain the priority and we thank people for their patience over the past few weeks. The wider investigation into the incident is continuing, and as previously mentioned, we can’t go into specific details or comment on the likely outcome.”

- Please share this message with anyone who may be visiting the area.

**2. Rangiora A&P Show – Labour Weekend**

Nerida Theinhardt will provide the committee with an overview of the key information, and feedback received, at the Rangiora A&P Show held at Labour Weekend. This information included the following:

- Top ten tips for Lifestyle blocks
- Managing silage
- Using synthetic nitrogen fertiliser
- Winter Grazing
- Reducing nitrogen loss on your farm
- The SCAR programme (Soil Conservation and Revegetation).  
*Landowners in North Canterbury can apply for funding to help combat hillside erosion through the Soil Conservation and Revegetation (SCAR) programme.*

**For more information on the SCAR programme:**

<https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/erosion-programme/>

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO: 3.3</b>	<b>SUBJECT MATTER:</b> Mandeville Resurgence Channel upgrade – update
<b>REPORT TO:</b> Waimakariri Water Zone Committee	<b>MEETING DATE:</b> 6 November 2023
<b>REPORT BY:</b> Murray Griffin, ECan Facilitator & Jason Recker WDC Stormwater and Waterways Manager	

## PURPOSE

This agenda item provides the Water Zone Committee with an update on the consultation and options for the Mandeville Resurgence Channel upgrade.

## RECOMMENDATION

### That the Zone Committee

**Receive** – this update for its information, and with consideration to the committee’s 2021-2024 CWMS Acton Plan and community engagement priorities.

## BY WHO

This update is provided by:

- **Jason Recker, Stormwater and Waterways Manager, Waimakariri District Council**

## BACKGROUND

### Mandeville Resurgence Channel upgrade

The Mandeville area has a history of flooding, including more recent storm events in 2014, 2017, 2022 and 2023.

While this flooding is generally caused by heavy rain, the extent and depth of the flooding can be exacerbated by high groundwater levels and resurgence flow.

Following flooding in June 2014, budget was allocated in outer years for the Mandeville Resurgence Channel Upgrade and Diversion Project.

Investigation work identified that there are options to improve the drainage in this area.

Three potential options for Stage 1 and one potential option for Stage 2 have been identified.

We are planning on implementing upgrades to improve the management of stormwater and resurgence flow through Mandeville.

### Potential options for upgrades:

#### Stage 1 - Upgrade of Existing Channel Options

##### Option A

Existing Drainage Path Upgrade - Upgrade existing main drainage channel through Redfern Lane, over Tram Road, through Millfield subdivision into Bradleys Road drain. This option increases the total capacity of the existing main drainage channel to 1.0 m<sup>3</sup>/s from the existing capacity of 0.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s (average).

##### Option B

Drain to Water Race – Install culvert to convey stormwater flow to an open drain on the south side of Tram Road, then utilise the stock race to convey flow. This option provides an

additional 0.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s capacity for the existing main drainage channel. When combined with current capacity of the drainage channel, which is an average of 0.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, the total drainage capacity would be increased to 1.0 m<sup>3</sup>/s.

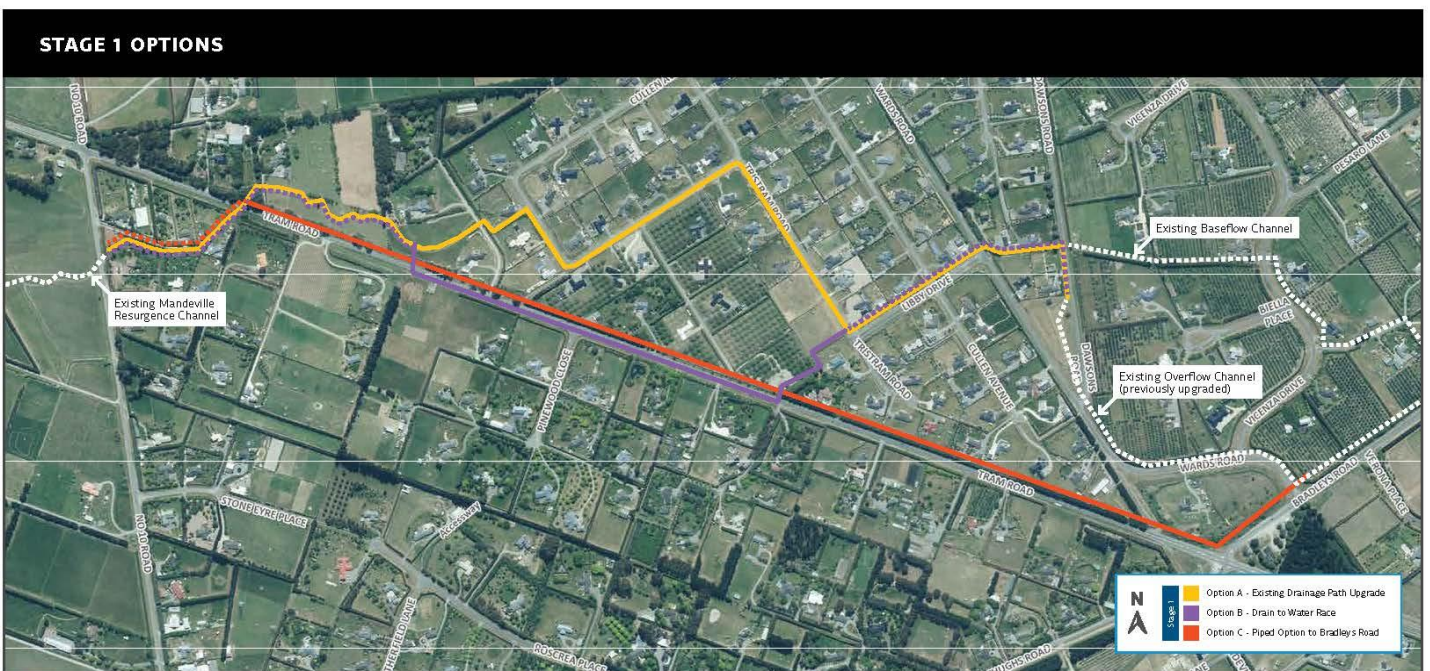
**Option C**

Pipe Options to Bradleys Road - Install new 900mm diameter pipe from Tram Road culvert outlet to Bradleys Road drain. This option provides an additional 1.0 m<sup>3</sup>/s capacity for the existing main drainage channel. When combined with current capacity of the drainage channel, which is an average of 0.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, the total drainage capacity would be increased to 1.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s.

**For more information:**

Link - [Mandeville Resurgence Channel Upgrades | Let's Talk Waimakariri](#)

**Map:**



#	Option	Description of option	Additional Capacity (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Est. Cost (Million)	Approx Rating Impact*
Stage 1	A	Existing Drainage Path Upgrade	0.5 (avg)	\$1.6 +	+\$4.35
	B	Drain to Water Race	0.5	\$3.0 +	+\$8.14
	C	Piped Option to Bradleys Road	1.0	\$5.3 +	+\$14.39

**Project Programme**

Project phase	Current Time frame
Consultation	In progress
Stage 1 Design & consenting	Oct. 2023 – Oct. 2024
Stage 1 Construction	Oct. 2024 – Mar. 2025
Stage 2 Design & consenting	Mar. 2025 – Mar. 2026
Stage 2 Construction	Oct. 2026 – Mar. 2027

\*Approximate rating impact increase per property in the district drainage rate.

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO: 4</b>	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Committee Updates
<b>REPORT TO:</b> Waimakariri Water Zone Committee	<b>MEETING DATE:</b> 6 November 2023
<b>REPORT BY:</b> Murray Griffin, CWMS Facilitator – Waimakariri, ECan	

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the agenda item is to provide the committee with an overview of updates to be tabled.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Zone Committee:

**Receives** these updates for its information.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

The following updates will be addressed with the committee:

### 1. Zone Committee Working Groups

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#### 1.1 Biodiversity Working Group

Martha Jolly has provided the following update:

##### **Waimakariri 2023 – Environmental Awards**

- The Working Group has promoted the upcoming environmental awards with the help of WDC. We have received applications in every category and the judging panel, that includes working group members, Biodiversity Trust input, and representatives from WDC and ECan will go out in the next week to assess applications.
- These inaugural Environmental Awards were given out as part of the WDC Community Awards on 18 October. This year's recipients were:

##### **Youth Award – Cust School**

This award was accepted on behalf of Cust School by Andrew Burke.

A group of enthusiastic children wanted to improve the condition of a local creek which feeds the Cust River. The children cleaned the creek area, educated the entire school at assembly about their findings and gave them some tips to help keep the creek clean moving forwards. They are also in the process of forming an alliance with local farms to help plant trees and stimulate better conditions of their waterways.

##### **Group Award – Oxford Dark Skies**

The group award goes to the Oxford Dark Sky Project. The Oxford Dark Sky Group is composed of 22 local organisations (schools, rural, police, government, sports, businesses). Raul Elias-Drago is the Operations Lead and leads the application and compliance process. This involves going out in the middle of the night to measure darkness at 13 locations. Raul and the team have identified a number of benefits to the area of becoming a Dark Skies site. Including improved human health, protected wildlife and ecosystems and lower use of energy and energy costs as well as a boost in astro-tourism to the region. Oxford would become the 6th dark site in New Zealand and the 207th in the world.

##### **Individual Award- Noelene Francis**

The individual award 2023 goes to a true champion in environmental restoration and community spirit. Noelene Francis was acknowledged for her tireless work over ten years organising and inspiring the many volunteers involved in the restoration of Silverstream Reserve.

## 1.2 Lifestyle Block Working Group

Carolyn Latham had provided the following update:

- Over 1,500 Top Ten Tips brochures have been distributed along with the rates notices to select property owners.
- A dedicated Lifestyle Blocks web page is now live at: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/farmers-hub/lifestyle-blocks/>
- This will be an enduring online resource with additional information to be added as required.
- Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust is looking at running a seminar in Ohoka in March and would like to include a talk on the Top Ten Tips.
- There is interest in using the Top Ten Tips more widely across Canterbury.

## 1.3 Monitoring Working Group

Erin Harvie provided the following update:

- The Waimakariri Landcare Trust, alongside Aqualinc and Element continue to work with stakeholders to collate existing water quality monitoring data and identify where concentrated efforts for monitoring extension would be useful. A draft memorandum summarising the work undertaken so to date is currently being prepared and should be available for release at the next Waimakariri Water Zone Committee meeting.

### Northbrook Trail

- The Waimakariri Landcare trust provides an update on the Northbrook Trail, pre-planting preparation has been undertaken on both entrance points to Stage 1 of the Northbrook trails with over 600 plants being planted within existing fenced areas. One area outside the existing fence line was considered a critical source area and has been planted and temporarily fenced off from livestock.
- Below – Images from the planting undertaken to date:



## 2. Environment Canterbury Updates

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Councillor Claire McKay will lead this update to the committee.

### 2.1 Water and Land Committee Meetings

Please find the link below for the Environment Canterbury Water and Land Committee meetings, with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 29 November.

The agenda can be viewed and downloaded from this link:

- Link: [Council and committee meetings: Current month | Environment Canterbury \(ecan.govt.nz\)](#)

### 2.2 Our Future Canterbury – Let's pick a path / Me whiriwhiri tātou i te huarahi

Earlier in the year, we asked you what's essential and what you want us to strive for in our natural environment. You told us what matters most, and now we need to understand what outcomes and actions to set for the future.

Read the findings from phase one of this engagement. [Download the Our Future Canterbury Report Jul-Aug 2023 \(PDF 3.4MB\)](#)

#### **From visions to actions, what's next?**

Now, thanks to your feedback, we are clear on what we should and should not consider for the big resource management and climate change challenges we face.

This time, we want you to rank your priorities for these issues, which will help us to develop our local and regional climate action plans and set the direction for regional and district plans through the Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

Your feedback on these issues and options will be crucial in shaping these important regional and district plans and documents.

#### **Key areas for feedback**

- Climate action
- Land use and biodiversity
- Water and coast

#### **How to submit feedback**

We've tried to make it easier to share feedback on what matters most to you. You can complete one or all three feedback forms, answering as much or as little as you like. If you complete all three feedback forms, it should take you about 75 minutes.

#### **Got questions? Drop by and see us**

We will be holding three online webinars and will be out and about in the region over the next month. If you have questions or feedback and want to chat in person, join one of the online webinars below or drop by one of the community events and see us.

Call us on 0800 324 636 or if you have a media enquiry, please email [media@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:media@ecan.govt.nz)

#### **For more information:**

Link – <https://haveyoursay.ecan.govt.nz/about-pick-a-path-canterbury>

Link – [undefined | Have Your Say \(ecan.govt.nz\)](#)

- **Agenda items 4 – 1: Register for a Summit near you**
- **Agenda items 4 – 2: Our Future Canterbury – Community Reflections document (July/August 2023)**

### 3. Waimakariri District Council updates

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Councillor Tim Fulton will lead this update to the committee.

#### 3.1 WDC Reports

The two WDC reports in this meeting agenda are provided for the committee's information and have been addressed earlier in the meeting. They are:

- Rangiora Stormwater Management Plan
- Mandeville Resurgence Channel upgrade

#### 3.2 WDC Community Awards 2023

The Community Service Awards in the Waimakariri District have a rich history spanning more than 30 years. They recognise the invaluable contributions of individuals who selflessly work behind the scenes to help make this District a great place to be.

Every year, dedicated locals contribute an astounding 1.5 million hours of volunteering to the Waimakariri District. These volunteers are the unsung heroes who diligently work to improve the community, often without seeking any recognition for their efforts.

This year's Community Service Awards recipients included someone well familiar to the Water Zone Committee – Michael Bate.

#### Michael Bate

Michael Bate has been described as the environmental conscience of the Waimakariri District. Michael's passion in life right from a young age has always been the outdoors. In particular, his love of fishing and game bird hunting. Over the past 7 years Michael has been actively lobbying central government, local councils, Environment Canterbury, Forest and Bird and Ngai Tahu to see more done to prevent toxic chemicals being used in and around waterways.

Michael would like to see an end to the use of herbicides and pesticides. Michael was a critical player in the discovery of avian botulism a number of years ago and bringing the issue to local councils to address. Avian Botulism is a significant threat to the life of all waterfowl.

#### For more information on this year's WDC Community Awards and recipients:

Link - [Community Service Awards 2023 | Waimakariri District Council](#)

### 4. Related Waimakariri Stories

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#### 4.1 Country Calendar Episode 29, 2023 – Featuring Makarini Rupene

A recent Country Calendar episode featured Makarini Rupene and his relationship to the Rakahuri and Waimakariri. Makarini works at ECan as a Pou Matai Ko - Cultivating & Understanding of Mahinga Kai.

Link – You will need to log on to TVNZ+ to view:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/country-calendar/episodes/s2023-e29>

#### 4.2 Waimakariri Winter Grazing flyovers

As has been the committee has been informed previously, Environment Canterbury has completed flyovers of the Waimakariri District over the last two years to check on winter grazing practices. The findings have been largely positive, as the article provided as **agenda item 4 – 3** explains.

## **5. Action points from the previous zone committee meetings**

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### **Action points from the previous meetings:**

- Information on the realignment of the North Brook tributary and water quality sampling at Tutaepatu Lagoon.
- An update on the Kaiapoi River salinity logger data.
- Arrange an opportunity for the Wai Connection representatives to speak to the committee.

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*Fin.*





## Register for a summit near you

Kia ora

We are asking people to rank conflicting priorities around environmental outcomes and goals in the [latest phase in our campaign What's our future, Canterbury?](#)

We're also inviting community representatives to attend summits to discuss the issues in detail. You may have received an email about this campaign last week - we heard that it landed in some people's spam folders - and we're following up because we don't want anyone to miss their chance to tell us what is most important to them.

Please register to attend

### Summit locations, dates and times

- Ashburton – Monday 6 November
- Selwyn – Tuesday 7 November
- Christchurch and Banks Peninsula – Thursday 9 November
- Kaikōura – Tuesday 14 November
- Waitaki – Thursday 16 November
- Hurunui – Monday 20 November
- Timaru – Thursday 23 November
- Waimakariri (Rangiora) – Friday 24 November
- Waimate – Wednesday 29 November
- Mackenzie (Lake Tekapo/ Takapō) – Thursday 30 November

**Note:** We have rescheduled the Waimakariri and Waimate summits to allow more time for people to register.

All summits will run from 10am to 4pm, although Selwyn may start later by agreement.

At the summit, we'll report back on what we heard to date, and clarify what can be influenced through our plans. We've developed a series of questions on the main issues and your answers will help us understand what you think we should prioritise.

The morning session is about prioritising the climate change actions we could take and the afternoon is to help us create a new Regional Policy Statement which sets policy direction for other regional and all district plans. We would love to have you for the whole day, but if that isn't possible we'd be pleased to see you for either the morning or the afternoon, but please specify if you can only do a half day.

Once registered you will receive a confirmation email with calendar invite, location and agenda.

If you can't make any of the summits, we will also be holding topic-based online workshops. Register for these at [www.ecan.govt.nz/ourfuture](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/ourfuture)

The ['What's our future, Canterbury – community reflections' report \(PDF 3.35MB\)](#) summarises feedback from the first phase. It doesn't capture everything, but it does give an overall 'flavour' of the major issues and what we have heard from our communities so far.

We look forward to hearing more of your thoughts to help us 'pick a path'.

Ngā mihi nui,  
the Environment Canterbury Communications and Engagement Team

*Taking action together to shape a thriving and resilient Canterbury, now and for future generations.*

*Toitū te marae o Tāne, toitū te marae o Tangaroa, toitū te iwi.*

[www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)



# Community reflections July/August 2023



# What's our future, Canterbury?



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# Background

Between 3 July and 27 August Environment Canterbury led a wide-ranging conversation to help understand community views on the future of the region's water and environment, and the community's expectations of how these should be managed and protected.

The information received will inform the development of updated plans, strategies and work programmes for our water, land, and air. This will enable us to begin to protect the things we value, restore the parts that are degraded, and help us plan and respond to the impacts of climate change. Feedback will play a pivotal role in shaping a new Regional Policy Statement, which will guide all subsequent district and regional plans. Additionally, it will inform a climate action plan aimed at bolstering resilience against climate change threats in Waitaha Canterbury.

To make it as easy as possible for Cantabrians to have their say, public engagement for *What's our future, Canterbury?* was streamlined into six key themes:

1. Water | Wai
2. Land | Whenua
3. Coast | Takutai
4. Climate change | Te huringa āhuarangi
5. Air | Hau takiwā
6. Built environment | He taiao kua hangahanga whare

Under each of these themes there were sub-topics, which are resource management issues identified by Environment Canterbury. The community's view is needed to help set the right policy direction to address each issue.

The information received will help ensure Environment Canterbury's future plans reflect the needs of the environment, meet government legislative requirements and reflect the rights and aspirations of mana whenua and our wider community.

Stakeholders and the public will get further opportunities to provide feedback in the next stage of community engagement beginning Saturday 21 October and closing Sunday 3 December.

# How we engaged



The *What's our future, Canterbury?* public engagement used a wide variety of approaches to capture community views on the key environmental issues being faced and how these should be managed.

It included an extensive schedule of face-to-face, online meetings and webinars with stakeholders, and a wider public engagement campaign that ran from 3 July to 27 August 2023, which encouraged people to complete an online survey covering any or all of the six key themes.





**7**

venues for drop-in sessions across Kaikōura, Christchurch, Waikari, Rangiora, Ashburton, Timaru and Kurow

**80+**

attendees at drop-in sessions

**347**

surveys completed

**1**

facilitated community workshop

**24**

stakeholder meetings

**18**

webinars held

**30+**

workshop attendees

**2,262**

sessions on the Environment Canterbury website

**1,616**

unique visitors to the Environment Canterbury website

**12,000**

direct emails/e-newsletters

**1**

youth Rōpū workshop

**17**

youth Rōpū workshop attendees

**50%**

survey respondents from Christchurch and Banks Peninsula

**18%**

survey respondents from Ashburton

**10%**

survey respondents from Selwyn

In addition, Environment Canterbury is continuing to work closely with Papatipu Rūnanga to ensure mana whenua has had opportunities to have input throughout this process.

# Executive summary

This report provides an overview of the issues raised for each of the six *What's our future, Canterbury?* themes. It has been informed by the written responses received through the survey, and emailed and written submissions, as well as commentary from face-to-face engagements and webinars.

There are strongly held, often competing views on how key natural resources should be managed in Canterbury. This is evidenced in the results of the 'Are we doing enough?' question asked as part of each theme, with significant proportions of respondents believing either that enough is being done to manage key resources or that more needs to be done.

Many in the farming community feel strongly that there is too much regulation and the work being done to improve environmental outcomes is not appreciated by the wider community. There is a fear amongst some that any additional regulation will compromise the viability of farming in Canterbury.

- *"Not able to operate as farmers in Canterbury anymore – regulation will make it impossible to continue – will need to sell."*
- *"Farming is blamed for all the problems with the environment, especially water issues. No appreciation or credit for initiatives undertaken at own expense. No ownership by urban communities for the issues they cause – polluted urban rivers, estuary, excessive waste, cars etc."*

This view is not shared by many others in the community, who voiced concerns about the impact of farming on the environment and believed more regulation was necessary, especially in the context of responding to the challenges of climate change.

- *"Massively cut down the agriculture. The farming community has a massive hold over the country due to the revenue generated."*

*Unfortunately, this is solely at the expense of the environment."*

Other issues that were raised across multiple themes included:

- A view that mixed messages are received from national, regional and local government. For instance, the need to obtain an expensive resource consent to restore a wetland, or being discouraged to clear out drains to protect biodiversity even though other regulations encouraged the clearing out of drains to manage flood-carrying capacity.
- Unease with the relationship between Te Rūnunga o Ngāi Tahu and Environment Canterbury, and a perception that rūnanga have a disproportionate amount of influence in regional planning processes.
- The need to focus more attention on the best place for future development to occur. There were some strongly held views that new developments should not take place on productive farmland or in areas with the potential to be negatively impacted by climate change, for instance along our coast or areas near rivers that are prone to flooding.
- Doing more to protect Canterbury's braided rivers, including ensuring they had 'room to move' was regularly identified as an important action for our region.
- Several people called for more housing to be built using green principles and renewable energy. There was also wide-ranging support for increased investment in active and public transport to reduce emissions and air pollution, and support higher-density urban development.

Overall, it is evident that there is a wide range of views on the challenges facing Canterbury's environment and how these are best addressed. This can be evidenced in the following pages, which outline the issues identified for each of *What's our future, Canterbury?*'s six key themes and community views on possible ways these should be responded to.

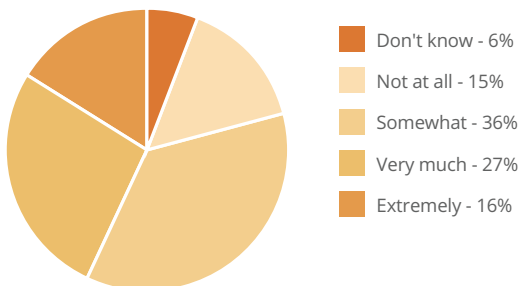
# Climate change

## Overview

There was a wide range of views on both the existence and impact of climate change.

While 79% of survey respondents believed our region is being impacted by climate change, many of those who attended drop-in sessions questioned the science behind climate change.

How much do you think Waitaha/Canterbury is affected by the impacts of climate change?

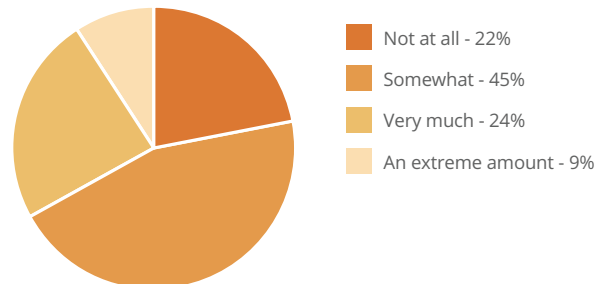


- *"Climate change is now the most profound risk to achieving sustainable management of the natural and physical environment."*
- *"Changeable weather will become more common as the climate slowly changes."*
- *"The whole hype about climate change is poppycock."*
- *"More surface flooding in Christchurch."*
- *"Main changes have been rapid increase of natural hazards from flooding, fire, coastal inundation. Increases in pest and weed distribution."*

- *"I am not aware of any climate change impact in Canterbury. What is considered by some as "climate change" is considered by others as ongoing changes in weather patterns that have been persisting since the ice age."*

Nearly one quarter (22%) believed climate change has not affected them at all, 45% believed it has had some impact, while 33% believed it has had a significant impact.

How much does climate change and extreme weather events affect you personally?



- *"Effects of climate change are being seen much more quickly than expected."*
- *"As a parent and human, I am deeply concerned about the future of this planet."*
- *"We're not especially affected compared to some other areas, but everyone will be affected, directly or indirectly. Even if it's only through something like skyrocketing insurance premiums. But drier plains and more flooding events and more severe flooding, as well as coastal inundation and the need for managed retreat are highly likely."*

# Te huringa āhuarangi

## Impact of regulation

A recurring theme was concern amongst rural communities that increased regulation has the potential to decimate the agriculture sector and result in farmers leaving the industry.

## Emission trading vs nitrates

There was discussion on the relative priority to give emissions reduction or nitrates reduction. Some industry groups spoke of the importance of focusing attention on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while some farmers believed the priority should be on managing nitrate levels.

## Permissive intervention model

There was a view held by some farmers that interventions should be “holistic” to reward farmers who undertake the right activity in the right place with the right inputs. Under such an approach farmers could be rewarded for activities that mitigate climate change, for instance, wetland restoration planting, or for using fewer inputs.

## Publicly funded interventions

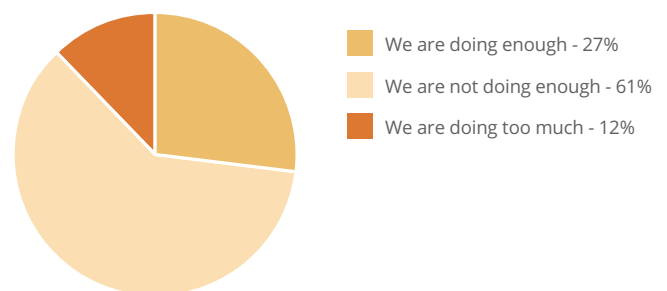
Discussions were had on the role of local and national government in meeting the costs of protecting farmland from natural hazards and climate change.

- “ECan should help me protect my land from floods.”
- “A way to mitigate natural hazards is publicly funded interventions, rather than not using those areas.”

## Are we doing enough?

Sixty-one per cent of respondents to the survey believed Canterbury was not doing enough to respond to the increasing threat of natural hazards that are expected to result from climate change. Twenty-seven per cent of respondents believed Canterbury is doing enough, while 12% believed Canterbury was doing too much.

Natural hazards



The majority of those who attended drop-in sessions or took part in a webinar could be characterised as having views at either end of the spectrum – either that Canterbury was doing too much, or that Canterbury was doing too little.

## What else could we do?

A wide variety of possible actions were given on ways Canterbury could respond to climate change.

### Incentivise new technology

There was a belief in the potential of new technologies to reduce the environmental impact of farming in the future, and frustration that innovation is not encouraged.

### Develop policy framework

The development of a policy framework by Environment Canterbury was applauded by one submitter.

- *"Without a clear focus and priority on addressing climate change impacts, the current segregated and siloed approach to considering focus areas (being water, land, air, coast and the built environment) is unlikely to achieve greater sustainable management, nor meet the current and future expectations of the community or the Government."*

### Public and active transport

Many commented on the need for more frequent, reliable and affordable public transport. Comments and discussions on the need to invest more in public and active transport were commonplace amongst those from urban areas.

- *"More, better and safer cycle lanes."*
- *"Intercity passenger rail."*

- *"More inter-regional buses and trains to reduce car use."*
- *"Electrify rail, from Rolleston to Lyttleton, and back out to Rangiora to start with. This is green, and will get passenger vehicles off the road, thereby reducing pollution from tyre wear, oil, and petroleum."*
- *"ECan prioritise / lead in emissions reduction – transport – as lead agency in public transport, important, this is critical in car emission reduction."*
- *"Reduce GHG by accelerating MRT construction, and have more public transport."*
- *"Firm policy on transport - low emission transport system, move to trains and buses."*
- *"I would like more transport (public) for rural sector to commute."*

### Enhance biodiversity

Many wanted to see more native trees being planted and the restoration of biodiverse sites such as wetlands.

- *"More development of wild green spaces, especially around areas like the Port Hills."*
- *"More trees in the city centre."*
- *"Retiring poorer grazing land and planting trees in those areas."*

### Enable biodiversity credits

Rewarding actions that promote biodiversity through a credits scheme was identified as a possible way to enhance biodiversity.

- *"Farm plans to include indigenous biodiversity carbon sequestration and emissions reduction."*

- *"Biodiversity restoration to enable carbon sequestration and supporting carbon contribution via ETS through enabling indigenous restoration."*
- *"Financial incentives to encourage farmers to keep native forests, they are only clearing as they feel it's more profitable."*

### **More renewable energy**

Several commented on the need to adopt cleaner energy.

- *"Reduce use/reliance on fossil fuels."*
- *"Subsidise household solar."*
- *"Phase out coal-fired boilers."*

### **Improve housing stock**

The need to build more environmentally friendly housing was also identified.

### **Better recycling services and more focus on waste reduction**

People called for improved recycling services and initiatives that reduced plastic use.

- *"Greater regulation of waste packaging to disincentivise plastic packaging."*
- *"Need to tax all plastic packaging so recycling can be subsidised. Same with tyres."*
- *"Recycling options in rural areas are disappointing."*
- *"It would be nice if our household recycling was actually fully recycled instead of just dumped in with general waste."*

- *"Supporting rural areas and provide spaces for community food waste/compost processing and solutions."*
- *"Supporting community-based waste solutions."*
- *"Incentivise and support communities to compost and recycle own waste."*

### **Change land use**

Some believed there needs to be more regulation to reduce the impact of farming on the environment.

- *"Less dairy on the Canterbury Plains."*
- *"Non-productive lands such as gullies to revert to native bush."*
- *"Reduce dairying, restrict aquifer extraction more, allow room for rivers."*
- *"Long-term food security by encouraging diversity of food crops (non-dairy) that improve soil, biodiversity and water quality."*

### **Stop development in at-risk and/or inappropriate areas**

Many were frustrated that development was taking place in places vulnerable to climate change, on productive land, or on land that's generally unsuitable.

- *"Housing developments away from at-risk areas."*
- *"Don't develop on good land/soils."*
- *"Too many developments are getting approved for areas that have good soil and are not far above sea level."*
- *"Building on swamps and low-lying land hampers wetland function and increases flood risk."*

- *“Stop all new home builds, in areas that are subject to possible future land deterioration due to both earthquake and flooding, through both natural and climate change. This land is more suited to industrial use, not housing!”*
- *“Retreat from the foreshore, and flood prone areas, by not allowing new building consents to be issued as is currently happening. Stop draining the wetlands for housing.”*

### **Better management of rivers**

Several people provided feedback on ways to better manage rivers.

- *“Allow more gravel extraction from rivers.”*
- *“Reduce red tape to make it easier for landowners to undertake preventative maintenance.”*
- *“More flood protection for low-lying areas.”*
- *“Need to give our braided rivers room to move, need to have an orderly retreat rather than defending vulnerable lands and infrastructure.”*
- *“Gravel in rivers is a resource for construction, but also a risk for flooding where it aggrades to high levels, as well as connecting to coastal areas. The Regional Council should investigate gravel transportation from the rivers to the coast, and effects on coastal gravel budgets, so that gravel allocation from rivers can be effectively and sustainably managed, to protect the environment and provide for community wellbeing.”*

### **Setting climate change targets**

Some respondents called for measurable climate change targets which would help measure the impact of actions.

- *“Be bold in targets.”*
- *“Climate specific goals, biodiversity specific goals, role of ecosystems in the protection and restoration of soils.”*





# Land

## Overview

Overall there was a wide spectrum of views on the effectiveness of current land use regulations and what, if anything, needs to change to meet economic, social and environmental needs.

Many respondents were adamant that more needs to be done to look after Canterbury's landscape which they believe has been significantly compromised. Banks Peninsula and the Mackenzie Country were regularly identified as requiring enhanced protection.

### Mixed messages and bureaucratic red tape

A key message from the farming community was the mixed messaging being received on the regulatory and planning framework, and how this inhibits potentially beneficial interventions. For instance, the need to get resource consent to restore a wetland on farmland, or the tension between the conversion of land to create renewable energy or the need to uphold landscape values.

- *"I still do not understand why the consenting process for environmentally beneficial projects is not taken into account and made cheaper."*

As outlined already in the climate change section, there were calls from the farming community to focus more on supporting and rewarding effective on-farm actions and to use regulations only when necessary, for instance for potentially problematic activities.

- *"Every \$2k spent on compliance is money that could have been spent on plantings, riparian management, and upgrading of farm systems for better environmental outcomes."*
- *"There is too much regulatory cost involved with doing good things like constructing wetlands. The red tape is preventing action."*

### Lack of acknowledgment of actions

It was clear that some in the farming community felt that their efforts to meet regulatory standards and improve environmental outcomes have gone unnoticed. There were calls for more information to be shared with the wider community on the progress the farming community is making when it comes to protecting the environment.

- *"Positively promote the work that is being done rurally instead of suggesting agriculture is negligent in its care of the land."*
- *"Give farmers credit for what they have done instead of a bash over the head with another piece of compliance."*

### Leaders being penalised

There was a view that farmers who have put sustainability initiatives in place for a long period were disadvantaged by the planning tools. For example, the actions of a farmer who has historically polluted the environment but then makes some improvements are, in modelling terms, rewarded more than a farmer who has been making steady improvements over a long period.

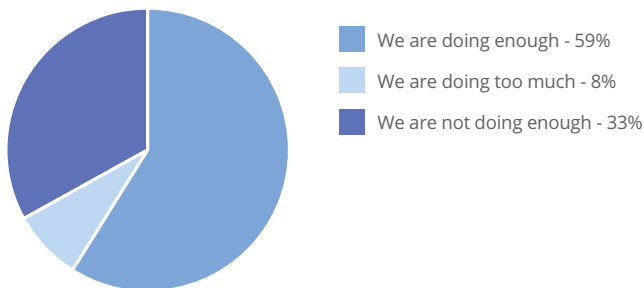
# Whenua

## Are we doing enough?

### Land contamination

The majority (59%) of survey respondents believed enough was being done to manage and prevent land contamination. A third of respondents believed Canterbury is not doing enough, while 8% believed too much was being done.

Managing and preventing land contamination

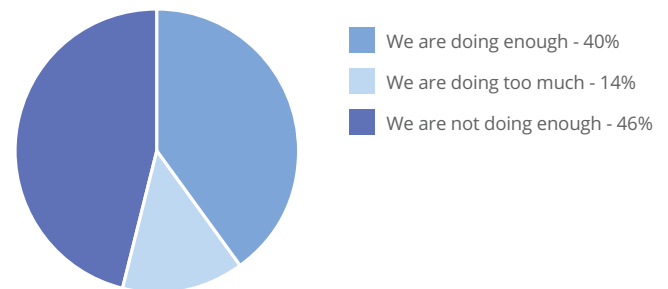


- *“Harsher penalties need to be put in place for companies and individuals who contaminate land. Minimal fines are not a deterrent.”*
- *“The land needs care and careful management. We cannot continue to accept land contamination is normal. Intensive farming is not sustainable. I accept there are challenges, however there can be creative solutions.”*
- *“I think Canterbury is amazing but many of our native ecosystems are degraded and getting worse. It could be so much better.”*

### Healthy soil

Views on whether enough was being done to protect soil health were relatively evenly split, with 54% believing Canterbury was either doing enough (40%) or too much (14%) to protect soil health, and 46% believing we are not doing enough.

Protecting the health of the soil

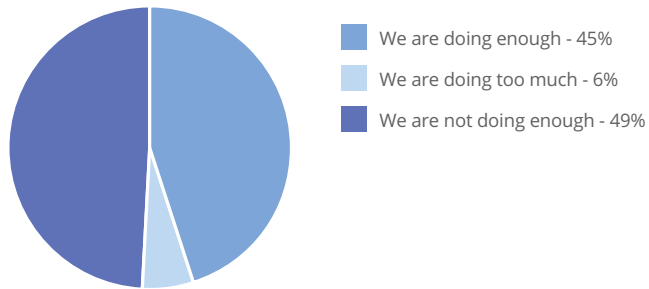


- *“As a farmer we are forever striving to maintain healthy soils. This is for the benefit of crops, animals and future farming.”*
- *“Farmers have always been doing the best for their soils, otherwise we don’t have a business.”*
- *“Soil quality is very important. Our farmers have and are doing a sterling job in this area. Leave them alone to get on with it. They are marvellous stewards of their own land.”*

### Waste management

Just over half of respondents believe that Canterbury was either doing enough (45%) or doing too much (6%) regarding waste management, while 49% of respondents believed Canterbury was not doing enough to improve waste management.

### Improving our waste management



- *"I think waste disposal is too expensive which leads to dumping and hoarding. A place I visited in Sweden has a system where your rubbish is weighed when they collect the bin and you are charged accordingly. They had a lot of recycling stations which made recycling very easy."*
- *"Having travelled around the country I am proud and happy with the 3 bin system we have in Christchurch. We are definitely punching much higher than other regions that could do better."*
- *"Need to ensure that the waste from urban areas does not end up contaminating productive land."*

## What else could we do?

### Value on-farm actions over regulation

Several farmers called for a more collaborative approach that puts greater focus on-farm actions rather than regulation, and in particular, the consenting process.

This was in the context of general support for the on-farm presence provided by Environment Canterbury, especially as it relates to biodiversity advisors. Under such a scenario, rather than requiring resource consent to construct a wetland, construction could be signed off with the help and advice of Environment Canterbury staff.

A common theme raised by the farming community was that if it was the right land use in the right location, then this should be recognised and enabled by the planning framework. On the flip side, if land uses are inappropriate for the location (soils, water availability etc) they should be restricted and discouraged.

- *"Review all things that require \$\$ to apply for. Anything that has positive impact on the environment should have barriers removed (cost less) and proportionally apply incentives to activities that have no or little negative impact on the environment."*

### The regulatory approach is too complex, costly and stifles innovation

Several farmers complained about the complexity of modelling, which they state has given rise to an entire industry and resulted in significant compliance costs.

Some farmers believed that the way agricultural emissions are calculated is inaccurate, and should, for example, treat the nurturing of healthy soils as a way to offset carbon emissions.

Farmers spoken to stated that they would prefer to have a simpler system that they could understand and implement themselves. Such a system could have a focus on managing inputs (for instance stocking rates, irrigation area, fertiliser use) rather than being a complicated computer model that they believe has the potential to lead to perverse outcomes – for instance undertaking harmful behaviours on one part of the farm but balancing this out by undertaking beneficial behaviours elsewhere.

An inability to understand the model leads to uncertainty and discourages innovation.

- *“Compliance audits are not only costly in dollars but in time also. It is generally 5 hours plus of my life I will never get back just to be told we are doing a good job. What a gross waste of my time and money. It doesn't encourage me, it frustrates and angers. Maybe if you get three positive audits in a row you can become audit-free for the next 10 years.”*
- *“Work alongside farmers who are innovative and propose strategies or trials that seek to improve water quality instead of putting onerous consenting barriers in the way.”*
- *“The regional planning framework can be a substantial barrier against positive on-farm environmental actions. This has been explored as part of a recent conference paper ... As part of investigating the effectiveness of some edge of field mitigations, the cost to construct a wetland, including consenting cost were explored. It showed that for the Canterbury region, compliance cost in the form of consents and mandatory monitoring added 13-26 % to the cost of implementing the explored edge-of-field mitigations.”*

- *“The RPS should enable on-farm flexible solutions i.e. innovations and positive actions, rather than objectives and policies adding barriers.”*
- *“Innovation and the ability to change systems and adapt to ongoing pressures is essential for the sustainability of the agricultural sector. Policies need to accommodate this and not prevent landowners from being able to improve their farming systems and adapt. Whether this is the ability to build water storage infrastructure to improve climate resilience or make land use changes to better suit the economic market and environmental conditions.”*
- *“We support outcome-based regulation. This approach gives our farmers the flexibility to innovate while meeting environmental goals.”*
- *“Innovation and embracing science-based solutions need to be enabled by the vision to address the various environmental challenges confronting our district.”*

### **Change land use**

Some believed that changing the type of farming undertaken on agricultural land, for instance from intensive dairy farming to cropping, would result in improved environmental outcomes.

- *“Work to reduce the amount of land in dairy. Fix the over-allocation problem.”*
- *“Stop intensive dairy farming/ irrigation on the Canterbury Plains.”*

### **Public access**

The ability of people to be able to access land for recreation was highlighted as an important issue.

### **Preserving productive land for agriculture**

There was concern amongst some that fertile farming land was being lost as more subdivisions and developments in traditional agricultural areas are developed.

- *“Overpopulation being encouraged in this country is putting far too much pressure on building ugly cookie-cutter houses, not homes, over what should be agricultural/grain-growing land.”*
- *“We need to be protecting highly productive land from urban sprawl and control forestry on hill country.”*
- *“Healthy land with soil well suited to growing food should be reserved for this purpose only – housing developments should NOT be permitted on this type of land, which should be identified and protected from property developers.”*
- *“Solar on each house rather than having whole solar farms taking up productive land.”*

### **Support regenerative approaches**

There were several calls for an increased focus on regenerative approaches to promote soil health and to regulate against the use of potentially harmful substances.

- *“Support and educate conversations around different ways of managing our soils.”*
- *“Natural soil conservation. Do not allow constant addition of fertilizer.”*
- *“Regulate PFAs contamination.”*
- *“Follow the precautionary principle for emerging contaminants (PFAs).”*

### **Recognise carbon sequestration in soil**

There was a view amongst some in the rural community that capturing and storing carbon within soil will help to mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

- *“Land use policies should all be assessed for their incentivising carbon sequestration in soil. All farm plans should include soil and biodiversity carbon sequestration.”*



# Coast

## Overview

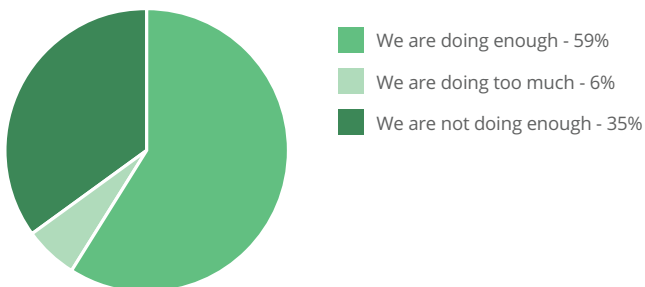
Many survey respondents gave examples of climate change-driven coastal erosion on Canterbury's coast and raised concerns about the impact of this on vulnerable communities.

A consistent message heard from drop-ins held in rural communities was the need to support coastal developments that supported economic and community development.

## Are we doing enough?

The majority (59%) of those who responded to the survey believed Canterbury was doing enough to protect and maintain our coastal environment, with another 6% believing Canterbury was doing too much. Just over one third of respondents believed we are not doing enough.

Activities in the coastal environment



## What else could we do?

### Coastal erosion needs to influence planning

A key theme throughout the survey was the impact of coastal erosion resulting from climate change and the impact this can have on housing, roading and vulnerable communities.

- *"Don't let people build houses too close to the sea."*
- *"Some communities vulnerable to flooding/ coastal erosions... We need to prevent development in areas and strategically retreat."*
- *"Protect natural character, the ability of the coast to degrade and inundate, learning how to retreat gracefully."*
- *"Managing retreat should be prioritised."*

### Supporting coastal development

There was a view that coastal development and protecting biodiversity were not mutually exclusive, and the focus should be on enabling sustainable development. The proposed development at Marina Bay in Kaikōura was given as an example of a development that could result in economic and community benefits.



# Takutai

On the other hand, some wanted to see much less development on our coasts.

- *“Development – only if we are wanting to be stupid. Less development, remove infrastructure unless it can survive sea level rise, factor sea level rise into all development decisions.”*

## Increased support and funding to help communities adapt

There were regular comments and conversations about the need to do more to support vulnerable communities protect themselves against natural hazards.

- *“Communities need govt assistance for community to adapt and respond to natural hazards – including retreat from flood-prone areas.”*
- *“ECan needs a community resilience lead to work with communities so they develop their own resilience plans.”*

## Ensuring access

The importance of maintaining coastal access for everyone was raised by some.

- *“Generally the public at large should have free access to most of the coast and foreshore.”*

## Protecting beaches and waterways

There were calls for greater protection for our oceans and coastal wildlife, including tighter restrictions on cats, dogs, and commercial and recreational fishing.

- *“The waters need urgent protection, reduce recreational fishing catch to sustainable limits, limit commercial fishing. The ocean should not be a dumping ground for our rubbish.”*
- *“Coastal wildlife is not protected well enough. Dogs should be banned from beaches, coastal wetlands, and river mouths where birds are known to nest, and where penguins come ashore.”*
- *“Will predator-free plans include cats and dogs?”*
- *“More compliance, monitoring and enforcement for by laws e.g. dog control, beach access.”*
- *“Stop the MASSIVE cruise ships coming into Akaroa & Lyttleton Harbour- so detrimental especially since Hector Dolphins are so endangered.”*

# Water

## Overview

There is much debate and discussion on the best way to balance the economic and environmental issues associated with water use and management in Canterbury. Some argued that environmental concerns should always be prioritised over economic interests, while others believed economic interests should be paramount when water use decisions are made.

Many stated how much they value Canterbury's freshwater and rivers, lakes, streams and aquifers, and their importance in promoting biodiversity, ensuring healthy and high-quality drinking water and providing safe swimming and recreation spaces. Ensuring the health of our braided rivers was a recurring theme, with several commenting on the importance of giving rivers 'space to move'.

Irrigation was a particularly divisive topic, with views ranging from reducing its use significantly to its vital importance in ensuring farming in Canterbury is viable.

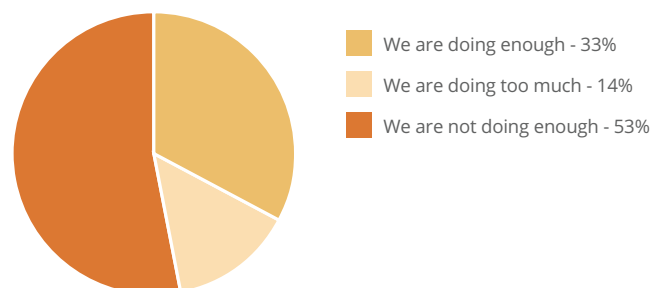
- *"Stop taking water from our natural ecosystems for large-scale irrigation systems."*
- *"Without irrigation, farming on the plains isn't viable - one-third of the yield."*
- *"If ...the entire Canterbury Plains will have to return to dryland, low input farming systems - then agricultural-based towns (such as Ashburton, Rangiora etc) and smaller communities will be negatively affected over a*

*generation, and the overall income generated for the entire region (and country) will be drastically impacted."*

## Are we doing enough?

More than half (53%) of all respondents believe Canterbury is not doing enough to preserve Canterbury's rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands and aquifers, while 33% believe we are doing enough and 14% believe we're doing too much.

Preserving the special qualities of Waitaha/Canterbury's rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands and aquifers and supporting the needs of our communities.

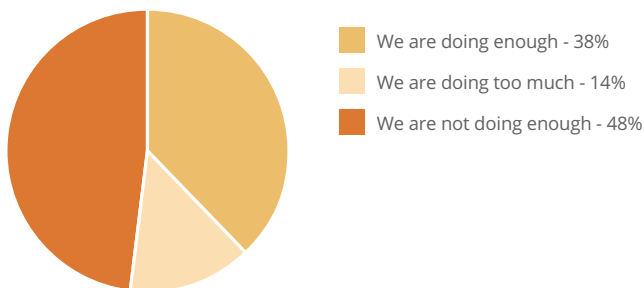


- *"I think farmers in general are doing what they can."*

Nearly half (48%) of respondents believe Canterbury is not doing enough to protect indigenous biodiversity in and around rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, aquifers and coastal areas. Thirty-eight per cent believe we are doing enough and 14% believe we are doing too much.

# Wai

Indigenous biodiversity in and round rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, aquifers and coastal



## What else could we do?

### More flexibility when managing water allocation

There was a view that the annual water allocation is a rigid approach, and there needs to be flexibility in the system to shift allocation where and when it is needed.

- *"Flexibility but with security is what is needed."*

### Enable water storage for resilience

Some believed that enabling more water storage was a way to build resilience to climate change and that this is prevented by the requirement to have a resource consent.

- *"Stored water needs productive uses to pay for the infrastructure."*
- *"Community good aspect of privately owned infrastructure is not adequately considered."*
- *"We must acknowledge the importance of water to farming systems, with the pressure of changing climates including hotter and dryer summers the Council needs to collaborate*

*with farming communities to develop solutions for water storage infrastructure and provide for the security of animal drinking water and irrigation. Animal welfare is crucial and legislated under the RMA section 14(3)(b)(ii). Additionally, rural and urban households and buildings need to have reliable water sources."*

### Reduce nitrate levels

Concerns were raised about the nitrate levels and how more needs to be done to protect our water from contamination.

- *"Nitrates must be stopped from entering our waterways and aquifers."*
- *"Immediately implement strong and widespread regulations to prevent nitrate and other contaminants from entering groundwater and rivers."*
- *"... stop the use of nitrogen on farms within five years or earlier."*
- *"Reducing nitrate by 50%, urban rivers to be swimmable."*

### More wetlands

Wetlands were identified as an important way to promote biodiversity and improve the health of waterways.

- *"Enhancing, developing and maintaining wetlands through managed planting and protection, and fencing in all waterways."*
- *"We have lost lots of wetlands in Canterbury causing a lot of native wetland animals to disappear. We should focus on bringing back wetlands."*
- *"Halt loss of wetlands and restore degraded wetlands."*

### Protecting rivers and waterways

Many believed more needed to be done to care, and make room for, rivers. This included ensuring the movements of braided rivers were given priority and setting water quality targets.

- *"Stop unlawful drainage into rivers."*
- *"Fence off cattle from waterways, including braided rivers."*
- *"ECan needs to enable people to manage waterways with diggers."*
- *"By definition braided rivers are everchanging landscapes, protect their mobility by giving them more room to move."*
- *"Room for rivers – very costly to put stop banks in for natural changing river flow."*
- *"Room for the river to be prioritised over land use for farming."*
- *"Healthy waterways brimming with life, swimmable waterways. I think we need to set the goals and then make it happen. It is going to require transformational shifts not incremental changes."*

### Prioritise habitat protection

There were calls by some to do more to protect habitats from humans, dogs, cats and pests.

- *"Protect and enhance spawning sites of migratory aquatic species (reserves or zones)."*
- *"Habitat protection needs to be prioritised over land use for communities / residential."*

### Optimal scale of freshwater management units (FMUs)

There was discussion on the optimal scale for FMUs and how they would work in practice.

- *"The plans are often very good, the issue is the plans are never properly resourced. How do we change the resourcing model?"*
- *"FMUs – the more the better, catchment-based, social interest, groundwater connected."*
- *"FMUs need to be per catchment if not per river as the reasons for degradation are so specific to each area. And then the local community can understand the goals / aims of their area / catchment and are more likely to be motivated, encouraged to work towards those goals."*
- *"Make FMUs bigger - to develop overarching plan then develop into sub-units to help with implementation."*
- *"Smaller unit areas to have more connection and buy in for those that live and work in them."*
- *"[There]... will be too many FMUs. Some areas could be grouped together for example Banks Peninsula which could form one FMU."*
- *"There is a potential to divide up large river catchments for example in upper, middle, lower."*
- *"We recommend the establishment of sub-FMUs or part-FMUs corresponding to individual river catchments with unique characteristics, issues, and opportunities. These part-FMUs would encourage localised ownership and tailored solutions for freshwater management."*

One submission called for the adoption of FMUs for the Clarence and Conway River catchments; Waiau Uwha, Hurunui, Waipara and Kowai River catchments; and for the Ashley and Waimakariri River catchments.

### **Consistent and streamlined regulations**

Some raised concerns that rules were often changing, making compliance extremely difficult.

- *"Stop changing the rules."*
- *"Don't change the rules all the time – make a plan with goals and stick to it and consider rewards for ongoing compliance."*
- *"We were going to do native plantings, did some, but have stopped because we are fed up with the rules changing."*
- *An end to 'double dipping' – regional and district councils both requiring resource consent to manage effects of the same activity. This is particularly prevalent around rules for activities in proximity to waterbodies."*
- *"Amalgamation of resource consents for one activity into one document rather than multiple permits/documents."*

### **Financial incentives/disincentives**

Several people believed that price signals were a good way to encourage or discourage certain behaviours.

- *"Incentives and rewards for good water quality (e.g. rates relief)."*
- *"Review all things that require \$\$ to apply for. Anything that has positive impact on environment should have barriers removed (cost less) and proportionally apply incentives to activities that have no or little negative impact on the environment."*
- *"Incentives to encourage people to do the right thing (action) even if required under a plan so we get real action quickly within a timeframe of 10 years."*
- *"Improve fines on the polluters – that will help clean up waterways."*

### **More education**

Education was seen by some as a key tool to improve our environmental outcomes.

- *"To achieve and protect our biodiversity we must focus on access to education as well as safe and sustainable eco tourism-create connection with these spaces."*
- *"Build ecological literacy across the region (e.g. by enabling experiencing nature)."*

# Built environment

## Overview

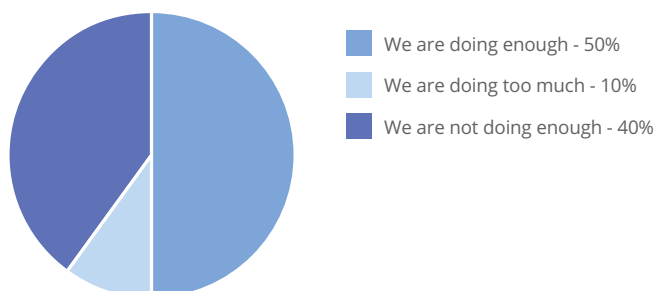
For built environment theme people focused on concerns about urban sprawl, the loss of productive farming land to developments, the need to build in appropriate places, and calls for enhanced public transport.

- *“Development in Christchurch has seen loss of land areas where there was highly productive land.”*
- *“Urban sprawl is limiting farmland options and spreading the need for urban infrastructure.”*
- *“Restrictions should be put in place to preserve highly productive land and avoid building on vulnerable land.”*

## Are we doing enough?

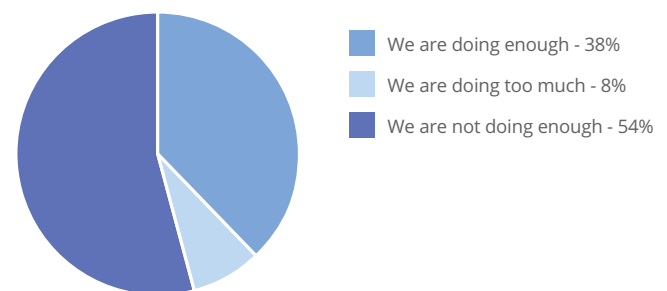
Half of respondents believed we are doing enough to align new development with existing infrastructure, with 40% believing we are not doing enough and 10% believing Canterbury is doing too much.

Aligning new development with existing infrastructure



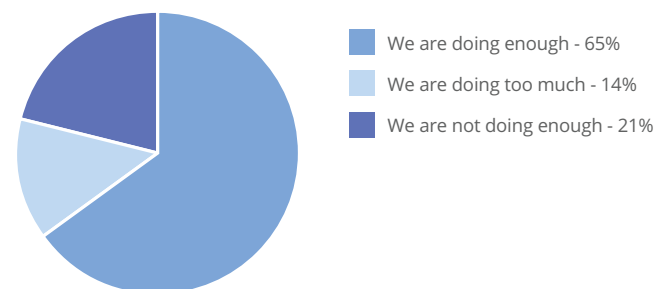
A small majority (54%) of respondents believed Canterbury is not doing enough to balance urban development and environmental management. Thirty-eight per cent believed Canterbury is doing enough, while 8% believed we are doing too much.

Balancing urban development and environmental management



Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65%) believed enough is being done to protect Canterbury's heritage, 21% believed we are not doing enough, and 14% believed too much was being done.

Heritage



# He taiao kua hangahanga whare

## What else could we do?

### Reduce urban sprawl and encourage housing intensification

Many people commented on the need to reduce urban sprawl and encourage higher-density living that can be supported by enhanced public transport options.

- *"Urban development needs access to close shopping centres minimising travel and also good public transport."*
- *"Limit urban sprawl through densification."*
- *"Look at clever high-density inner town/city living which I loved living in overseas, make rules so can't develop on highly productive land/selected soil types."*
- *"Leave good land for food production alone."*
- *"Enable transition away from areas where it's not sustainable (for a start, don't permit new builds)."*
- *"Build well above sea level."*
- *"Don't build on flood plains, build up not out."*
- *"Issue of spreading over good productive land. Need higher density housing rather than sprawling. Need to identify where expansion can happen and where not."*

### Enhanced flood protection

There were also comments about the need for better protection against floods.

- *"We can't remove all risk in our lives. We need to understand what is an acceptable level of risk (for property not lives). If you farm in a flood plain, you accept that you are more likely to be flooded than other places."*
- *"Give rivers room to move, stop encroachment on coasts and rivers, buy land adjacent to coastal areas to allow for estuaries, hāpua, coastal lakes to migrate inland."*

### Better public and active transport

There were calls to do more to improve public transport and invest in alternative forms of transport.

- *"Not enough cycleways yet, too many cars and money spent supporting car infrastructure."*
- *"Importance of reliable and regular public transport service."*

### Ensure critical infrastructure is in the right place

Some stated that there was a need for more planning around the placement of critical infrastructure to ensure it serves its purpose.

- *"It isn't good enough to place critical infrastructure in places because that land was cheap (like a reserve or a braided river course), and then claim that they are critical infrastructure, and demand further modification of the environment."*

### **Greener builds**

There were calls for more sustainable buildings and greater use of renewable energy.

- *"All new builds should have solar panels."*
- *"There needs to be some clear rules around materials for building, for e.g; concrete is high GHG emissions and need to be stopped. ... What about permeable driveways and light-coloured roofs, or roofs with vegetation on them for e.g. how can we regulate the building industry to reduce GHG emissions, and improve water runoff. We are in an emergency, we need to act like it."*
- *"Solar as standard on all properties, garden or green spaces need to be able to soak."*
- *"New buildings being as energy sufficient as possible would increase resilience and help the National Grid."*
- *"Solar panels and wind farms are the future power provider for NZ."*

### **Protect heritage buildings**

There was general support for the importance of protecting heritage buildings for future generations, and concern was raised by some that not enough focus is given to maintaining heritage buildings.

- *"Let's not lose sight of Christchurch's heritage, what has influenced the Canterbury region during the past 200 years. There needs to be a reflection on how the rural area has provided for Canterbury and Christchurch and the benefits this has produced."*
- *"Canterbury doesn't have a long rich heritage compared to overseas, so I think it's important to protect what we've got."*





# Air

## Overview

Several respondents stated that air quality has improved over recent years, with concerns mostly related to the impact of quarries on neighbouring properties.

- *"I'm reasonably happy with our air quality, it's a vast improvement over a few decades ago."*
- *"We need to consider health concerns and identify areas where it is appropriate to have quarries etc. Understanding where things are appropriate and not appropriate is really important to this process."*
- *"I'd like safe, breathable air that doesn't affect my health. I'd like for everything inside and outside my property to not be constantly covered in dust. A priority."*

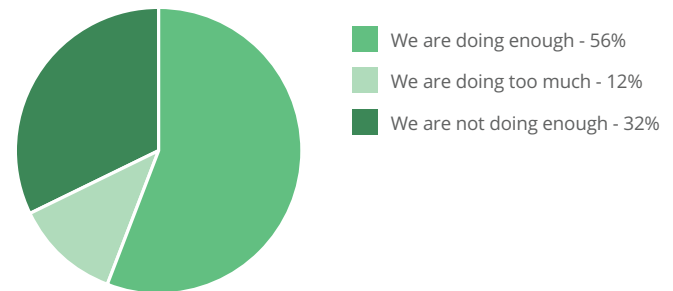
The impact of fires on air quality was also mentioned.

- *"In the rural area, air quality can be affected by huge fires that send smoke over large areas of the countryside. Is this regarded as an issue? It's not generally for a long time but can be extreme for days at a time."*

## Are we doing enough?

Over half (56%) of survey respondents believed enough was being done to ensure air quality, 32% believed Canterbury wasn't doing enough, and 12% believed we are doing too much.

Air quality



- *"The quality of the air is substantially better in Canterbury than it was many years ago when open fires were prevalent. We should keep working towards further improvements. This generation will need to be bold and commence some ambitious sustainable options for future generations. Today is the cheapest time to take action."*
- *"As a rural person air contaminants is not an issue for me."*



# Hau takiwā

## What else could we do?

### More restrictions around quarries

Some residents call for more restrictions to ensure the dust from quarries doesn't impact people's health.

- *"Keeping industries like quarries a safe distance from residents especially elderly, infants and those that are affected by dust exposure."*
- *"Removal of quarries and industries are diffusing pollution affecting the health of residents in our rural communities."*
- *"Why have they not banned quarries near cities as overseas countries have done?"*

### Protecting supply of aggregates

- *"Regional planning frameworks should recognise the importance of quarries, and should provide for and identify where they can be appropriately located to provide supply close to where it is needed."*
- *"Quarries should be located as close as possible to where the material will mainly be used so that there is a cost effective supply, and carbon emissions are minimised."*

An infrastructure company highlighted the importance of the timely and cost-effective provision of construction materials critical to New Zealand's infrastructure and housing.

### Investing in public and active transport

Some believed increased investment in active and public transport would reduce car dependence and improve air quality.

- *"Expand the number of cyclists, safe cycling and reduce urban sprawl."*
- *"We need world-class public transport like electric light rail. Buses and taxis use the same congested roads as cars do and Ubers etc. They are bleeding money from the local economy. Let's take local control of public transport."*

### Reduce fossil fuel usage and invest in renewable energy

- *"Reduce air pollution from industry, particularly from dairy factories burning fossil fuels."*
- *"Make it easier for households to generate electricity. The consents process is too difficult!"*
- *"There should be no new buildings without solar / wind energy gathering."*
- *"Encourage solar for everyone."*

# Next steps

This report shares community views on a range of environmental issues affecting Canterbury and provides an initial steer on possible ways these could be managed.

Armed with this information, in October 2023 Environment Canterbury will commence the next stage of the *What's our future, Canterbury?* engagement. This will capture community views on possible actions that could be taken to protect and enhance Canterbury's environment.

Stakeholders and the public will get further opportunities to provide feedback in the next stage of community engagement beginning Saturday 21 October and closing Sunday 3 December.





*Taking action together to shape a thriving and resilient Canterbury, now and for future generations.*

*Toitū te marae o Tāne, toitū te marae o Tangaroa, toitū te iwi.*

[www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)

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R23/42

# Winter grazing: Waimakariri flyovers show most farms following rules

By [David Hill](#)

Local Democracy Reporter - North Canterbury

20 Oct, 2023 08:55 AM ⌚ 3 mins to read

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Most Waimakariri farmers are complying with winter grazing rules, Environment Canterbury says.

The regional council has completed flyovers of farmland in the Waimakariri district over the last two winters to check on winter grazing practices.

Waimakariri land management advisor Anna Veltman said the results had been largely positive.

Environment Canterbury staff visited farms to address any issues identified and to offer assistance.

“We visited a few farms with issues in the first season and on our follow-up visits this year we found the paddocks were fine,” she said.

“We make phone calls to individuals and talk about what we’ve seen and ask ‘Does that sound like your paddock?’”

One farmer was using virtual fencing with collars on the cows, which cannot be seen from the air, she said.

While there were initial fears of “spying” on farmers, Veltman said no photos were taken during the flyovers.

“We fly over and look at paddocks all over the district.

“We might go close to the river on one flight and change it to a different flight path for the next flyover.”

She said Environment Canterbury had worked closely with a stakeholder group of farmers and sector representatives to ensure the programme was beneficial to the sector.

Most farmers were grazing strategically towards waterways, creating buffer zones, placing water troughs and feeders close to new breaks, avoiding paddocks with waterways and wetlands, and grazing with smaller mob sizes, she said.

Environment Canterbury principal farm systems advisor Sarah Heddell, herself a farmer, acknowledged the regulations were complex.

The regulations required farmers to apply for a consent if they had “critical source areas” around waterways in their paddocks and slopes with a 10 per cent or greater gradient.

“Keeping off slopes could be an option if you don’t want to worry about a consent,” Heddell said.

Under Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, land use consents were required for all farms 5 hectares or larger.

Farmers under Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd’s scheme were covered by its consent, but may still require a winter grazing consent.

Heddell encouraged farmers to seek advice when applying for a consent.

Freshwater farm plans were being rolled out around the country but were not due to be rolled out in Canterbury until 2025.

The plans were a tool designed to stop further decline in freshwater quality, make water quality improvements within five years, and begin to reverse past damage to waterways.

More than 50 farmers and industry representatives turned out at the Oxford Working Men’s Club to hear from speakers from Environment Canterbury, the Ministry for Primary Industries, DairyNZ, Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd and the Waimakariri Landcare Trust.

**- Public interest journalism funded by New Zealand on Air.**



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGIORA SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2023 WHICH COMMENCED AT 4.00PM.**

**PRESENT**

C Latham (Chairperson), J Cooke (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), M Jolly, E Harvie, C Aldhamland (via Teams) Councillor T Fulton (WDC Councillor) and Councillor C McKay (ECan Councillor), R Gill-Clifford (Youth Representative).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor P Redmond (until 5pm), S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), N Theinhardt (ECan Zone Delivery Lead Waimakariri), Carys Marulli De Barletta (Land Management Advisor, ECan) (via Teams), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitator), A Smith (Governance Coordinator), James Schaap (ECAN Land Management and Biodiversity Advisor), John Benn, (Department of Conservation), M Bate (Kaiapoi resident).

**KARAKIA**

Ruby Gill-Clifford provided a karakia to open the meeting.

**1. BUSINESS**

**1.1 Apologies**

Moved C Latham

Seconded Councillor McKay

**THAT** an apology be received and sustained from committee member A Reuben.

**CARRIED**

**1.2 Welcome and Introductions**

**1.3 Register of Interests**

Committee members advised of the following additions required for the Register of Interests:

**John Cooke** - member of the Kaiapoi Club executive

**Erin Harvie** – Director of Bowden Environmental

**Councillor Claire McKay** - dairy grazing

**2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

M Bate, Kaiapoi resident, expressed his concerns with the recent incident of pollution at Saltwater Creek. The business concerned had been operating for a long time in the same location (nearly 50 years), under several different ownerships, and M Bate thought they should have a bund in place to stop any pollutants getting into the waterways, or some back-up systems in place to prevent such events happening.

C Latham noted that there was some biodiversity in Saltwater Creek impacted and believed that the concerns raised would be addressed as part of the investigation that ECan are undertaking. M Bate suggested that all big companies in Canterbury should be required to have back up prevention systems in place to avoid pollution events.

M Bate had visited Kaiapoi Lakes recently, noting that the water is clear at the moment, but

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was concerned with the limited biodiversity evident. He was pleased to share some photos of the birdlife, including swans, signets and many shags nesting in the trees at Kaiapoi Lakes. He considered the return of birdlife in the area was a result of the return of fish life in the lakes. He had met with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor recently to talk about the native planting around the Lakes.

M Bate had visited Kaiapoi tributaries testing for biodiversity last week, advising that there was very little collected, with a total of one shrimp and one bully taken in six samples. Since 2012 the fish life had been killed off and has never recovered. He believed this was a result of chemical spraying over the years. C Latham and S Allen responded that in recent years, the Waimakariri District Council had been using alternative methods of weed control. There would be some follow up on some matters highlighted in a report previously presented to the committee by Angela Burton. This report had provided a record of what had been happening in the District in recent years.

M Bate had also visited other sites checking on the biodiversity levels, including Cust Main Drain, Mill Stream and Silverstream, with very limited biodiversity evident at each site. He pointed out, in comparison, the test undertaken at Silverstream which produced a slightly higher level of biodiversity. He noted this site had a higher level of nitrates. M Bate pointed out that he did not see one trout in this testing, and he would like to see improvements in health of the waterways and that this would in turn increase the biodiversity levels present.

There were no questions from the committee members. The Chair thanked M Bate for speaking to the committee.

### 3. **REPORTS**

The input of the public was valued by the Waimakariri Zone Committee, and to allow the public to ask questions on the reports presented, the Chairperson put the following recommendation.

Moved C Latham                      Seconded J Cooke

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee

- (a) **Agrees** that Sections 9.4 of the Standing Orders be suspended for items 3 and 4 to allow members of the public to ask questions prior to the item being moved.

**CARRIED**

#### 3.1 **Waimakariri Zone Delivery Team, Environment Canterbury – Update – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

Carys Marulli De Barletta (Land Management Advisor, ECan) provided an overview of the 2022/23 summer student programme run by ECan, and the Waimakariri fish screening and fish passage project she undertook. This was undertaken over a ten-week period. It involved assessing ECan structures that had undergone remediation across the region to identify any impact these were having on fish passage. There were also some assessments undertaken on structures on private land, to assess any impact on fish passage. This followed on from work done by previous summer students.

Councillor T Fulton enquired if there were barriers experienced by staff and/or students dealing with landowners. Carys said it was important to let landowners know that the study was looking at the river catchment, as a whole, and fish passage. Carys spoke on the fish passage tool assessment app, which was accessible for anyone to use. She had encouraged landowners or farmers to use this themselves.

Following a question from M Jolly on the structures that were surveyed, and how

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many needed remediation to enable better fish passage, Carys advised that a lot of sites studied were low risk, but some culverts on roadside did present barriers. She noted there were no trout caught during the survey.

Carys was thanked for her presentation.

N Theinhardt provided an update on the recent industrial wastewater spill and incident response in Saltwater Creek. She advised that it was currently not possible to get shellfish tested for contaminants in New Zealand, which was impacting the investigation into this incident. She would keep the committee informed on this investigation.

C Latham also provided an update from the Sefton Saltwater Creek Catchment Group, that Pattle Delamore Partners were assisting Daiken understand the impacts of the spill. The catchment group had provided some of their monitoring data to PDP. ECan and Daiken regularly test the main stem of Saltwater Creek and the catchment group tests a tributary spring. The catchment group also does observations upstream of the estuary and had taken photos there, just two days prior to the contamination spill.

Councillor Fulton asked what the official comment was on this situation, and it was confirmed that ECan's investigation was ongoing. Councillor C McKay noted the ECan website would be updated when further information was available. It was confirmed this was public record and these updates would continue to be circulated to the committee members.

M Bate asked if there had been any impact on the birdlife in the estuary, noting they would be eating shellfish. Though not able to be confirmed at the meeting, this was noted as a good consideration and would be followed up on.

J Schaap (ECan Land Management and Biodiversity Advisor) provided a brief update on the control of invasive plant pests for the protection of native plant species on the escarpment at White Rock. This included getting an abseiler to do weed control. He noted there were several at-risk plant species that live on this escarpment.

A second project highlighted was the plains dryland sites of kānuka in Canterbury, with J Schaap noting there were less than 200ha of kānuka forest sites left on the plains.

J Schaap also highlighted other projects that had been supported by the ECan Zone Delivery team. These included the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group using dogs for rat detection, Harts tongue fern eradication in a drain near the Eyre River Drain (the only known site of this in Canterbury). There were also a number of projects focused on woody weed control in Kaiapoi, and multiple sites throughout the district. They were also supporting the QEII Trust and landowners in retiring and covenanting land.

Councillor McKay enquired why Norway rats were the focus of the rat detection on the Rakahuri. J Schaap said it had been identified these were the main threat on this river.

Moved M Jolly                      Seconded E Harvie

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information taking into consideration the Committee's 2021/24 Acton Plan priorities.

**CARRIED**

**Facilitator, ECan)**

Z Smith (Principal Planning Advisor, ECan) was present via Teams and provided an update on the Plan Change 7 amendment and the next round of consultation for the Regional Policy Statement review.

Plan Change 7 had been made partially operative but there were still some provisions that were under appeal. The sub-regional chapters were fully operative.

The First round of engagement for the Regional Policy Statement, which had been completed, was quite high level. The second round would be more direct, involving more specific conversation, with face-to-face workshops and one on one conversations. They would be looking at opportunities to bring different types of stakeholders and community groups together to provide different perspectives and voices. The relationships that Zone Committees had developed with different groups would be beneficial to this next level of engagement. C Latham welcomed the opportunity for the Zone Committee to be involved in community consultation. M Griffin added the recommendation to have an afternoon session for this zone on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023. He would follow up with the ECan Planning Team to see if this was possible. Each Water Zone Committee would be able to provide some guidance and suggestions on the best way to do this. C Latham said members should be thinking about what community groups could be invited.

E Harvie asked if there was any update or information for landowners on what the implementation of Plan Change 7 would mean to them. Z Smith said she would talk to the appropriate staff involved and provide this information to the Committee members.

E Harvie also asked when information would be available on surface water takes and hydraulic water takes, and minimum flows required. Z Smith advised that there would be a paper going to Council later in the year seeking direction on prioritisation on when they could or should occur. It was pointed out that there were 2024 dates included in the Plan, setting the minimum flow for Ashley-Rakahuri and was there information available on what these dates would be. It was confirmed that this would be included in the report to ECan Council for their decision.

Moved E Harvie

Seconded Councillor Fulton

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information taking into consideration the Committee's 2021-2024 Action Plan and community engagement priorities.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (CWMS FACILITATOR, ECAN)**

##### **4.1 CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 – applications for projects now open.**

M Griffin highlighted the copy of the advert that was being used inviting applications for funding from the 2023-24 CWMS Waimakariri Action Plan budget. These were being placed in the North Canterbury News and Northern Outlook.

##### **4.2 Zone Committee Working Groups.**

###### **Biodiversity Working Group**

M Jolly spoke on the upcoming Environmental Awards, for which there had been nine nominations received. The Working Group will be assessing the applications shortly and decisions would be made for the three categories. These Awards would be presented in conjunction with the WDC Community Service Awards on 18 October.

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### **Lifestyle Block Working Group**

WDC Councillor N Mealings and M Griffin had arranged for 1100 Top Ten Tips pamphlets to be distributed with WDC rates notices.

A Biodiversity seminar was planned to be held in the Ohoka area in March 2024.

A Top Ten Tips event will be held with the Sefton Catchment area later this year, date still to be determined.

Copies of the Top Ten Tips brochure would be made available on the Counters at the Waimakariri District Council Service Centres.

There had been interest shown from other zone committees in this brochure and the benefit of having the information it provided in this format.

In addition to the brochure, C Latham advised that there was a link to a Lifestyle Block hub now available on the ECan website.

### **Monitoring Working Group -**

Erin Harvie took the report from the Waimakariri Landcare Trust as read. Councillor McKay commended the information provided in both the Next Generation Farming Milestone 12 Report and the Good Management document.

#### **4.3 Co-opting an advisory member onto the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee.**

M Griffin said having initially considered co-opting a former community member onto the committee (as discussed at the July Zone committee meeting), it was now considered that the committee was well positioned to be a hub for the network of community groups and stakeholders when facilitating the upcoming RPS Summit day. Consequently, the committee did not need to proceed with the co-opting option at this time. Regarding the format for these Summit workshops, M Griffin advised these would be reasonably structured, with a similar format across the region. The committee would have the opportunity to have input into how it was run in this district, and who should be invited. A Summit would be held in the Waimakariri district in either late October or November, with arrangements to be finalised in the coming weeks.

#### **4.4 Environment Canterbury Updates.**

Councillor McKay referred to the agenda papers and took these as read.

Referred to recommendation from the Water and Land Committee to the Council that the CWMS Regional Committee be discharged. This was agreed by ECan Council at its 25 October meeting. Council considered there was no longer the same role for this regional committee as there had been in the past, especially with more direction on freshwater management coming from central government.

Also relating to the CWMS Regional Committee, Councillor McKay noted the transition of the Fish Screens Technical Working Group. While the NIWA information provided is good, there was a lot more information required to get these fish screens working more efficiently. This had proven to be challenging for the Technical Working Group to advance, with a different context for each fish screen location. Consequently, the decision was made in October for this group to also be discharged.

Regular updates are provided to the Land and Water Committee from each of the Water Zones Committee. C Latham and E Harvie provided the Waimakariri update

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(via MS Teams) to the previous Land and Water Committee meeting on 30 August.

Two ECan reports were provided in full in the agenda to the committee on the annual groundwater quality survey (spring 2022), and the annual summary report on water quality for contact recreation (2022-23 season).

J Benn (DOC) provided his guidance on the CWMS Regional Committee now being discharged. In attending a large number of zone committee meetings across the region he had observed increasing isolation between the Zone Committees. J Benn suggested this had occurred as the Regional Committee ceased to meet regularly, and no longer included representatives from each zone committee. M Griffin responded that there was a possibility of re-instating the Zone Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs meetings in 2024, possibility meeting on a quarterly basis. Re-introducing these meetings would provide a connection between the committees, particularly in the absence of the CWMS Regional Committee.

C Latham suggested there could be invitations extended to members of other neighbouring zone committees, such as Christchurch West Melton and Selwyn Waihora, to attend a suitably focused workshop where members could have informal discussions.

Councillor McKay noted that there could be a review coming up of Zone Committees, and that the Mayoral Forum supported these until 2025. She added that with possible changes in central government, the future is a little uncertain.

#### 4.5 **Waimakariri District Council Updates.**

Councillor T Fulton spoke on two events he had recently attended - Food, Farming and Freshwater event, and the recent Wai Connection event held in Dunsandel, relating to sustainable water management. A lot of information provided at these related to themes and matters discussed at this meeting today. Councillor Fulton noted that having attended these two events, there was a lot of overlap in these two groups. Councillor Fulton asked if it would be beneficial to have some of these speakers come to the Zone Committee meetings, presenting to the committee and its networks? In response, M Griffin added that these groups were outside ECan and the Wai Connection team had now presented to a number of Zone Committees and had received a warmer reception in some areas than others. He added to Cr Fulton's update on the Wai Connection event in Dunsandel, noting he'd received positive feedback from several people who attended the day.

Action Point: Could there be an opportunity to bring one of these speakers to our Zone Committee meetings.

C Latham noted a point made at this event, that in 2026 the European Union will cease supporting the use of glyphosate. This would likely impact on its trading partners, including New Zealand.

Councillor Fulton spoke on the importance of the scientific work that had already been done on land and water programmes and that it remain visible.

Regarding the private well study – Councillor Fulton recently attended a WDC consultation round on proposed capital works in the Mandeville/Swannanoa area and observed the recurring questions from residents in these lifestyle communities were how safe their private wells were, are they deep enough, and what was the quality of the groundwater.

J Cooke enquired if it was known whether any part of the Revells Road property that the Council had recently purchased had been sectioned off. S Allen advised that the wetland area had been sectioned off, and there had been some interested parties in leasing the property, which would be approached as just a one-year lease.

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Following a question from C Latham, E Harvie spoke on the nitrate sensor project and advised that it was still intended to be available to support community testing days most likely in 2024. There was discussion on this matter, including the public education around taking of samples during different times, for example, when land was being irrigated. Committee members would be available to assist at the community drinking water testing days. The nitrate sensor would be hired over this time, which was more cost-effective way, for a short term lease, at a cost of approximately \$300 per week. These machines come calibrated and provide an accurate reading.

Councillor Fulton spoke on groundwater levels, noting that from information received, there was not a lot of correlation between the depth of ground water and the quality of the source of water to a public supply.

J Cooke commented that there was significant stress in the community, particularly with the impact of chlorinating of drinking water supplies. The cost of installing water filters was too much for some residents. Councillor Fulton acknowledged this but also noted that the Council didn't have any option in this situation.

#### 4.6 **Action Points from the previous Zone Committee Meetings.**

M Griffin had no further Action Points to add as from the previous meetings.

Moved C McKay

Seconded J Cooke

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information provided as part of the Committee Updates.

**CARRIED**

### 5. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

#### 5.1 **Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee Meeting – 3 July 2023**

Correction in the minutes noted by E Harvie, to correct the spelling of her surname, and on page 191 of the agenda, under 4.7 – “border security” should read “water security”.

Moved Councillor Fulton

Seconded E Harvie

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 3 July 2023, as a true and accurate record with the updates noted above.

**CARRIED**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Councillor McKay highlighted the recent Country Calendar programme which featured Makarini Rupene's activities as an ECan Pou Matai Ko / Cultural Land Advisor, and which several committee members had attended. This was an interesting episode and members

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were pleased to see their area featuring on national television.

C Latham spoke on the next significant events, the first being the Waimakariri District Council Community Service Awards function, which included the presentation of the Environmental Awards, being held in the Rangiora Town Hall on Wednesday 18 October. Later in the month, on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October, will be the second Regional Policy Statement community consultation workshop that the Zone Committee members will be supporting. The venue for this is still to be confirmed.

**KARAKIA**

Ruby Gill-Clifford provided a karakia to close the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee is scheduled for 6 November 2023 at 4pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.50pm.

CONFIRMED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson  
Carolyne Latham

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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