Waipuna/Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board Submissions Committee
OPEN MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 10 July 2019
Time: 12 noon
Venue: Koaro Room, Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre
       341 Halswell Road, Halswell

Present
Deputy Chairperson Ross McFarlane
Member Mike Mora

10 July 2019

Marie Byrne
Acting Manager Community Governance, Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton
941 6502
marie.byrne@ccc.govt.nz
www.ccc.govt.nz

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Part A  Matters Requiring a Council Decision
Part B  Reports for Information
Part C  Decisions Under Delegation

1.  Apologies

Committee Resolved HRSC/2019/00005
That the apologies received for absence from Helen Broughton, Catherine Chu, Natalie Bryden and Debbie Mora, be accepted.
Ross McFarlane/Mike Mora  Carried

2.  Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Committee Resolved HRSC/2019/00006
That pursuant to Standing Orders 3.5 (Temporarily Suspension of Standing Orders), the following Standing Orders be suspended to enable informal discussion regarding Agenda Item 3:
17.5 Members may speak only once.
18.1 General procedure for speaking and moving motions.
Ross McFarlane/Mike Mora  Carried

3.  Draft Integrated Water Strategy - Board Submission

The Committee considered the preparation of a Board submission on the Council’s Draft Integrated Water Strategy.
The Board’s proposed submission is included as Attachment A.

Staff Recommendations

That the Waipuna/Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board Submissions Committee resolve to:
1. Prepare a Board submission to the Christchurch City Council on its Draft Integrated Water Strategy.
2. Note that given the consultation timetable, the Submissions Committee has exercised its delegated authority to complete a submission on behalf of the Waipuna/Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board.

Resumption of Standing Orders

Committee Resolved HRSC/2019/00007

That the Standing Orders set aside above, be resumed.

Ross McFarlane/Mike Mora  
Carried

Committee Resolved HRSC/2019/00008

Part C

That the Waipuna/Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board Submissions Committee resolved to:

1. Confirm the Board submission to the Christchurch City Council on its Draft Integrated Water Strategy.

2. Note that given the consultation timetable, the Submissions Committee has exercised its delegated authority to complete a submission on behalf of the Waipuna/Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board.

Ross McFarlane/Mike Mora  
Carried

Meeting concluded at 1.56pm

CONFIRMED THIS 17TH DAY OF JULY 2019

ROSS MCFARLANE  
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON
1. INTRODUCTION

The Waipuna/Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board (the Board) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to the Council on the Draft Integrated Water Strategy.

The Board offers its general support for the Council’s intention of incorporating this Integrated Water Strategy as a key component in its strategic framework for the sustainable future management of water resources and the provision of related infrastructure.

The Board accepts the vision of ‘Water for Life’ as being at the heart of the city’s future sustainability, growth and prosperity.

However the vulnerabilities as flagged in the draft Strategy around groundwater source contamination e.g. nitrates, is a strong predictive warning about what could lie ahead.

From the Board’s perspective, this is a real concern for us all.

The Board records its support for the Council’s endeavours and decisions made over water-related issues.¹

The Board wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

2. SUBMISSION

The Board’s feedback generally follows the format of the online submission form:

Do you agree or disagree with the vision and guiding principles for managing the three waters? (sections 3 and 4)

The Board agrees with the proposed vision and guiding principles noting that the draft Strategy ‘primarily considers matters over which we and/or the local community can manage or influence.’

Do you agree or disagree with the key strategic issues facing management of the three waters in Christchurch? (section 5)

Further to the introductory comments above, the Board’s highest ranked strategic issue is unquestionably the vulnerability of Christchurch’s groundwater sources to contamination, specifically from nitrate incursion (Clause 5.3, page 11).

¹ Refer Appendix One – Excerpts from Christchurch City Council decisions
The wording used in the key issue section (page 11) articulates very well the Board’s shared concerns.

In relation to flooding and flood management (Clause 5.7, page 13), the Board is most appreciative of the Council’s ongoing programme of investing in flood management areas and devices such as retention basins, wetlands and swales that help in providing built solutions for integrated flood and water management.

The growth and urban intensification in the southwest remains ongoing so to have this staged programme of budgeted work happening in this growing area of Christchurch is so important.

Alongside this capital works programme is the Board’s request, most recently expressed in its submission on the Annual Plan 2019-20, that matched maintenance budgets for these assets needs to be provided for in the Council’s Long Term and Annual Plans.

While the use of drainage swales is now common practice, the Board does by example, want to draw attention to a situation evident in Murphys Road near its intersection with Quaifes Road in Halswell.

The photographs in Appendix Two are of a swale outside the Sevenoaks School that takes surface water runoff from Murphys Road and some of the stormwater discharge from the nearby Clovenden subdivision. Immediately next to the swale are fresh water springs being the commencement of the Quaifes Drain Number 1 network.2

The Board questions the functionality and effectiveness of this particular swale given the strong likelihood that contaminants will discharge into a pristine waterway.

Whilst consented for (refer below link), the Board does question whether this example can in any way represent best practice and feels the Council can do better here given its regulatory responsibilities for subdivision consenting and associated design approvals.

[link](https://api.ecan.govt.nz/TrimPublicAPI/documents/download/1628080)

Clause 5.11 on page 16 (Infrastructure efficiency and resilience) talks of ‘a need to further develop a proactive risk-based approach to asset management that balances affordability for the ratepayer against the cost of managing the asset risk.’

and

‘a need to look at environmental infrastructure that provides additional services in relation to flood management, stormwater retention and treatment.....’. The key issue section makes reference to ‘..... innovative solutions are required to improve efficient use and renewal of infrastructure.’

As indicated above, while the Board fully welcomes the ongoing investment in land drainage infrastructure, it feels there are also real opportunities available to integrate additional service features into these utility spaces.

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2 Refer Appendix Two - Photograph attachments

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As an example, the Board points to Halswell Road/State Highway 75 (Hendersons Road to Milns Road, south side) where urban development is underway alongside the areas of the Council’s land drainage sites.

The Board suggests an innovative solution here is to integrate a ‘park and ride’ facility for commuters alongside the planned public transport interchange at the Key Activity Centre at Halswell Commons.

In the Board’s view, such a facility would greatly help to ease the traffic growth on the Lincoln Road/Halswell Road corridor into and from the central city.

An example of such compatible infrastructure is the Hibiscus Coast busway station currently under development as part of Auckland Transport’s Northern Busway Extension where stormwater runoff is proposed to be managed by the use of wet ponds.³

The existing network of transmission corridors and adjacent land areas throughout the city does in the Board’s view, offer additional scope for providing these types of utility areas in partnership with other agencies and asset owners.

Also in clause 5.11, the Board again notes and supports the Council’s stated ‘commitment to local control over three waters services integrated with all other community services’.

**Do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives? (sections 6 and 7)**

Yes, the Board generally agrees with the proposed goals and objectives.

Clause 7.1 Objective 1: Awareness and engagement on page 21 (Current situation) mentions that:

‘Residential properties pay targeted rates for the three water services but these charges are not specifically shown on the rates bill. The typical public perception is that the supply of drinking water is virtually free and unlimited.’

The Board generally supports the suggested approaches set out on pages 21 and 22 of the draft Strategy.

With regard to changing the water services charging structure (page 22, point 4), the Board had contrasting views and could not reach a consensus.

Separately, the Board has noted with interest the situation in relation to the Kapiti District Council on volumetric metering and pricing, as identified in a 2018 report from the Office of the Auditor General.⁴

In relation to Clause 7.5 Objective 6 and 7: Flood risk and flood management and adaptation, the Board provides extracts from Plan Change 60 Living G (Halswell West Zone) taken from the former District Plan.⁵

The Board agrees with the narrative therein and would appreciate knowing whether these same or like provisions, were incorporated into the now operative Christchurch District Plan.

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³ Refer Appendix Two - Diagram attachment
⁴ Refer Appendix Three – Managing the supply of and demand for drinking water
⁵ Refer Appendix Four – Plan Change 60 Living G (Halswell West Zone)
Of the Goals (section 6) to achieve the strategic vision, the Board views Goal 2 (Water quality and ecosystems are protected and enhanced) and Goal 4 (Water is managed in sustainable and integrated way…) to be particularly important.

The Board draws to attention that on page 25 (Current situation) there is comment of the highly urbanised catchments of the Avon and Heathcote Rivers whereas the Halswell catchment, with its own high levels of urban intensification already occurring, is not mentioned. The Board asks that this be recognised and added to the text.

On page 31, clause 7.6 Objective 8: Sustainable wastewater systems, reference is made that ‘Wastewater treatment and disposal needs for the Christchurch metropolitan area have been addressed for the next 20 years at least’.

Given the fundamental strategic importance of the city’s wastewater treatment and collection infrastructure, the Board does have a concern that 20 years is such a short time remaining to have to arrive at a new treatment solution as well as recognising the considerable cost impost that such provision will have on the whole community.

In clause 7.7 on page 33 (Objectives 9 and 10), the Board again notes the reference made to ‘Recent groundwater monitoring and modelling has found that groundwater from deeper aquifers north of the Waimakariri River can travel under the river and into the deeper Christchurch aquifer. This is a concern due to the rising nitrate levels in groundwater in the Waimakariri zone’.

This stated concern by every measure, is shared by the Board. Public statements on this issue made by the Canterbury Medical Officer of Health, Dr Alistair Humphrey, simply reinforce how serious this future risk is for Christchurch.5

On page 34, in relation to quarrying for gravel extraction it mentions restrictions on excavation and filling below groundwater level.

The Board continues to message its real concerns about this issue particularly in relation to having a lack of confidence over the control and monitoring frameworks for backfilling and rehabilitation of these excavated areas located over our unconfined aquifers.

Also of shared concern to the Board is the mention made of the ‘Further risk being the longer term potential for groundwater levels to rise with the completion of large scale irrigation schemes on the Canterbury Plains. This could result in contact with possible contaminated backfill already in place in excavations that were at the time of excavation above the highest recorded groundwater level….’

Do you agree or disagree with the recommendations for achieving the aim and vision for managing the three waters? (section 7)

The Board agrees with the contents mentioned but as articulated by the Council in its draft Strategy, would also be extremely concerned if the control of Three Waters services was to be taken away.

Overall do you support the direction of the Draft Integrated Water Strategy?

The Board generally supports the direction of the proposed strategy which when implemented will provide the much needed strategic framework to guide the Council’s future works programmes and budget settings.

5Video link Dr Alistair Humphrey, Canterbury Medical Officer of Health. https://frankfilm.co.nz/
The pivotal issue for the city’s future security and wellbeing is a plea for the Council to continue to be proactive to ensure protection of our renowned aquifers from contamination.

**Do you have any other comments?**

The Board notes with interest that the Selwyn District Council (SDC) operates an Asset Management Plan based on Five Waters, these being: water, wastewater, storm water, land drainage and water races.

The Board and the Council has been represented on the SDC’s Water Race Subcommittee for many years and the importance of the Selwyn/Paparua Water Race Networks in terms of its value to Christchurch, is noted and acknowledged.

Some of the recognised key benefits of the network include flow augmentation for the Halswell, Heathcote and Avon headwater catchments and tributaries, natural flora and fauna amenity values, and the ready access to the race network for firefighting.\(^7\)

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**Mike Mora**  
Chairperson  
Waipuna/Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board

10 July 2019

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\(^7\) Refer Appendix Five - Paparua Water Race Network Map [www.selwyn.govt.nz](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz)
Appendix One – Excerpts taken from Christchurch City Council Decisions

(CNCL:2018/00319, 13 December 2018)

3. Advise Environment Canterbury that the Council remains totally committed to the long term security of the city’s drinking water supply.

4. Agree that the Council will make a submission to any proposed change to the Canterbury Land and Water Management Plan outlining the Council’s support for measures to reduce the likelihood of nitrates entering the aquifers that supply Christchurch with its water.

(CNCL:2019/00065, 11 April 2019)

2. Invite the Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker for a discussion on water issues as a follow up to the Water Forum discussions held on 15 February 2019.

3. Write to the Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker to request that work on the National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water be hastened and broadened to include both the quality and quantity of drinking water, particularly for groundwater resources.

4. Continue to engage with Environment Canterbury Councillors on an urgent plan change to a more clearly defined groundwater allocation regime for Christchurch West-Melton as soon as possible.

(CNCL:2019/00065, 11 April 2019)

2. Invite the Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker for a discussion on water issues as a follow up to the Water Forum discussions held on 15 February 2019.

3. Write to the Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker to request that work on the National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water be hastened and broadened to include both the quality and quantity of drinking water, particularly for groundwater resources.

(CNCL:2019/00099, 23 May 2019)

2. Request that the Working Group make clear that the strategy addresses the key priorities below:

   a. A clear objective of our water strategy be to maintain our water free form chlorination

   b. Maintaining control of three waters be an integral part of the City Council structure and that the Council will oppose any removal of those functions from the City Council.

   c. The protection from pollutants and especially the leaching of nitrates under the Waimakariri and that our objective be to ensure that the nitrate level not be allowed to increase above 0.4mg/L.

(CNCL:2019/00118, 13 June 2019)

4. Request staff provide advice on the nitrate incursion issue as part of the Water Supply Strategic Plan 2019-29.
Appendix Two – Photographs and Diagrams

Murphys Road – Land Drainage Swale

Quaifes Drain Number 1 at Murphys Road/Quaifes Road intersection

Planned Hibiscus Coast busway station - Auckland Transport’s Northern Busway Extension
Appendix Three – Managing the supply of and demand for drinking water
(Source - Office of the Auditor General Publication Kapiti District Council)

Kāpiti Coast District Council found that alternative water supplies (such as grey water and rain water) reduced the drinking water used by residential consumers by about 30 per cent.

Alternative supplies also have a role in increasing community resilience when an emergency affects usual drinking water supply.

Of all ratepayers in the district, 75 per cent pay less for water than they would if the Council had stayed with its previous approach of charging for water supply. KCDC estimates that its approach has deferred the need for a new dam by about 40 years.

Peak daily water use is what drives the need for capacity upgrades in the system supplying the drinking water. Peak daily water use decreased by about 25% in the two years after universal metering was put in place.

- About 20 per cent was saved by fixing leaks on private property and lateral pipes, which surprised the Council because it had assumed that leaks were on other parts of the network.
  The Council now has a proactive laterals renewal programme.
- About 5 per cent was saved by consumers using less water.

Based on a range of factors, including reductions in water use and wastewater discharges, water use reduced by an average of 21 per cent. Estimates of reduced water consumption included reduction in dry-weather wastewater volumes of between 5 per cent and 8 per cent.

Each year, KCDC produces a water conservation report that discusses how it has met its water use target, the work done to manage water use and leakage on the public and private parts of the network, and planned water conservation work for the next financial year. The report fulfils a resource consent condition, but has greater value than merely meeting compliance requirements.

Appendix Four – Former District Plan re Plan Change 60 - Living G (Halswell West Zone)

Extract One - 11.12.1 Blue Network Policies – Living G (Halswell West Zone) (Pg 9-10)

11.12.1A To provide an integrated approach for stormwater attenuation, incorporating stormwater treatment and peak discharge attenuation which reflects both sound engineering and environmental sensitivity. The integrated solution reflects a connected surface water conveyance drainage network as shown on the Blue Network Layer Diagram.

11.12.1B To create high value amenity areas by using low engineered solutions, resulting in an aesthetically pleasing environment through a programme of indigenous vegetation and enhancement of existing watercourses. All three watercourses on the site, 10 which form part of the stormwater network, are to be integral components of the open space network.

11.12.1C To create a clear drainage strategy that will focus on the collection, storage and movement of water in a sustainable manner that is both beneficial to the local ecology and educational for the community.

11.12.1D To ensure that the stormwater system is designed in a manner that recognises and provides for Ngai Tahu cultural values, and in particular the enhancement of water quality and ecological values associated with Knights Stream and Qualles Drain. Explanation and Reasons Effective stormwater management also has the potential to be an integral component of the overall development of the site, enhancing the natural environment, natural ecology, and Ngai Tahu cultural values, as well as landscape and recreational opportunities.

Extract Two - 6C Rules – Living

Section 6.c.2.24 – Collection of Roof Rainwater (pg 22)

Each residential unit located on a site of 650m2 or larger shall incorporate means of collecting rainwater for use within the site.

Extract Three - 8 – Reasons for Rules (Pg 42)

8.1.38 Collection of Roof Rainwater In the Living G (Halswell West) Zone the requirement for rainwater collection on sites of 650m2 or larger is a sustainability measure aimed at reducing the stormwater contribution from larger dwellings on sites which with associated impervious surfaces (driveways and paved areas) will generate proportionally more runoff than dwellings on Density A and B Sites. This is also in keeping with the requirement for commercial buildings. The storage and use of collected rainwater also potentially reduces demands on reticulated water and provides an alternative water source in times of emergency. Reduction of stormwater discharges and demands on surface and groundwater sources supports tangata whenua values.
