

**Three Waters Infrastructure and Environment
Committee
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS**

Date: Wednesday 6 April 2022
Time: 9.33am
Venue: via audio/visual link

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE RANGIORA
SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2021 AT
3.30PM.**

PRESENT

Michael Blackwell (Chairperson) Erin Harvie, Carolyne Latham, Wendy Main, Judith Roper-Lindsay, John Cooke (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), Arapata Reuben (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), and Councillor Sandra Stewart (WDC Councillor).

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor P Redmond (WDC Councillor), Councillor G Edge (ECan Councillor), M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident), R Johnston (Oxford Farmer), J Ensor (Mandeville Resident), D Hill (North Canterbury News) and J Benn (Department of Conservation).

S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), D Lewis (WDC Land Drainage Engineer), A Arps (ECan Zone Manager), K Whitwell (ECan Principal Communications and Engagement Advisor), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitation Team Leader) and T Kunkel (WDC Governance Team Leader).

KARAKIA

M Griffin provided the karakia to open the meeting.

1 BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies

Moved: E Harvie Seconded: A Reuben

Apologies were received and sustained from Martha Jolly and Councillor Megan Hands (ECan Councillor) for absence.

CARRIED

1.2 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed all the members present and requested members and attendees to introduce themselves to the members of the public in attendance.

1.3 Register of Interests

E Harvie advised that she had been appointed as the Lead Co-ordinator for the Waimakariri Landcare Trust and she was now also a full member of the New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management. She therefore requested that the Register of Interests be updated accordingly.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

2.1 M Bate – Kaiapoi Resident

M Bate showed various photos of dead trees and new growth in the Lineside Road Drain, Courtney Steam, and Kaiapoi River (near the Askeaton Boat ramp) area. He noted that if the trees had died due to saltwater intrusion, there would not be any regeneration or new trees growing in these areas. Also, some of the dead trees were not close enough to the waterways to be effected by saltwater intrusion. He therefore believed that the trees had been poisoned by the spraying of chemicals.

J Roper-Lindsay questioned when the older trees had died, she asked if it was possible that the 2011 earthquake could have caused a surge in saltwater intrusion thus killing the trees. She noted that the killing of the trees by spraying chemicals would mean that the spraying had to have occurred on a regular basis over a long period of time, and it was unclear who would have done this. She therefore suggested that the possibility should be investigated that the trees died due to the occurrence of a natural event.

M Bate noted that the saltwater intrusion was still occurring annually, if the trees had therefore died due to saltwater intrusion, there would be no new trees growing in these areas. He therefore maintained that the trees had been poisoned over an extended period of time by the consistent spraying of chemicals along the waterways.

M Bate also tabled a notice that appeared in the local newspaper that listed the various rivers in the Canterbury Region that were scheduled to be sprayed in 2022. The notice also listed the chemicals to be used such as glyphosate, triclopyr, metsulfuron, etc. He noted that the food chain was continuously being poisoned and the biodiversity along the waterways was declining each year.

M Bate expressed his dismay with the spraying for weed control done by ECan between the Ashley Gorge and the Okuku River confluence. Although the undergrowth in this part of the river was not indigenous, it at least provided some biodiversity and assisted with the controlling of flooding.

In conclusion, he noted that the birds were being blamed for the deterioration of the Lineside Road Drain. However, the fact that the drain had been sprayed with chemical for the last 20-years was not being taken into consideration.

A Reuben advised that Ngāi Tūāhuriri also objected to the use of the Sodium fluoroacetate, and other chemicals, due to their effect on the natural environment. The effect of the chemicals could be observed in sharp rise in illnesses that modern communities were struggling with. He further noted that the Christchurch West Melton Water Zone Committee was able to persuade the Christchurch City Council not to use chemicals around public open spaces.

J Roper-Lindsay enquired if the Waimakariri District Council also had a Global Spraying Plan. S Allen confirmed that the Council had a holistic weed control plan. However, she advised that the notices that appeared in local newspaper usually listed all the areas that may need weed control in the next year. She clarified this was a generic notice, and did not mean that all the areas listed would actually be sprayed.

2.2 R Johnston – Oxford Farmer

R Johnston enquired if there had been any process made with the exploratory drilling to establish the relationship between the Christchurch Aquifer System and groundwater sources north of the Waimakariri River. He noted with concern that the winter feed crop restrictions contained in Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan were based on the relationship to the Christchurch aquifers. However, R Johnston's inquiry on this matter suggests it would now seem that the connection was not based on proven fact, but rather on opinion. He therefore believed that the public was led astray on this matter, as the possibility of contamination of the Christchurch Aquifer System by the Waimakariri District's groundwater was very small.

R Johnston also raised a point regarding the zoning colour coding used for parts of the Waimakariri District in the Plan Change 7 maps, as it was no true indication of the ground coverage in the district. He further also believed that the Ashley/Rakahuri River should not have been sprayed for weed control, as a more forceful approach was needed to ensure effective results.

In conclusion, R Johnston again invited the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee members to visit his property to look at the damage that the Ashley/Rakahuri River had done to the river frontage of his property. He noted that the river protection work done at his property frontage had survived the recent flood event in May 2021. However, it directed the water downstream and caused destruction further down the river.

2.3 **J Ensor – Mandeville Residents**

J Ensor believed that the Council had successfully managed the nitrates in the Waimakariri District's water supply and the maintenance of its water infrastructure, thereby ensuring the high quality of its drinking water. He expressed a concern that ECan and the Council would not have control of the district's water supplies under the proposed Three Waters Reform. He therefore questioned if the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee would play a role in the monitoring of water standards after the proposed reform.

M Blackwell advised that the Three Waters Reform was outside the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee's brief. Councillor S Stewart confirmed the matter was being dealt with by the Council.

3. **REPORTS**

3.1 **ZIPA Implementation – First Quarterly Update 2021/22 – S Allen (WDC, Water Environment Advisor) and M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, Ecan)**

M Griffin and S Allen took the report as read.

A Reuben sought clarity on the matrix used by Council staff to classify priority indigenous habitats for protection and enhancement. S Allen noted that the Council was using a matrix adapted from ECan's criteria for Significant Natural Areas (SNA) for the District Plan review.

A Reuben noted that Ngāi Tūāhuriri's views may differ on what should be considered a priority. J Roper-Lindsay explained that cultural, historical and educational values were excluded from the ECan criteria to ensure a matrix based solely based on ecological and biodiversity values.

In response to questions, S Allen advised that, based on past experience, the sampling being undertaken to test the nitrate limits in private wells would only be completed by end of November 2021. It was envisaged that a report on the results of the study would be available in February 2022. She noted that the Council had been advised that all results of private well testing must be submitted to the Ministry of Health and eventually to Taumata Arowai. It was hoped that more information on the state of private well supplies would become available as more data was collated by the Ministry of Health.

Councillor S Stewart requested additional information on the work being done by ECan in defining the boundaries of Private Supply Well Areas. S Allen undertook to ensure that the information was provided as part of the next quarterly update.

Councillor S Stewart also asked for additional information on the realignment of tributary of North Brook and the sampling at Tūtaepatu Lagoon. M Griffin undertook to ensure that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee was updated on these matters.

J Roper- Lindsay noted that she was also interested in the results of the sampling at Tūtaepatu Lagoon. She suggested that the General Manager of the Tūhaitara Coastal Park, Greg Byrnes, be invited to update the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee on the general health of the park.

