

Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone and Regional Committee Paper

Report to	Lower Waitaki South Coast Canterbury Zone Committee
Date of meeting	18 March 2020
Subject matter	Enhancing CWMS Implementation: Role of CWMS Water Management Committees
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Action	For information and discussion

Purpose – Zone Committee Feedback

1. To inform and seek initial input from Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Regional and Zone Committees on work underway to ascertain how empowered zone committees can continue to promote community engagement and support the ongoing implementation of the CWMS.

Guidance Sought

2. CWMS committee views are sought on the role zone committees are best placed to play to support CWMS implementation (zone committee function), and how committees can be best supported to fulfil this function (zone committee form).
3. Time will be allocated to allow committee discussion and gather initial feedback from the zone committee on this topic in March and April 2020.

Introduction

4. The CWMS was adopted by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in 2009 as a multi-generational strategy to provide for community engagement and collaboration in managing the region's freshwater. The CWMS committees are an essential part of this strategy, as recently endorsed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (see more in paragraph 7).
5. The current zone committee terms of reference focus efforts on facilitating community involvement in the development, implementation, review and updating of a Zone Implementation Programme (ZIPs) and monitoring the implementation of those programmes. Zone committees have also been at the centre of community engagement as part of the sub-regional Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan process, and (for some committees) the associated development of a ZIP Addendum (ZIPA). Additional functions include the allocation of Environment Canterbury's Immediate Steps Biodiversity funding (IMS), and encouraging, supporting and championing a

wide variety of practical projects within each zone, and using your networks within local communities to drive such projects forward.

6. The CWMS Committees' 2019 Annual Reports will soon be presented to Environment Canterbury and all the Territorial Authorities. Environment Canterbury thanks all committee members for your contributions to the impressive array of activities found in these reports; many examples of the activities described in the paragraph above.
7. Over the past decade, with zone committees leading community engagement, the policy, political and social context has changed considerably. Some of these changes include (from most recent):
 - Further central government direction via the Essential Freshwater Package is due in mid-2020, with likely implications for regional planning frameworks
 - Environment Canterbury now has fully democratically elected councillors
 - Ngāi Tahu/Iwi freshwater rights and interests are increasingly on the national agenda.
 - The regulatory framework in Canterbury has been progressively established
 - The establishment of new CWMS 2025 and 2030 intermediary goals across all ten target areas (adopted by the Mayoral Forum in May 2019 as part of the 'Fit for the Future' project). This project also identified a series of strategic implementation matters requiring consideration to ensure the ongoing successful implementation of the CWMS¹
8. In summary, after ten years of CWMS implementation it is timely that a reconsideration of the zone committees' function and form for the next decade of freshwater management is undertaken. This has been reflected at some recent committee meetings and at the Chair/Deputy Chair annual meetings.

Your Feedback on Empowering next generation Zone Committees

9. The following questions are provided to guide your feedback on the next decade for Zone Committees. These initial questions are focused on the following themes:
 - Zone Committee function (role)
 - Zone Committee form – how committees can fulfil these roles

Zone Committee function (role)

10. Possible future aspects of committee function have been identified as:

- a) **Community engagement** – continuing an active programme of engaging with communities on freshwater management matters and facilitating the provision of advice through to and from councils and others engaged in freshwater management
- b) **Enhancing the delivery approach - CWMS Implementation – making the boat go faster** – e.g. the role of committees in seeking ways to extend resources available, bring in other parties, leveraging and additional investment etc
- c) **“Coalition of the willing”**, i.e. zone committee role in supporting and encouraging those who are doing good work, for example – bringing people together and making connections e.g. supporting catchment-based initiatives in the future
- d) **Setting direction through ZIPs/ZIPAs** - consideration of their role in priority setting and in responding to the Essential Freshwater Package requirements and associated zone committee role
- e) **Monitoring and measuring progress** including matauranga Māori and State of the Takiwa monitoring.

11. Your input is sought on the following questions related to Zone Committee role:

- a) What is the role that zone committees are best placed at playing to support the implementation of the CWMS?
- b) What aspects of your current role are challenging and require more support?
- c) If your role was to change, how could councils support committees to
 - a) understand your new role and b) fulfil your new role

Zone Committee form – how committees can fulfil these roles

12. Clarity on the role of zone committees will lead to further assessment of any changes required to enable this role to be fulfilled.

13. An early assessment based on committee viewpoints to date and discussions with Environment Canterbury councillors and staff, and CWMS rūnanga representatives, indicates a number of areas where improvements could be made:

- a) Processes used for setting priorities
- a) Potential use of zone committee Action Plans or work plans to help progress priorities each year

- b) Enhanced support for rūnanga representatives
- c) Improving aspects of committee membership, appointment and recruitment processes, and training/support
- d) Consideration of meeting frequency and logistics
- e) Careful consideration of committee involvement in planning processes

14. Your input is sought on the following questions related to Zone Committee form:

- b) What aspects of current CWMS committee processes do you wish to retain and why?
- c) What form/process improvements are required to help committees support the implementation of the CWMS?

Timeframes, opportunities for input and next steps

- 15. The CWMS Facilitators and Chairs/Deputy Chairs will enable each committee time to discuss this and provide feedback in March and April (the process may be different for each depending on workshop and meeting agendas timeframes).
- 16. This will not be the only opportunity to express your views on the topic of your role – other opportunities include the Watershed event (for all CWMS committee members in June) following the Mayoral Forums consideration of initial advice in May. Details on further opportunities for input following Watershed will be clarified once direction from the Mayoral Forum has been confirmed.
- 17. In May 2020, as requested by the Mayoral Forum, Environment Canterbury will take high-level advice on potential changes to the form and function of CWMS to the Chief Executives Forum and Mayoral Forum. The development of this advice will be informed by conversations with, and feedback from, zone committees, and Rūnanga representatives in March and April 2020.