

The Ashburton zone committee is one of 10 zone committees established throughout Canterbury in 2010 under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

The zone committee operates as a joint committee of Environment Canterbury and the Ashburton District Council.

The committee works collaboratively to develop an effective water management implementation programme in consultation with the local community.

The programme includes strategies, tactics and activities to give effect to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy's principles and targets.

The Ashburton Zone extends from the Rakaia River to the Rangitata River and includes Ashburton, Rakaia and Methven.



Committee member Ben Curry explains the intricacies of the Rangitata Diversion Race system to Ashburton zone committee members.

Activities and actions

Since forming, the Ashburton Zone Committee has had numerous meetings, field trips and presentations to bring it up to speed on the water resource in the zone.

The committee is charged with developing a water management plan that will provide future generations with social and economic benefits from the region's water.

In late July more than 100 people attended public meetings in the Ashburton district to discuss water management priorities for the zone. The feedback from these meetings helped the committee develop its draft Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP).

The draft ZIP recommends actions, responsibilities and time-frames for activities to help achieve the principles, targets and goals set out in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS). It includes recommendations on four key priority areas; Hakatere / Ashburton River, ecosystem health and biodiversity, water quality, and water quantity.

A draft ZIP was made available for public feedback in September and around 60 people turned up to public meetings to discuss the recommendations. The feedback from these meetings will help form the final ZIP that was received by Ashburton District Council and Environment Canterbury in December.

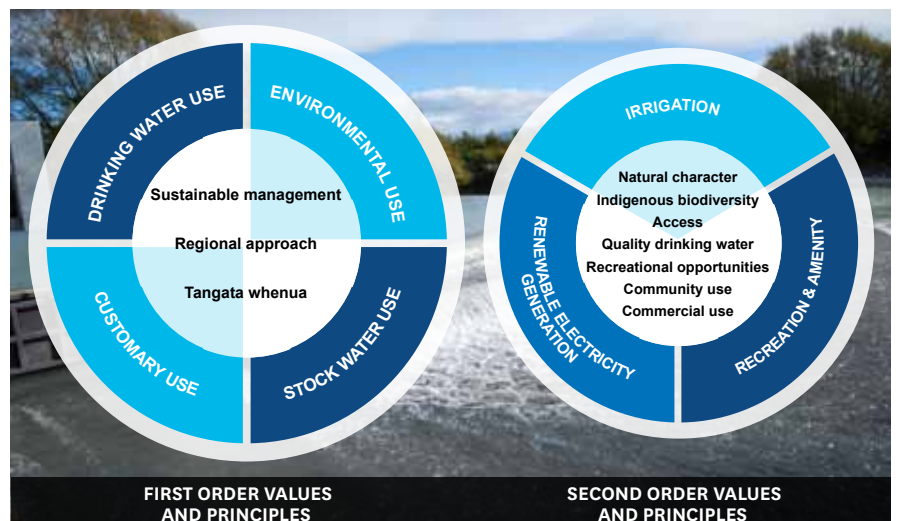
Targets

The committees are working to achieve the wide-ranging set of targets agreed as part of the development of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

The targets have ten broad areas and set goals for the coming five years, as well as setting milestones in 10 years and 30 years. The targets cover:

- Ecosystem health and biodiversity
- Braided rivers and natural character
- Kaitiakitanga
- Drinking water
- Recreational use and amenity opportunities
- Water-use efficiency
- Irrigated land area
- Energy security and efficiency
- Regional and national economies
- Environmental limits

The value the community places on water



January 2012

Ashburton Zone Committee



The Ashburton Zone Committee comprises:

Community members:

Chair: Matthew Hall, Councillor Central South Island Fish & Game Council, chartered accountant

Deputy Chair: Greg Roadley, Director Glenroy Community Irrigation Company, dairy and arable farmer

Ben Curry, Chief Executive Rangitata Diversion Race Management

Donna Field, Chair Whitcombe Landcare Group and sheep/beef farmer

Sheryl Stevens, member NZ Waste Advisory Board, organic farmer

Gordon Guthrie, Electricity Ashburton General Manager, cattle stud farmer at Winchmore

Rūnanga representatives: Arapata Reuben (Tūāhuiriri)
Karl Russell (Arowhenua)
Terrianna Smith (Taumutu)

Environment Canterbury appointment: Commissioner David Caygill

Ashburton District Council appointment: Neil Brown

Council Support Staff:

Environment Canterbury Director: Don Rule – Director Resource Planning & Consents

Zone Facilitator: Barbara Nicholas

Immediate Steps to protect biodiversity

The zone committee is also responsible for local implementation of the Immediate Steps Biodiversity programme.

Immediate Steps is a new \$10 million programme for biodiversity which is being introduced as part of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

The programme has an initial five year focus and will cover the protection of endangered species and waahi taonga (sacred sites). Immediate Steps also covers maintenance of Canterbury's braided rivers, providing habitat for native flora and fauna, as well as protecting wetlands and other ecosystems.

Zone Committee contacts:

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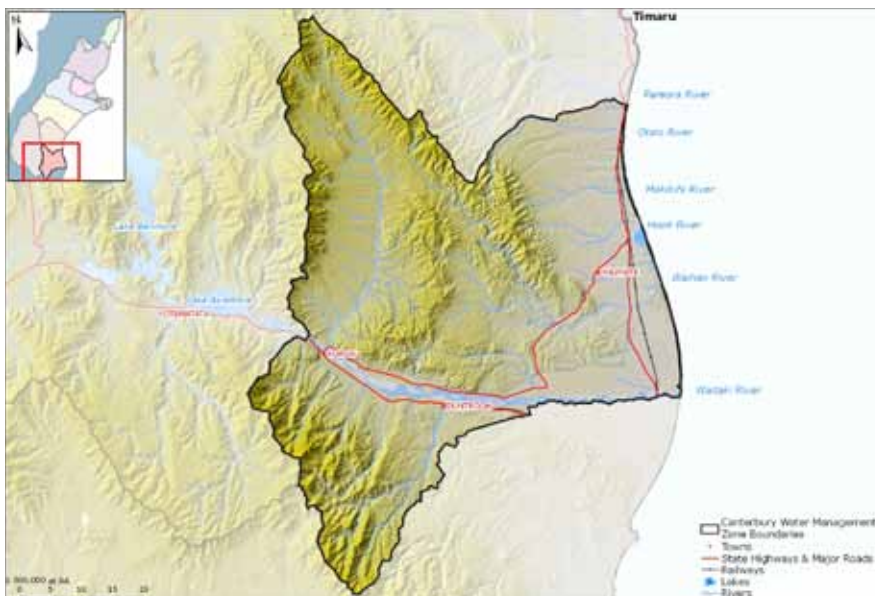
Email: rachel.puentener@ecan.govt.nz

www.ecan.govt.nz/canterburywater

Committee meetings

A schedule of meetings is available at www.ecan.govt.nz/canterburywater

Zone Committee meetings are open to the public.



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