

The Christchurch-West Melton zone committee is the final of one of 10 zone committees to be established throughout Canterbury under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

The formation of the zone committee was delayed due to the Christchurch earthquake on 22 February. Since its launch in October, the committee has met twice to begin bringing itself up-to-speed with water issues in the zone.

The committees work collaboratively to develop effective water management implementation programmes 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 Christchurch-West Melton zone committee is a joint committee of Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council and the Selwyn District Council.



Members of the Christchurch - West Melton Zone Committee learn about the Avon River/Ōtakaro as part of an orientation field trip.

### Activities and actions

The members of the Christchurch-West Melton Zone Committee have been announced meaning all ten Canterbury Water zone committees are now operational.

The zone committee is a joint committee of Christchurch City and Selwyn District councils, and Environment Canterbury. It features six community members as well as three Rūnanga representatives and three from council.

The role of the committee is to make consensus based decisions about water management in the zone. It will meet each month to learn about the water resource in the zone and engage with community members to get their feedback.

The end goal of the committee is to develop a set of water management recommendations that will be submitted to councils in the form of a Zone Implementation Programme.

At its November meeting the zone committee received a presentation from Rūnanga members of the committee and review the state of the water resource.

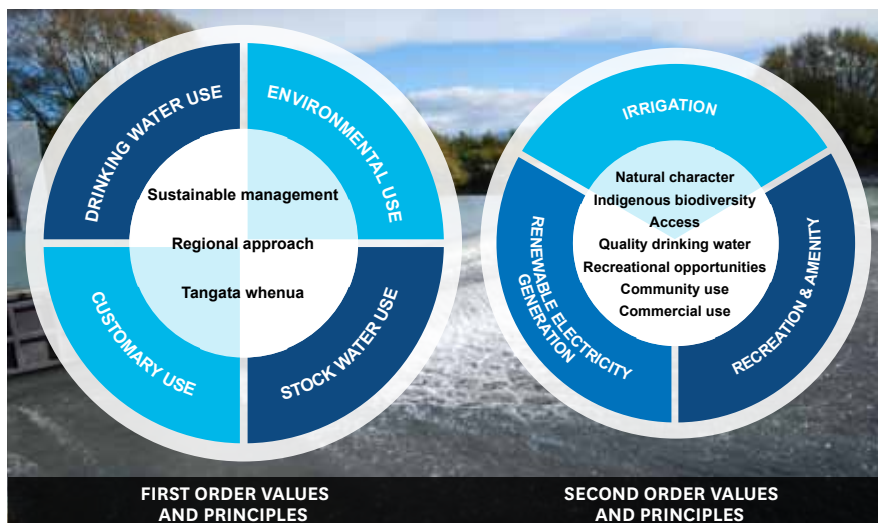
### Targets

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



**The Christchurch-West Melton Zone Committee comprises:**

**Community members:**

**Ann Winstanley** is a Senior Scientist / Sociologist with the Institute of Environmental Science and Research.

**Deidre Francis** comes from a farming background and is a Resource Management Planner by profession.

**Hugh Thorpe** is a private consultant with 34 years experience in groundwater. He has also been involved with hydropower design, tertiary teaching and government policy.

**Ian Fox** is currently President of the White Water Canoe Club, and frequently kayaks on the Waimakariri River and other waterways.

**Jon Harding** is an Associate Professor of Freshwater Ecology at the University of Canterbury. He has more than 20 years experience with freshwater issues.

**Robert Wynn-Williams** is a professional agriculturalist and agronomist. He was a member of the Lincoln University Council for a number of years, and is a keen angler.

**Herena Stone** (Rāpaki), of Kāti Wheke, Kāi Tahu is currently an Executive member of her Rūnaka, a company Director and a Trustee for several land Trusts.

**Arapata Reuben** (Tūāhuriri) has strong historical ties with Christchurch waterways and is currently employed with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as the Kāiarahi Whakapapa in the Whakapapa Unit.

**Craig Pauling** (Te Taumutu) has been involved in a number of ecological restoration projects in Canterbury and represents the six Mid-Canterbury Rūnanga on the CWMS Regional Committee.

**Rex Williams** is the Chancellor of Canterbury University, chair of H W Richardson Group and an Environment Canterbury Commissioner. He has more than 30 years experience in senior management positions and has served on a number of boards.

**Cr Sally Buck** has been a City Councillor and Community Board member since 1998. She is a qualified RMA commissioner.

**Cr Debra Hasson** has been a Selwyn District Councillor for the past 16 years. She has a background in agricultural science and environmental and resource planning, and is a qualified resource management hearing commissioner.

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

**Committee meetings**

A schedule of meetings is available at [www.ecan.govt.nz/canterburywater](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/canterburywater)

Zone Committee meetings are open to the public.

