

The Regional Water Management Committee was established in October 2010 as part of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. The Strategy established 10 water zones in Canterbury – each with a local committee – with the Regional Committee working alongside zone committees and communities for positive outcomes.

The Regional Committee considers regional issues of environmental restoration and repair; land use impacts on water quality; as well as water storage, distribution and efficiency options.

It operates as a committee of Environment Canterbury under the Local Government Act.



Members of the Regional Committee and advisors toured parts of the Rakaia River in November.

Activities and actions

The Regional Zone Committee has been getting through a huge volume of work as committee members work to understand the key regional issues for water management in Canterbury.

The focus of the Regional Committee is currently on understanding the key water management issues and reviewing preliminary strategic assessments on the strategic options.

Delivering a draft Regional Implementation Plan is also a priority. The regional committee has held collaborative workshop sessions so they can start developing key aspects of its RIP.

The committee has also been discussing the Rakaia Water Conservation Order, Trustpower's Lake Coleridge Proposal, as well as regional land use and water quality.

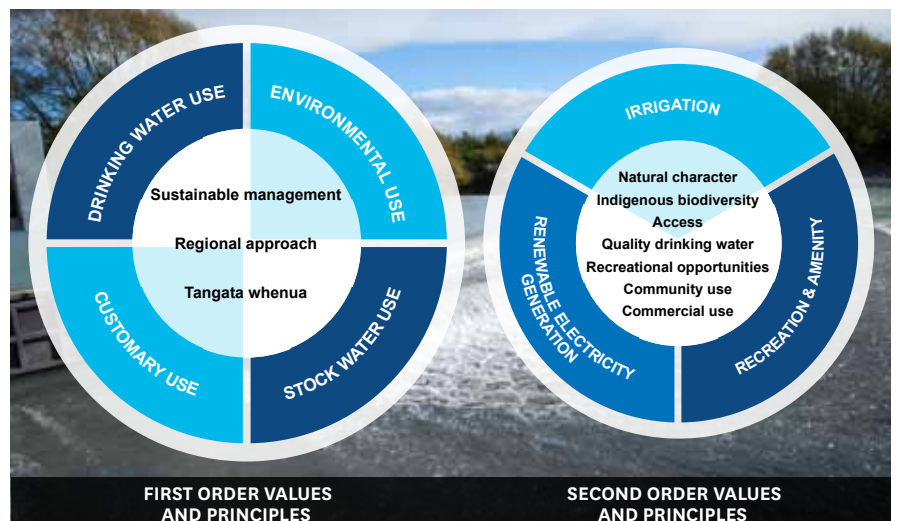
Targets

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 Regional Committee comprises:

Community representatives:

Chair: Andy Pearce, founding CEO Landcare Research, helped develop the CWMS in 2006 and 2007

Hugh Canard, management consultant

John Donkers, business consultant, company director

Terry Heiler, water resources consultant

Jane Demeter, former councilor, a certified Resource Management Commissioner

Hamish Cuthbert, barrister and solicitor for Meridian Energy

Jay Graybill, fisheries scientist

Hugh Logan, natural resources management consultant

Zone representatives:

- Winston Gray, Kaikōura
- David Eder, Hurunui-Waiou
- Claire McKay, Waimakariri
- Donald Couch, Banks Peninsula
- Sally Buck, Christchurch-West Melton
- David Painter, Selwyn-Waihora
- Ben Curry, Ashburton
- John O'Neill, Orari-Opihi-Pareora
- Bill Chrisholm, Upper Waitaki
- Robin Murphy, Lower Waitaki-South Coastal Canterbury

Christchurch City Council:

Chrissie Williams

District Council representatives:

- Winton Dalley, North Canterbury
- Angus McKay, Mid Canterbury
- Nigel Gormack, South Canterbury

Rūnanga representatives:

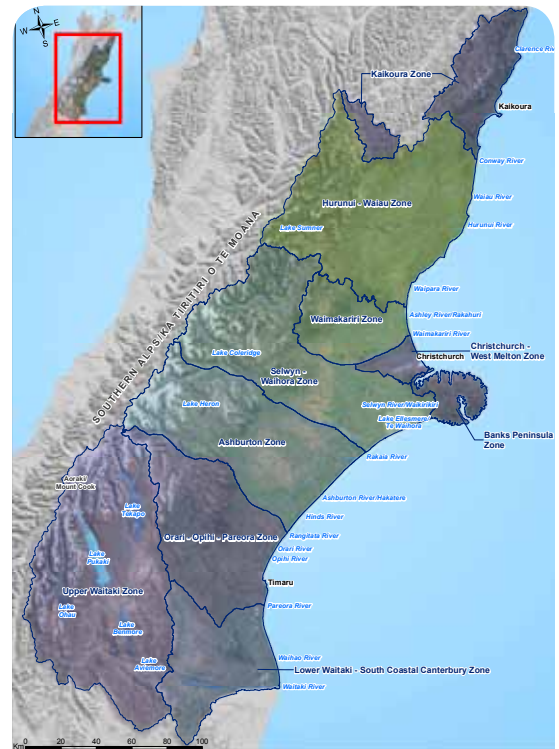
- Te Marino Lenihan (North Canterbury)
- Craig Pauling (Mid Canterbury)
- John Wilkie (South Canterbury)

Environment Canterbury appointments:

Commissioners David Caygill and Peter Skelton

Central Government Observer:

Mike Jebson



Zone Committee contacts:

Zone Facilitator

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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.

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.