

The Waimakariri zone committee was established in September 2010 and 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 Waimakariri 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 Waimakariri Zone includes the Ashley River catchment and shares the Waimakariri catchment below the gorge with the Selwyn-Waihora and Christchurch-West Melton zones. It includes Kaiapoi, Rangiora and Oxford.



Waimakariri Zone Committee on the banks of the Ashley/Rakahuri river as part of their orientation field trip

Activities and actions

The Waimakariri Zone Committee members have been working for months to understand water issues in the zone with the goal of developing a Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP) that will enable present and future generations the greatest social and economic benefits from the region's water.

In late May more than 80 people attended public meetings in the Waimakariri district to discuss water management priorities. The feedback from these meetings helped the committee develop its draft ZIP.

A draft ZIP was made available for public feedback and it is expected a final version was presented to councils in late 2011.

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 five key priority areas; lowland waterways, braided rivers, nutrient and water management, water supply, and biodiversity.

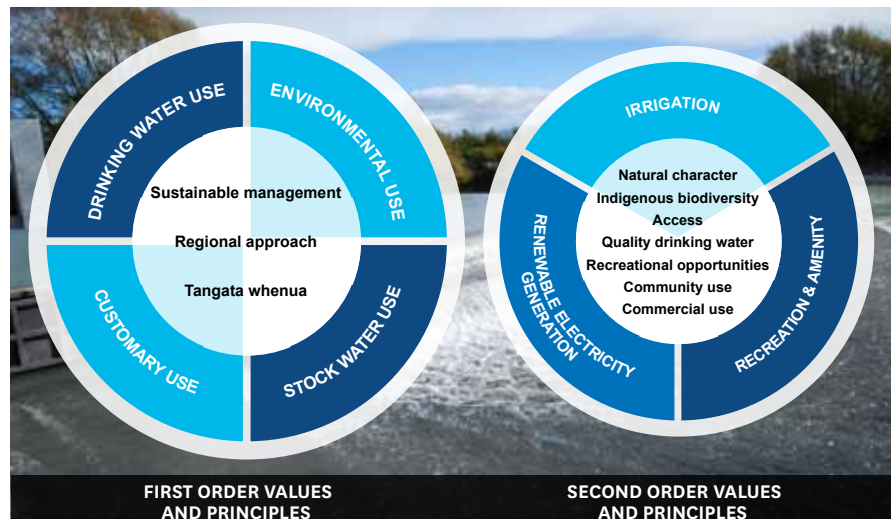
Targets

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 Waimakariri Zone Committee comprises:

Community Members:

Chair: Murray Lang, horticulturalist, President Canterbury Fruitgrowers' Association

Deputy Chair: Bill Wilson, Chair Waikuku Management Group, former sheep, cattle and cropping farmer

Darren Mann, Regional Manager of Rayonier - a forestry company with operations in Canterbury

Grant Edge, a local businessman and landscape architect

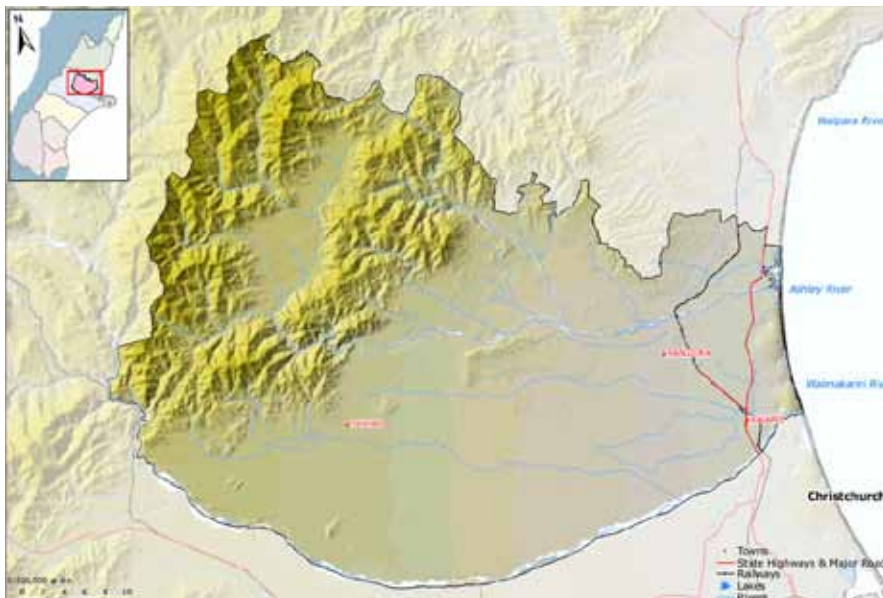
Claire McKay, a veterinarian and dairy farmer at Cust

Bryan Sulzberger, a Rangiora businessman and Chair of the Central Drainage Group

Rūnanga representatives: Clare Williams (Tūāhuiriri)
Terrianna Smith (Taumutu)

Environment Canterbury appointment: Commissioner Rex Williams

Waimakariri District Council appointment: Kevin Felstead



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

Committee meetings

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

Zone Committee meetings are open to the public.