

ASHBURTON WORK PROGRAMME - END OF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT 2016/17						
Ref	Outcome	Outcome description	Milestone reference	Milestones to achieve outcomes	Milestone status	Progress update for each milestone - as at 30 June 2017
1	Good management practice (GMP)	All farmers are operating at good management practice or better.	1.1	Industry supported extension programme is developed to communicate and promote industry agreed GMP practices – August 2016.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy has been developed with primary industry group and is being implemented; key elements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular 1-1 meetings with rural professional firms (farm advisors, bankers, real estate agents, etc) to discuss industry requirements, planning rules, tools and support available - Full open meetings with industry as required (i.e. major planning timeframes arrive, extension of new information).
			1.2	Prioritise farm environment plan (FEP) support for higher Nitrogen leaching farming activities.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation scheme audited self-management programmes ensured review of farm environment plans for all shareholder properties. Dairy NZ and dairy company's consultants ensured all dairy farmers in zone develop Sustainable Milk Plans. A total of 60 properties attended Beef & Lamb and Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) farm environment plan workshop (supported by Environment Canterbury); one-to-one follow-up provided as requested to support completion of farm environment plans. Synlait, DairyNZ and Environment Canterbury held and supported land use consent workshops.
			1.3	Prioritise FEP support for arable properties, particularly those outside of irrigation schemes.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint farm environment plan workshops held with FAR were attended by 47 properties. At request of Zone Committee, NCheck was approved as an alternative nutrient calculator for use by arable properties.
			1.4	All irrigated properties have an FEP by March 2018.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As for Milestones 1.2 and 1.3.
			1.5	All irrigated properties to undertake an assessment of the efficiency of their irrigation system with action taken to implement any improvements identified by March 2018.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer student bucket testing programme was completed with support from primary industry groups and irrigation companies. 244 systems were tested across the Ashburton Zone. Results of summer student programme were promoted to landowners, industry and sector groups to encourage system testing and ongoing maintenance.
			1.6	Identify opportunities for water user groups.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication strategy was confirmed to promote benefits of formal and informal water user groups in spring 2017.
2	Biodiversity	Landowners, rūnanga, stakeholders, local authorities and others are working together to protect and enhance biodiversity throughout the zone.	2.1	Ashburton District Council Biodiversity Working Group continues to provide a forum for coordination of biodiversity work programmes across the zone - annually to 2021.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five meetings were held with all agencies providing updates on biodiversity-related actions. Wakanui Beach Restoration Plan and Lake Camp-Clearwater Landscape Management Plan were developed and implemented. \$368,000 from National Wilding Conifer Programme (via Ministry for Primary Industries) was allocated to the Hakatere Wilding Conifer Control Area as part of \$3.2 million grant to Canterbury. Environment Canterbury and Department of Conservation jointly managed the programme. Review of Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan was initiated.
			2.2	Priority weed and pest control for braided river bird habitat in the Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers is implemented with support from Regional Immediate Steps funding - annually to 2021.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$250,000 was allocated for 2016/17 year. Weed and pest control and monitoring were completed for 2016/17 season. 2017/18 programme was developed.
			2.3	Develop a programme to support the management of biodiversity values in two priority areas, including the foothills. Support on the ground changes via Immediate Steps funding by July 2017.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$123,800 was allocated to 14 projects in 2016/17 year (a total of \$607,500 allocated to 51 projects since 2010).
			2.4	Two sites are primarily managed for mahinga kai, including one outside of Hinds catchment by July 2017. (Incorporates Hinds Drains Working Party Rec 4.12.)	Behind Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of flows in the two selected sites of the Hinds Drains Working Party have delayed the planned landowner meetings and signage for this project. With the return of flows, this work will be completed for one of the sites in mid 2017. * Discussions with Arowhenua were initiated to identify preferred criteria and possible appropriate options for further mahinga kai sites.
			2.5	Increase community awareness of the nature and value of biodiversity.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles were published and other promotion undertaken for local biodiversity projects and Immediate Steps funded projects.
			2.6	Trustpower funding is unlocked for Rakaia enhancement projects in 2016.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First funding round opened on 30 November 2016 .
3	Hakatere/Ashburton River	Improve the ecosystem health of the Hakatere/ Ashburton River and operationalise the Ashburton River flow Plan.	3.1	Develop a strategy to ensure that the flow regime for the Hakatere/Ashburton River is achieved.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop with Ashburton Zone Committee discussed management options considered during plan development. The operative plan now covers implementation of these options, including timeframes. Agreement was reached to develop issues and options paper on implementation of the minimum flows in Ashburton River Plan as it would affect individual consents and to present the paper to the committee in October 2017.
			3.2	Ashburton District Council to develop and implement a strategy to reduce stockwater take to 2,900L/s by no later than 2023 - date tbc.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashburton District Council's Long Term Plan outlined ongoing implementation of strategy. Progress made with the direction on handover of service to irrigation schemes outlined in Ashburton District Council's Long Term Plan. Stockwater takes from Ashburton are nearing policy target.
			3.3	Identify source of spikes in E-coli at SH1 and determine if an action plan is required by May 2017.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because no successful samples were taken in summer 2016-17, the action plan could not be developed as scheduled. Sampling strategy was confirmed for 2017-18.
			3.4	Priority weed control work for braided river bird nesting habitat is completed with support from Zone Immediate Steps Programme - annually to 2021.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashburton River Bird Management group was established with representatives from local community and interest groups. Priority actions were implemented for 2016-17 breeding season. 1,400 black billed gulls fledged on Hakatere/Ashburton River. Six priority actions were agreed for implementation for 2017-18 season.
			3.5	Develop a streamlined pathway to enable swaps from surface water/ hydrologically connected groundwater permits to deep groundwater or scheme water by February 2017.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consenting requirements are known and applications are being processed as received. Extra support is provided with consent planners, available in Ashburton monthly
			3.6	Understand the health of Carters Creek and identify opportunities to improve ecosystem health.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work scheduled to begin in 2018-19.
			3.7	Ashburton District Council to develop an integrated stormwater management plan.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater Management Plan has been prepared. Draft application for resource consent has been prepared. * Ashburton District Council has been waiting for outcomes from regional stormwater forum.
4	Hekeao/Hinds River and Drains	Hekeao/Hinds River and Drains are managed in a way that provides for multiple needs/interests.	4.1	Managed aquifer recharge and targeted stream augmentation trials have been completed by 2021. (Incorporates Hinds Drains Working Party Rec 4.7.)	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed aquifer recharge trial continues. Targeted stream augmentation monitoring scholarship has been offered via Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management, to be completed in 2017-2018.
			4.2	Next steps following the managed aquifer recharge and targeted stream augmentation trials are identified including funding mechanisms and the development of an ongoing programme by 2021.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed Aquifer Recharge governance group was established.
			4.3	Programme to identify and remove, where appropriate, fish barriers - annually to 2021.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority barriers were identified and remediation designed. Remediation work is to be completed in 2017-18.
			4.4	Develop a programme to increase community awareness of the importance of well head protection by July 2019.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Public Health and Environment Canterbury sent joint letter to agreed stakeholders to help them understand risks and identify actions to minimise risk.
			4.5	Habitat extent of known mudfish populations is quantified. In addition, surveys are conducted to identify new habitats and populations and assessments are subsequently made to determine if remediation/enhancement of sites is appropriate by July 2018.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of identified areas was completed in autumn 2017. Appropriate remediation and enhancement works were identified.
			4.6	Develop a streamlined pathway to enable swaps from surface water/ hydrologically connected groundwater permits to deep groundwater or scheme water by June 2017.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consenting requirements are known and applications able to be processed as received. Extra support is provided with consent planners, available in Ashburton monthly.
			HDWP Rec 4.3	Adaptive Minimum Flow Habitat Trial – Boundary Drain (Hinds Drains Working Party Rec 4.3).	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial consent was granted. Monitoring plan for trial was implemented.
5	Community understanding	The urban and rural community understand the environmental, economic and social trends occurring in the zone and there is widespread ownership of catchment health.	5.1	Receive an annual update on the economic and social trends occurring in Ashburton Zone.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First annual report will be completed in July 2017.
			5.2	Receive quarterly reporting on water quality and quantity monitoring results.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampling is ongoing. Annual report to committee is due in September 2017.
			5.3	Create opportunities to involve schools in waterway and wetland enhancement and/or monitoring projects.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests were supported from local schools seeking information and field trips to investigate various topics related to water and ecosystems. Resources and curriculum links around two zone projects were developed.
			5.4	Regular media articles from Zone Committee to profile zone implementation work.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone-wide newsletter profiling Zone Committee projects was delivered. 26 articles related to Zone Committee work were published.
			5.5	Landowners in north Ashburton area understand the catchment health in their area and know what actions can be taken to make improvements by July 2019.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal was developed outlining general approach to developing addendum for Zone Implementation Programme, including community engagement, planning and science support. To be confirmed with Zone Committee in July 2017.
			5.6	Improve community understanding of drinking water supplies, including actions to minimise risk.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Public Health and Environment Canterbury sent joint letter to agreed stakeholders to help them understand risks and identify actions to minimise risk.
			HDWP Rec 4.15	Undertake a quality and habitat monitoring programme until Hinds Plan review period to determine the effects of actions taken.	On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community monitoring programme and partner contributions were agreed. Monthly sampling is ongoing.