

2018 Annual Report

Comments from chair, Hugh Logan



*Dr Hugh Logan, Regional Water
Zone Committee Chair*

The Canterbury Water Management Regional Committee Regional is charged with integrating region-wide initiatives that collectively make up the CWMS. Most people in Canterbury recognize that how well the region manages water will dictate the future health and well-being of our community environmentally, socially, and economically. This report details the activities of the Committee in 2018. The CWMS has now been in place for nine years. Much has been achieved, yet more needs to be done. The

key focus in the year has been developing targets for intervening years in addition to those already in the strategy. This work will be completed in 2019. Measuring progress against targets, and how work programmes to deliver against those targets are the most important instrumental part of the Committee's work. The committee's views, arrived at collectively, is a powerful voice in affirming direction and responding to new information that is so important to a living strategy like the CWMS.

Key achievements 2018

- Last year the Mayoral Forum asked the Regional Water Committee to develop interim targets for 2025 and 2030. The CWMS currently sets targets for 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2040. The major focus for the committee in 2018 has been leading a process to develop these interim goals.
- The WaterShed event brought together 100 people from across the region involved in the implementation of the CWMS.
- Accelerating progress on the recreation and amenity targets and improving the effectiveness of fish screens has also been a priority for the committee in 2018.

CWMS Fit for Future Project

In 2017 the Regional Committee reported to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on the progress to meet the CWMS targets.

The Forum subsequently asked the Regional Committee to lead a process to develop interim targets for 2025 and 2030. This piece of work was later called the "CWMS Fit for the Future" project.

This project has been a large part of the Regional Committee's 2018 work programme. The project is not yet complete but good progress has been made with the help and input of many individuals and stakeholders.

The committee is due to provide their final advice to the Mayoral Forum in May 2019.

Watershed Event

In April the WaterShed event brought more than 100 people together who have been leading the implementation of the CWMS from across the region.

Participants acknowledged the difficulty of meeting many of the targets as many are extremely challenging and difficult to measure. As our knowledge increases there becomes a greater appreciation that it will take time and significant effort to reverse the impact of decades of urban and rural development.

Despite these challenges, and a collective desire to make faster progress, participants supported the general direction set out in the CWMS and left with a renewed commitment to turning the vision of the CWMS into local action on the ground.

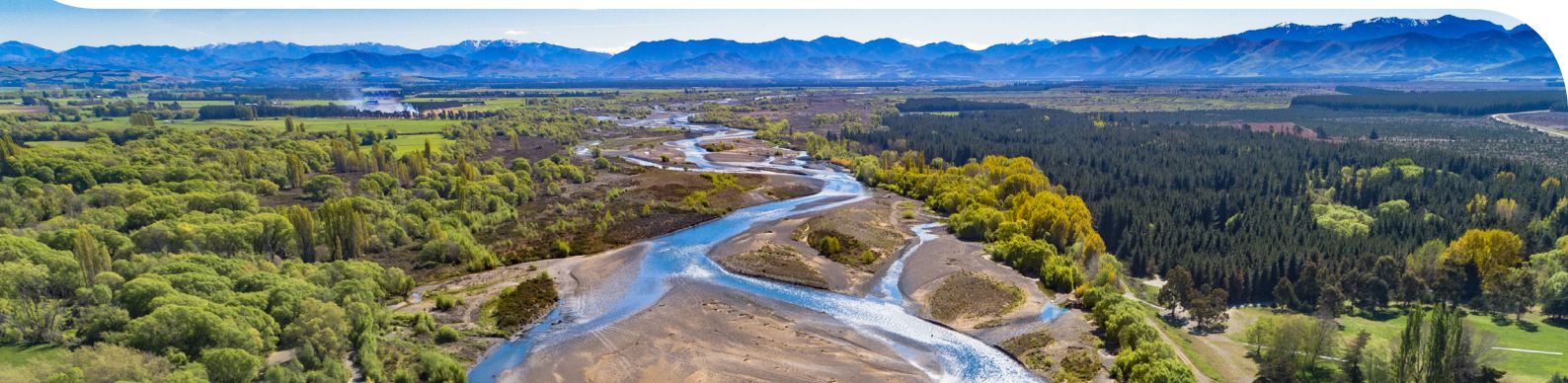
CWMS - Vision for fresh water

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) puts finding solutions for freshwater management in the hands of the community, with support from councils, Ngai Tahu, and others. The strategy sets out freshwater goals and targets to deliver the community's vision for freshwater.

"To gain the greatest cultural, economic, environmental, recreational and social benefits from our water resources within a sustainable framework both now and for future generations."

The Regional Committee has been working to accelerate progress on some of the target areas by working to provide further advice on;

- Recreation and amenity target
- Ecosystem health and biodiversity
- CWMS Targets
- Monitoring and reporting
- Integration and efficiency of irrigation infrastructure



CWMS Target: recreation & amenity

It is difficult to measure whether there has been a 'positive trend in the availability and quality of recreational opportunities in each zone' given the diversity of options available and the numerous ways people chose to enjoy our rivers and lakes.

Around the region new recreational opportunities are being improved or developed by councils (Hurunui Waiau committee has been working on a 'splash project' that includes improving water quality and flow in the Hurunui River at Balmoral, and Selwyn Waihora committee have a "swimmable Selwyn" project underway) but more needs to be done to understand the region's recreational resources. The committee has set up a working group to achieve this.

A report was commissioned from Lincoln University that provides a theoretical basis for the identification of individual and clusters of opportunities. Further work will be undertaken in 2019 to map existing recreational and amenity locations which should make it easier to understand and measure progress.

CWMS Target - Ecosystem health and biodiversity

Under the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity target there is a group of sub-targets that seek to improve native species populations and habitats.

As part of this, a Working Group has begun looking at the effectiveness of fish screens. It found that while almost 1000 water take consents required fish screens, there has been limited research done into the effectiveness of various fish screen designs.

This work has prompted Environment Canterbury to include fish screens as a priority for compliance checks in 2018/19.

The Working Group has also been facilitating discussions with NIWA, Irrigation NZ, Department of Conservation and other regional councils on further actions to improve the effectiveness of fish screens around New Zealand.

Monitoring and Reporting – Water Meters and Farm Environment Plan Audits

One of the functions of the Regional Committee is to monitor the progress of the CWMS. It does this by leading the development of a targets report every two years. The committee also receives regular reports on specific work undertaken to deliver the CWMS. Two programmes reported to the committee this year focused on water meters and the data they generate and Farm Environment Plan Audits.

Water Meters and Water Take Data

Regulations now require water meters on water takes of 5 l/s and greater. In the case of Canterbury this means more than 6,000 takes require water meters; 5,000 are telemetered and provide real time data and data from 1,000 are uploaded annually. Work has focused on ensuring water meters are installed and the data provided is accurate. There is now no tolerance for missing meters and meters must be verified every five years.

Farm Environment Plans Audits

Farm environment plans (FEPs) and independent audits are now part of Canterbury farming life. FEPs and audits are a means to an end not an end in themselves. They are a tool to manage environmental risks and improve an individual farm's environmental performance. Audits are done by independent certified auditors who provide assurance that a farmer is operating at Good Management Practice level or above. Last season 1200 audits were undertaken. Auditors are seeing a growing awareness of potential risks and investments are being made to improve practices and systems.

Future challenges and opportunities

The Fit for the Future project is providing a much clearer focus of what needs to be achieved by 2025 and 2030 if we are going to achieve the 2040 targets. The 2025 targets are only six years away and will need to be achieved within existing plan and consent frameworks. This will require a real shift in budget and resources from planning to doing and will only be achieved if everyone jumps into the whaka and begins to paddle.

The Fit for Future project has also highlighted several strategic issues including:

- Growing the collective commitment to deliver the CWMS
- Balancing monitoring, compliance and reporting demands with the need to for action
- Generating real change in a world of complexity
- Lag times and climate change
- Providing for cultural values.

Other challenges include providing clean and safe drinking water, improving the state of urban streams by improving stormwater and waste water standards, restoring mahinga kai values and sites and improving ecosystem health.

Regional Committee Focus for 2019

- Deliver advice to the Mayoral Forum on CWMS Fit for Future
- Review the Regional Committee work programme in the light of the Fit for Future project to ensure its focus is on the areas it can make the greatest positive change
- Continue its work to develop advice on;
 - Recreation and Amenity Target
 - Improving the effectiveness of fish screens
- Monitor and Report on progress to achieve the CWMS Targets by providing advice on the biannual CWMS Targets progress report

Reflections from Dr Andy Pearce

In June 2018 independent chair Dr Andy Pearce stood down from the Regional Committee. Andy has been involved in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) since 2006 when he designed and trialled a community-led decision-making process as part of the Canterbury Strategic Water Study, the precursor to the CWMS. Read his reflections below.

Initially the CWMS was about water storage, having enough water during the summer period to maintain river flows, supply irrigation schemes and further irrigation development.

Twenty-two years on and the CWMS is so much more. It is about making progress on all ten targets not just irrigation development. Some of the biggest changes I've seen have been the increasing concern about water quality and a growing appreciation of cultural values and the importance of mahinga kai. Another change has been a shift away from the need for more water to making the best use of what we have. Over the next few years we are likely to see farmers adapting to less water as minimum flows are progressively increased. We are also likely to see attention turn to urban environments and how drinking water, wastewater and stormwater are all managed.

It is not easy chairing a committee that is deliberately made up of different views and perspectives with the idea that they must come to a consensus when there is no right answer. The only thing we could initially agree on was that the Resource Management Act was not working, and we needed to try something different.

It is true that the CWMS is not perfect either and some may feel that it has failed because they haven't got what they wanted but neither has anyone else. Members need to listen to one another and work creatively on solutions. I firmly believe that to improve water management in Canterbury there needs to be a safe place where we can talk constructively about solutions. I think the Regional Committee goes some way to doing this.

Zone committee membership

NGAI TAHU REPRESENTATIVES

Rebecca Clements,
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Vacant,
Rūnanga - North Canterbury

Riki Lewis,
Rūnanga - Mid Canterbury

David Higgins,
Rūnanga - South Canterbury

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Mayor Winton Dalley,
North Canterbury District Councils

Cr Nicole Reid,
Mid Canterbury District Councils

Peter McIlraith,
South Canterbury District Councils

Cr Sara Templeton,
Christchurch City Council

ENVIRONMENT CANTEBURY REPRESENTATIVES

Cr Peter Scott,
Environment Canterbury

Cr Claire McKay,
Environment Canterbury

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Hugh Canard

Jane Demeter

Cole Groves

Nicky Hyslop

Ross Millichamp

Vicky Southworth

ZONE REPRESENTATIVES

Ben Curry,
Zone representative Ashburton

Fiona Nicol,
Zone representative Banks Peninsula

Les Wanhalia,
Zone representative Christchurch-West Melton

Michele Hawke,
Zone representative Hurunui-Waiau

Ted Howard,
Zone representative Kaikōura

Hamish McFarlane,
Zone representative Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora

Sandra Hampstead-Tipene,
Zone representative Upper Waitaki

Carolyne Latham,
Zone representative Waimakariri

Karaitiana Taiuru,
Zone representative Selwyn-Waihora

Sandra Hampstead-Tipene,
Zone representative Lower Waitaki-South Coastal Canterbury

GOVERNMENT OBSERVERS

Murray Doak and Jo Buckner,
Ministry of Primary Industries

Dr Alistair Humphrey,
Canterbury District Health Board

Nick Vincent,
Ministry for the Environment

John Benn,
Department of Conservation

The Regional Committee

The purpose of the Regional committee is to;

1. Monitor the progress of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy across the region; and
2. Provide advice to Environment Canterbury on regional issues.

The membership reflects these functions and includes community, rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and council representatives. Each of the ten zone committees are also represented. The Canterbury District Health Board, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Primary Industries and the Department of Conservation have observer status.



CWMS Regional Water Zone Committee is a community led committee supported by councils.

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