

Photo Credit: Stephen Howard

Selwyn Waihora Zone

WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE 2018/19

What is this?

This report is an update of our 'on-the-ground' work programmes which aim to improve the environment and protect ecosystems.

It shows the outcomes we set and how they align with the target areas of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

It summarises what we did and what was achieved over the past year.

We worked with landowners and stakeholders by providing expertise, knowledge, funding, resources, follow-ups, monitoring and measuring outcomes.

Why does it matter?

Protecting and improving the natural environment is our top priority and aligns with what our communities have asked for.

This work starts with local on-the-ground projects and actions – stream by stream and farm by farm, working towards lofty goals of clean water and healthy ecosystems.

It's important to analyse the work being done so we can put our resources and efforts into the most productive areas, aligning with wider community concerns

What has been achieved?

The zone team has completed a series of practical tasks and projects to contribute to Swimmable Selwyn @ Coes Ford.

- The mudfish barrier has been completed, followed by an opening celebration.
- Synlait has adopted mahinga kai as a nationwide standard.
- Te Waihora lake edge project has been completed.

With awareness raising, communications activities and drop-in sessions, the zone team made a significant effort to be easily accessible for interested and concerned community members and for industry groups.

► See inside for our work programme progress outcomes

◄ See the back page for a local case study

PROGRESS OF OUTCOMES

for the Selwyn Waihora work programme 2018-19

A HEALTHY TE WAIHORA

Collaborate with and support various public and private agencies, Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga, landowners and community in priority locations around the lake



- Whakaora Te Ahuriri is a significant project to improve the health of Te Waihora. The on-the-ground project work started with a blessing of the site by Te Taumutu Rūnanga in early summer and engineering and earthworks were almost completed for the year. A key part of the project is Mātauranga Māori monitoring using the Takiwā tool to regularly assess cultural values at six locations in Ahuriri Lagoon.
- Environment Canterbury has also been working on the Te Waihora Lake Edge project, which is now complete.
- The project involved developing guidance documents for managing wetland/wet pasture, and making one-on-one site visits to support landowners.
- In addition, significant support has been given to landowners through the consenting process regarding wetland protection and retirement.
- Another major focus has been to increase awareness around the Cultural Land Values Management Area (CLVMA) in a campaign. Drop-in sessions have attracted a consistently high turnout and interest, offering landowners additional support and advice from consent planning staff.

HIGH COUNTRY VALUES

Support landowners, community groups and industry to deliver on biodiversity step change with the expansion of the biodiversity corridor of the Waimakariri biodiversity corridor and protect catchments, wetlands and springheads.



- Successfully developed numerous relationships with high country landowners, advisors and community groups in the Upper Waimakariri and Waikirikiri catchment and delivered biodiversity projects, including QEII covenants.
- Multi-year projects are currently being delivered in collaboration with the University of Canterbury, Department of Conservation and KiwiRail. In addition, the work with high country stations on sensitive lake consent issues has been completed.
- Supporting several community groups with a focus on biodiversity, wilding control and recreational management plans in the upper Waimakariri basin.

HEALTHY LOWLAND STREAMS

Collaborate and deliver connected programmes related to the Waikirikiri and other lowland streams that deliver improvements in water quality and quantity across the zone.



- Year one of the Swimmable Selwyn @ Coes Ford project was completed, which involved mitigating hotspots, protecting and enhancing multiple springheads and working to capture and reduce sediment. In addition, the Environment Canterbury science team has done significant work on water quality monitoring.
- Stage 2 of the Water & Wildlife Habitat Trust's recreation project on Snake Creek has been completed. An additional 'Million metres' stream campaign enhanced another 1km of Silverstream.
- The consent to farm campaign has been completed, leaving a few follow-ups needed around progress. Of the 356 priority farms (more than 50ha of irrigated land), all are on track.
- Through the work of the team Pou Mātai Kō with industry partners, Synlait has adopted mahinga kai as a nationwide standard in the Lead with Pride programme. Farm shed talks have been successful in upskilling and increasing understanding of mahinga kai values across the farming and landowner sector.

ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER

A sustainable supply of water meets needs of present and future generations and complies with drinking water standards in an affordable manner.



- Selwyn District Council actively promotes sustainable use of water. Water metering is a big part of this process, as is education messaging on summer water use. Across the council's network, 98.4% has water meters installed.

HEALTHY HILL-FED STREAMS

Develop projects that target specific threats and deliver a biodiversity corridor to improve water quality and quantity aligned with the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and zone committee outcomes.



- Advice on linking native bush remnants with existing restoration projects to reduce sediment and erosion risk.
- Working closely with industry bodies on land use management and best practice to mitigate surface water runoff.
- Another important component is advising and consulting with individual landowners through successful community drop-in sessions in Darfield.
- Approval for a three-year wetland enhancement project with Central Plains Water – the Environment Management Fund – starting in spring 2019.
- The successful delivery, blessing and opening of the mudfish protection project in Hororata. This pilot study is a first for the southern hemisphere, involving highly innovative technology and seeking sustainable farming, biodiversity and conversation outcomes.

RELATIONSHIPS, RESPECT, COMMUNICATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

Building and strengthening partner, stakeholder and community connections to waterways in a way that respects their values, shares and has the output of getting things done.



- The Youth Zone Committee project came to fruition at the end of 2018, when EnviroSchools from across the zone made presentations and talked to the zone committee about their projects, hopes and aspirations for their local environment.
- The Selwyn Waihora Pou Mātai Kō, in collaboration with industry bodies and landowners, facilitated a series of mahinga kai shed talks. Staff and Farm Environment Plan auditors went on a Noho Marae visit to Ngāti Moki Marae; and Pou Mātai Kō facilitated a series on mahinga kai, Treaty training, and managing silent files. The zone committee, together with Taumutu Rūnanga, invited governance, industry, collaborators and interested parties to various events including springhead protection planting in the Silverstream catchment, the mudfish protection project blessing in Hororata and field trips.
- The zone team led community drop-in sessions at Leeston and Darfield, which continue to be well attended. Its advice has covered land use consent to farm campaigns within the phosphorus and sediment risk areas and Cultural Land Values Management Area, as well as general good management practices, drain management and biodiversity.

KAITIAKITANGA

Leverage the unique cultural heritage and ecological significance of the Selwyn Waihora Zone, the Waikirikiri catchment and Te Waihora



- Through the work of the team's Pou Mātai Kō with industry partners, Synlait has adopted mahinga kai as a nationwide standard in the Lead with Pride programme.
- Continuing the work through shed talks and close relationships and upskilling of the various agricultural industry bodies and their field staff. The land management and Pou Mātai Kō advisors delivered successful Farm Environment Plan Auditors' Noho Marae at Taumutu and other sessions. The canterburywater.farm website was updated with mahinga kai information. In addition, we have made significant progress in raising the mahinga kai profile through symposiums, meetings, industry gatherings and local community groups.
- The advisor has provided significant support to the development of similar roles in north and south Canterbury, as well as building close links to Ngāi Tahu.

TARGETS

Canterbury Water Management Strategy



Drinking water



Ecosystem health and biodiversity



Environmental limits



Irrigated land area



Kaitiakitanga



Natural character of braided rivers



Recreational & amenity opportunities



Water use efficiency

Achieving the community's vision through 10 broad target areas, developed to measure progress in protecting water and ecosystems in Canterbury now and in the future.

COMPLIANCE

Ensuring that all consents that need monitoring are monitored, the Farming to Good Management Practice project is implemented, high-risk pollution incidents are responded to and consent holders' practices are aligned with the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and the zone's community and committee outcomes.



- The zone team has tailored the 2018/19 monitoring by Resource Management Officers to include key consents across the zone. We have done significant work to ensure that the list includes our zone's key priority consents so that we are monitoring and reporting on key activities.
- The team has made seasonal pre-emptive site visits to land developments and other potential sediment risk sites to work with site managers on best practice. The team dealt with the seasonal odour and dust work over summer, including irrigation management improvements.
- In the Swimmable Selwyn @ Coes Ford project, the team has taken a whole-farm or whole-site approach to monitoring the Silverstream catchment and has worked with consent holders towards 100% catchment compliance.
- Incident response: stock in waterways, odour and dust were key areas of focus.
- Water consent monitoring, water restriction and low-flow monitoring have been completed.

Many hands make light work on the Huritini

Every year the Huritini/Halswell River draws nearer to its natural state, as more native plants grow along its banks.

It's all thanks to a multi-group effort restoring biodiversity in water sources flowing into Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

Supported by the Selwyn Waihora Zone Water Committee, Te Ara Kākāriki Greenways Canterbury Trust, the Million Metres Streams Project, and Enviroschools; students are taking ownership of the Huritini.

Huritini, meaning 'many turns' in Māori, holds significant cultural value to local iwi – which has been reflected in the extensive work carried out in the Whakaora Te Waihora programme.

Ladbrooks School students recently spent the day planting natives alongside the Huritini.

Close to the riverbank they planted pukio, tī kōuka, harakeke and toetoe, while further up the slope they planted young kohuhu, mānatu, kowhai and tōtara seedlings.

It's an area the students have assumed the role of guardians for and are now in the third year of planting.

Seedlings of previous years have established themselves, restoring native beauty along Old Tai Tapu Road, and this year they extended the planting area north.

Te Ara Kākāriki Kids Discovery Plant-out coordinator Lou Drage said this site is particularly exciting as landowners both up and downstream have indicated they are interested in continuing the native corridor.

"It will stabilise the river bank, reducing sediment flowing into the waterway and providing shade for aquatic species," Lou said.

The ongoing Huritini plantings tick off one of the zone committee's kaitiakitanga (guardianship) targets – the Kids Discovery Plant-out programme, under the Whakaora Te Waihora (saving Lake Ellesmere) umbrella.

Enviroschools Canterbury facilitator Matt Stanford said with few kereru venturing into Selwyn it is up to people to source seed and propagate from karamu (coprosma) shrubs cuttings.

Students also learned from Matt about the importance of pest control and how native planting can improve the entire ecosystem.



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