

On behalf of Barbara Nicholas for the Orari-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Management Committee

Kia ora

Many thanks for your submission on the draft Orari-Opihi-Pareora Zone Implementation Programme.

We received forty-four submissions, more than twenty from individuals, in addition to submissions from Pareora Steering Group, South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce, Canterbury-Aoraki Conservation Board, Dairy NZ, Canterbury District Health Board, Silver Fern Farms Ltd, Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society- SC Branch, Meridian Energy Ltd, Federated Farmers of NZ, Water Rights Trust, Living Water Foundation, Department of Conservation, Opuha Water Ltd, Fonterra, Hunter Downs Irrigation Ltd, Cannington Motukaika Water Committee, Central South Island Fish and Game, Orari River Protection Group, and Mackenzie District Council.

The committee also held four well-attended public meetings where there were further discussions.

The general response was positive, with agreement on the approach the committee was taking. Key issues raised were:

- Importance of building on community and catchment initiatives already underway.
- The importance of water quality, drinking water and land use change.
- Water quality including access to and use of water, importance of water use efficiency, the needs of current extractors and threats and opportunities for new water into the zone.
- Catchment specific comments and recommendation
- Recreation and public access
- Environment and biodiversity

A number of organisations expressed willingness and interest in working with the zone committee to contribute to community desired outcomes.

The committee appreciated the thoughtfulness of the submissions received as they did the contributions made at the public meetings. The ZIP was finalised at their meeting in early April, and a number of changes were made, in particular greater acknowledgement of local initiatives and groups already working to address water issues, removal of the recommendation to compile an access register for formed and unformed legal roads but support for the Walking Access Commission and clarification that water saved through rationalisation of stock water should be contributed to improved environmental flows.

The ZIP has been received by the Timaru District Council and Environment Canterbury and will be received by the Mackenzie District Council later this month.

The final ZIP is available online at <http://ecan.govt.nz/publications/Council/cw-oop-zip.pdf>

The committee is continuing to work to identify ways in which the Canterbury Water Management Strategy can be delivered, and looks forward to further engagement with its community.

Regards,

Barbara Nicholas
Facilitator

Orari-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Management Committee