

Lower Waitaki - South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee

AGENDA

A **MEETING** of the LOWER WAITAKI - SOUTH COASTAL CANTERBURY ZONE COMMITTEE will be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday 16 November 2016

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: Waimate Events Centre, 13 Paul Street Waimate

Membership

Kate White (Chair)	Suzanne Eddington
Andrew Feierabend	Mark Giles (Deputy Chair)
Sandra Hampstead-Tipene	Andrew Hayes
Jeremy Holding	Mark Kingsbury
Tom Lambie	Miriam Morton
Bruce Murphy	Brent Packman
Elizabeth Rollinson	Ranui Ryan

Waimate Events Centre, 13 Paul Street, Waimate

AGENDA 16 November 2016

1.00 pm – 4.30 pm

	Karakia and welcome	Page No.
1. 2.	Apologies Minutes – 19 October 2016	3 - 5
3.	 Permanent Items a) Matters Arising b) Correspondence c) Regional Committee Update (Bruce Murphy) d) Declarations of Interest e) Facilitator Update 	
4.	Regional Round-up Zone Committee Members (verbal)	
5.	Strategic – Canterbury Wilding Conifer Control Programme Briefing – Graeme Sullivan	6 - 22
6.	Strategic – Managing Braided River Weeds Discussion – Kennedy Lange (ECan)	
7.	Zone Implementation Programme Delivery Monthly Update on Actions (Verbal – Michael Hide) South Canterbury Deep Groundwater Study (Presentation – Hisham Zarov Plan Change 3 (Update – Olivia Cook)	ur) 23 - 24
8.	General Business	

Time Table

1.00pm	Karakia and welcome	
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- Apologies, Minutes, Permanent Items
- 1.15pm Regional Round Up
- 1.30pm Strategic Canterbury Wilding Conifer Control Programme
- 2.00pm Strategic Managing Braided River Weeds
- 2.30pm Afternoon Tea
- 2.45pm Zone Implementation Programme Delivery
- 3.30pm General Business
- 4.00pm Karakia and meeting close

Lower Waitaki – South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee

Minutes of the Committee meeting held in the Waimate Events Centre, 13 Paul Street, Waimate on Wednesday 19 October 2016, at 1.00pm

Present	Kate White (Chair, Community rep), Suzanne Eddington (Waihao Runanga), Mark Giles (Deputy Chair, Community rep), Sandra Hampstead-Tipene (Arowhenua Runanga), Andrew Hayes (Community rep), Mark Kingsbury (Community rep), Cr Miriam Morton (Waimate District Council), Brent Packman (Community rep) and Liz Rollinson (Community rep)
Apologies	Andrew Feierabend (Meridian Energy), Bruce Murphy (Community rep), Ranui Ryan (Moeraki Runanga),Waitaki District Council representative, Environment Canterbury Representative
In Attendance	Nic Newman (Zone Facilitator – ECan) Barbara Nicholas (Committee Secretary)

At the invitation of the Chair Peter Ramsden shared a Karakia

The Chair welcomed visitors to the meeting, Peter Scott and Tom Lambie were welcomed as newly appointed ECan Councillors, they were invited to the table.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

LWSC16/40

M Giles/B Packman "That the minutes of the Committee meeting dated 21 September 2016 be confirmed."

CARRIED

2. Permanent Items

Matters Arising from the Minutes: Wainono Lagoon core samples:- there were no reports of any lead in reports from research on Wainono Lagoon. A report on Wainono Lagoon will be circulated by Nic Newman.

Correspondence

Outwards

Judge Shepard from the Chair on the hearing process for Plan Change 5.

Inwards

Response to above letter indicating that submitters have had an opportunity and the Chair noted that some have had a chance to speak to hearings. It was noted that councillors are already aware of the issues, with the issue having been raised by others.

Waimate District Council – confirming the appointment of Cr Miriam Morton as their representative on the Committee.

Declarations of Interest Nil.

3. Regional Round Up

The Committee members reported on topics from their areas:

Sandra – Commissioners met with runanga last week. There has been one meeting held with Hunter Downs and expecting a second.

Brent – Waihao Box working again, and now clear water coming through. Whitebait season good.

Andrew Hayes - Lower Hakatarama valley working on irrigation scheme being totally compliant. Been to meeting with Waitaki Irrigation Collective re plan changes.

Tom – a meeting on Plan Change 3 allocation was held, there were several zone members present. The plan change was well received.

Liz – AGM for the Wainono/Waihao group on Monday 23 November.

Miriam - attended Plan Change meeting last night. Valuable meeting and good to meet individuals. Revealed some gaps in info disseminations, but sure staff will address, especially for those not in industry groups (eg berry growers and lifestyle blockers)

Mark – good rain a few days ago. Irrigation scheme just starting up; engaging with smaller blocks.

RESOLVED LWSC16/41

A Hayes/S Eddington "That the committee receives the information."

CARRIED

4. Zone Implementation Programme Delivery

Work Programme Development

Michael Hide presented the overview of the key projects that are scheduled to be delivered over the coming five years. He reminded people of the origin of the priorities set by the committee. And then rehearsed how the work programme has been developed - has looked at existing work and what is necessary to fill gaps, then scheduled and identified resource needs. Once checked with zone, will check with the community, and implement. There will be regular review of milestones.

Dimensions of work programme includes;

- Communications plan
- RMA monitoring strategy and work programme
- Immediate steps
- Zone/regional GMP extension, targets projects (eg grey scrub protection) and work in targeted catchments.

Michael ran through the work programme and updated committee on current work – Wainono; Waihao; targeted GMP uptake. (Powerpoint available) Feedback noted included:

- All south side catchments could be worked on together
- Support Hakataramea action plan being community-led
- How can we bring biodiversity projects forward opportunity of Regional council LTP coming up in 18 months where case could be made for more resources
- Government money for wilding controls worth getting briefing on what is possible in this area (offer to get briefing from Peter at DOC)
- Need a weed programme in place to support work to keep stock out of riverbed. Be good to brief committee on work on the Clarence and their work to manage weeds and predator control/ Waitaki river protection plan. Could be connected to community action plan (AI)
- Query from community as to whether the money from increased rates (due to increased values) could be ring-fenced to be used to fund some on-farm improvements.
- Farmers looking for assistance, so would welcome farm surveys to be offered more widely. And the work with Waihao Downs farmers to help them identify actions is a good model to share more widely across the region (noting that the regional biodiversity working group is looking to find targeted ways to use money/resources from schemes with environmental spend requirements or where there is money for environmental use from court rulings.
- Opportunity/time to review IS priorities and think about more targeted use.
- Discussion of options for communicating the work that is happening.

Next step is to develop a detailed work programme and see what can be delivered with available resources. Noted need to look at drinking water recommendations to check gaps.

Enabling Environmental Enhancement

Michael Hide (ECan – Zone Manager) spoke to the paper on page 8 of the agenda that set out the process for environmental enhancement projects that require a resource consent.

A suggestion was made that there be flag in consent system so if a consent comes in an applicant can be offered this assistance.

5. Kaitiakitanga refresher

Peter Ramsden (ECan Tangata Whenua Facilitator) refreshed the committee on the meaning of Kaitiakitanga, the guardianship and protection of the environment.

6. Strategic – Braided River Character

Zone Implementation Programme Addendum recommendation community action plan for Hakataramea: Al Shearer has been doing ground work and a community meeting is organised for 1 November 2-3.30 at Cattle Creek, Hakataramea.

Looking to agree extent of the braided rivers and appropriate activities that will 'protect the braided river character' (CWMS target). Zone committee will be updated on meeting. Outcome to inform consents in the catchment.

Noted that community of interest is not only those who live in the valley eg fishers.

7. Zone Implementation Programme Delivery

Plan Change 3 Decisions and Next Steps Angela Fenemore updated the committee on the Hearing Commissioners' decision on Plan Change 3 Couth Coastal Canterbury, powerpoint available.

RESOLVED LWSC16/42

L Rollinson/A Hayes "That the reports be received."

CARRIED

8. General Business

Meeting date for December.

RESOLVED LWSC16/43

L Rollinson/S Hampstead-Tipene "That the meeting scheduled for 21 December be bought forward and held on 14 December."

CARRIED

At the invitation of the Chair Peter Ramsden shared a Karakia

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Canterbury Wilding Conifer Control Programme 2016/17

In June this year the Minister of Finance announced that \$16 million would be provided over 4 years to assist with the costs of implementing a national programme for managing wilding conifers. This contribution supplements the current annual spend of \$11million from agencies, landholders and philanthropic sources. Since this time, agencies and others have worked together to prepare a national programme of work, prepared and costed detailed operational plans and considered the logistics of delivering a much expanded control programme.

One of the logistical issues to be resolved was the efficient transfer of Crown funding from source to "coal face". A Wilding Governance Group has been formed to provide national oversight of the control programme, including funding and allocation decisions. Regional Councils in the affected regions are taking on the role of "banker" on behalf of the Crown.

The Wilding Conifer Governance Group has allocated \$5,022,188 of Crown funding to the 16/17 national conifer control programme of which \$2.9 million has been allocated to Canterbury. Canterbury will implement 6 control programmes in 16/17 with a total budget of just under \$4 million including the Crown funding. Funding from landholders, Environment Canterbury, DoC and LINZ make up the difference between Crown funding and the total control programme budget.

A prioritisation of wilding conifer infestations in a national context has been undertaken and this will guide the control work for the first 4 years. Other **priority areas in the Waitaki catchment targeted for control are Ohau, Ben Ohau, Pukaki, Tekapo and St Mary/Ida**. The latter is part of a much larger programme involving Kakanui and Naesby in Otago and this work will be managed by ORC.

A summary of the 6 wilding conifer programmes to be implemented in 16/17, a map of each management unit (with the exception of Hakatere) and map of the proposed areas for initial control across NZ incorporating priority 1, 2 and 3 areas follows.

Management Unit	Funding sources	Funding
Godley	MPI	239,714
(137,256 ha)	ECAN	60,000
	DOC	30,000
	LINZ	2,000
	Landowners	39,000
	TOTAL	378,714

Management Unit	Funding sources	Funding
Four Peaks	MPI	7225 9
(40,140 ha)	ECAN	48000
	DOC	11000
	LINZ	0
	Landowners	17000
	TOTAL	148259

Management Unit	Funding sources	Funding
Hakatere A	MPI	311,800
(180,256 ha)	ECAN	25,000
	DOC	30,000
	LINZ	2,000
	Landowners	14,700
	TOTAL	383,500

Management Unit	Funding sources	Funding
Porters	MPI	224,968
(189,742 ha)	ECAN	52,000
	DOC	57,000
	LINZ	0
	Landowners	32,500
	TOTAL	366,468

Management Unit	Funding sources	Funding
Craigieburn	MPI	1,591,600
(53,750 ha)	ECAN	40,000
	DOC	70,000
	LINZ	0
	Landowners	327,500
	TOTAL	2,029,100

Management Unit	Funding sources	Funding
Lewis	MPI	457,500
(295,919 ha)	ECAN	48,000
	DOC	35,000
	LINZ	0
	Landowners	40,500
	TOTAL	581,000

	Total Funding	(\$)
	MPI	2,897,841
	ECAN	273,000
	DOC	233,000
	LINZ	4,000
	Landowners	471,200
Total 896,807 ha		3,879,041













The Wilding Conifer Problem in New Zealand

Purpose

 This paper provides information on the wilding conifer problem in a NZ context and the full cost of a programme to protect farmland, water yield, biodiversity and iconic landscapes from invasive conifers. It also provides background on previous funding decisions related to the management of wilding conifers.

Key messages

- 2. Wilding conifers now occupy around 1.8 million hectares (0.11 million dense, 1.71 million scattered): almost 6% of New Zealand's total land area.
- New Zealand currently spends approximately \$11.7¹ million per year controlling wilding conifers, however this is insufficient to deal with the scale of the issue. As a result wilding conifers are still spreading at approximately 90,000 hectares per year — equivalent to nine average-sized high country farms.
- 4. At the current level of control wilding conifers continue to spread and will have invaded approximately 5.4 million hectares of at risk land, 20% of New Zealand's total land area, by 2035. This is equivalent to all of the Canterbury and Marlborough regions combined.

7 million hectares of land have high or very high vulnerability to wilding conifer invasion, a further 9.8 million hectares has some degree of vulnerability.

- 5. Historically there has been under-investment in wilding conifer control, a lack of understanding of the scale of the problem and the need for early intervention. There is still an opportunity to act while management at a national scale is relatively affordable, however further significant delays will mean this opportunity is lost.
- 6. Wilding conifer forests generally have no economic value due to their dense and tangled nature, poor form and they are often in difficult to access terrain.

¹ Wilding Conifer control expenditure by central and local government was approximately \$6.7 million in 2014/15. Although difficult to quantify, expenditure by private land occupiers, industry, and philanthropic investors is likely to be at least equivalent to the Crown spend of \$5 million.

Impacts of Wilding Conifers

- 7. Estimated economic impacts over the next 20 years (to 2035) are likely to exceed \$1.2 billion as the coverage of dense trees expands from 110,000 to 330,000 hectares.
- 8. These impacts (particularly loss of water availability, productive land and biodiversity) will increase exponentially from 2035 as the coverage of dense trees expand from 330,000 hectares to the full 5.4 million hectares. This will also increase the risk from wild fires and could increase biosecurity risks to plantation forestry.
- 9. Dense and widespread wilding cover has a significant impact; potentially a 30–80% reduction in water yield in certain areas. This affects the amount of water available for farming, river levels, hydroelectric generation and other water use, particularly in catchments where there are long-term seasonal soil moisture deficits (e.g. Canterbury foothills, Mackenzie Basin, Otago, Canterbury, Marlborough and Nelson).
- 10. Private and other crown administered land is increasingly being invaded by seedlings spreading from Department of Conservation (DOC) administered land that is already infested by wilding conifers (see graph in appendix1). This has implications for future crown liability under good neighbour rules in regional pest management plans and limits current and future land use options such as pasture development, forestry, manuka honey production and irrigation.
- 11. Costs of control escalate over time. It can be as little as \$1 \$10 per hectare to treat sparse infestations. Treating dense infestations will typically cost \$2,000 per hectare to boom spray or \$10,000 per hectare if felled. This combined with the rapid rate of spread means costs of control increase exponentially. The graph in appendix 4 shows the area currently occupied by wilding conifers in New Zealand by density over the last century. Based on case studies we know that control costs increase exponentially at approximately 30% per annum.
- 12. Recent research into the cultural impacts of wilding conifers showed that people highly value and treasure New Zealand's iconic, wide open tussock landscapes. The majority of people don't realise that wilding conifers will impact on the areas they value most until the trees are visible. When the issue was explained to people the majority were concerned about the impact of the trees.

Previous funding requests

- 13. In general wilding conifer control has had a history of under investment resulting in compromised and less cost-effective management programmes.
- 14. In 2004, DOC requested up to \$5.3 million annually until 2014 for wilding conifer control based on the Department's South Island wilding conifer strategy. DOC received 10% of the funding requested.

- 15. In 2009, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment² stated that "wilding conifer control costs increase exponentially if they are not addressed promptly and consistently" and recommended the Minister of Conservation and the Minister of Tourism seek Cabinet approval for sufficient additional funding for a sustained woody weed eradication programme. No new funding was provided.
- 16. A funding bid was submitted for budget 2015. This was not funded and agencies were requested to undertake further work to support a bid.
- **17.** Mid Dome in Southland provides an example of how costs of control can escalate if there is not enough money to undertake the most effective management approach.

Full programme costs

- 18. The ultimate objective of a management programme would be to reduce the area of affected land and transition any ongoing control of wilding conifers to regional councils and land occupiers to manage as business as usual.
- 19. Based on current information, and current management practices, it is estimated that between \$160 and \$180 million of additional crown funding over at least a 15 year period will be required. This is over and above the \$75 million spend from existing budgets by Crown agencies over that period. Also required is co-funding commitments from local government and land occupiers.
- 20. These estimates are based on the assumption that the optimal strategy would be to front-load funding and undertake the first round of control on the most priority sites in the first five to seven years. This would be followed by maintenance control to remove seedlings and surviving trees. It can take up to 10 years to clear some sites where source trees can be eradicated.
- 21. If provided a slower increase in funding and lower levels of increased funding this approach would result in much higher costs over a longer term. Any deferment of additional control efforts will also result in a rapid increase in control costs.
- 22. To get wilding conifers to a level where they can be sustainably maintained by land owners the current extent of the area invaded needs to be substantially reduced. Reducing the extent of the area invaded by wilding conifers can be done most easily by:
 - a. controlling sparsely-distributed wilding conifers, especially if they have not yet reached coning stage and preventing them from forming more dense stands, then
 - b. controlling the sources of wilding spread.

² Change in the high country: Environmental stewardship and tenure review.

- 23. A number of areas have already removed the sparse wilding conifers and are now struggling to obtain the levels of funding required to remove the source trees cost effectively, and manage the re-invasion from those source trees at the same time.
- 24. Any delay in Crown funding is likely to be exacerbated by a corresponding delay in cofunding commitments from regional councils and land occupiers.

Current budget initiative

- 25. The current budget initiative business case sets out the first phase of a full programme. Phase 1 would look to achieve the following objectives:
 - a. Increased prevention and control to slow the spread of wilding conifers and reduce the area that is currently invaded.
 - b. Implement coordinated control and prevention to be more cost-effective (\$ per hectare), and focus on national priority areas.
 - c. Gain new information for implementing national wilding conifer management.
 - d. Early control action and support for wilding conifer control activities.
- 26. The funding will enable control of the 360,000 hectares of new wilding conifers that occur over the first 4 years and remove approximately 500,000 hectares of scattered wildings.
- 27. The main limiting factor in forecasting the full-cost of a programme with complete accuracy is the lack of standardised geospatial information on wilding conifer infestations. Obtaining this information is one of the key objectives of this budget initiative.
- 28. The new knowledge and evidence obtained during phase one will enable the development of more robust cost projections and options to government of a long-term management plan to ensure sustainable control of wilding conifers. This will include the associated funding options which will likely include an additional funding bid

Leveraging Co-funding

- 29. Operational management cost shares, informed by the biosecurity funding principles, have been developed in close consultation with funding partners. These cost shares are intended to provide a framework for negotiation between potential funding parties at a regional and local scale.
- 30. Negotiation and agreement from key stakeholders to contribute funding for a broader programme, including secure resource commitments at both a national and regional level will also be initiated in phase one. Based on the cost share model in the strategy for every \$1 the crown invests there could be an additional investment (cash and/or in-kind) between \$0.40 and \$2.30 for legacy plantings and wildings depending on land tenure.

- 31. Spread from new plantings will primarily be the responsibility of the source land occupier (e.g. forest owner or farmer who plant them).
- 32. It is proposed that MPI will lead the process to determine the actual contributions required from the various parties and to formalise agreements around these with key funders. A programme would also look to increase contributions from charitable and philanthropic organisations.

Control tools are effective and success is achievable

- 33. The characteristics of wilding conifers mean that unlike many other pest plants, control is generally practical and technically feasible. While there is ongoing work to refine and improve control tools (especially for dense infestations) the basic technical (mechanical and chemical) control methods are proven and effective.
- 34. There have been significant successes at sites where there have been coordinated and focused efforts by stakeholders³. Improved control tools have enhanced control capabilities and reduced costs.

Rationale for additional Crown funding

- 35. Much of the ongoing wilding conifer spread onto public and private lands is several generations removed from the original source plantings. Plantings of conifer trees that have subsequently resulted in wilding spread were established for reasons including erosion control, research, shelter and landscaping, hydro lake stabilisation and production forests.
 - These 'legacy plantings' were established by both private occupiers and government organisations such as catchment boards, the New Zealand Forest Service and the National Water and Soil Conservation Authority. Today, extensive areas are affected by wilding conifers that have spread from these historic plantings, many of which have changed hands multiple times. These wilding conifers are now acting as a source for further spread.
- 36. Current landowners are reluctant to fund control when they view the problem as being caused by the actions of others. Seeking funds from those who planted unwanted conifers is rarely, if ever, feasible and legal liability is not easy to determine.

³ Walouru Military Training Ground, Mount Tarawera, Rainbow Mountain Scenic Reserve, Ruahine Corner, Red Hills in Marlborough, Kirkliston in Twizel. Mid Dome is now the only major site in Southland; in 2001 there were 19 sites in Southland.

- 37. MPI considers that there is clear rationale for the Crown to contribute to wilding conifer management on the biases that:
 - a. There are significant public benefits from managing wilding conifers, including protecting water resources, primary production, native ecosystems and landscapes.
 - b. There are significant stands of wilding conifers on Crown land that are sources of wilding conifer spread to neighbouring landowners; and
 - c. The high initial control costs for removing established stands of wilding conifers mean that community groups and land owners need financial support initially to get populations under control.



Appendix 1: Estimated areas of DOC managed land and non-DOC managed land infested by wilding conifers between 2015 and 2035

Appendix 2 Approximate area currently occupied by wilding conifers in New Zealand by density and year.



AGENDA ITEM NO:	SUBJECT MATTER:
	Update on appeals to Plan Change 3
	(South Coastal Canterbury) to the LWRP
REPORT BY:	
DATE OF MEETING:	

Purpose: to advise the Zone Committee of:

- the appeals received on Plan Change 3
- the impacts these appeals have on the legal status of the rules in PC3
- the next steps forward in the process

Background

Plan Change 3 to the LWRP proposes amendments to the Land and Water Regional Plan to introduce new policies, rules and methods to manage activities in South Coastal Canterbury.

Environment Canterbury appointed independent hearing commissioners to hear submissions on PC3 and make recommendations on PC3. Those recommendations were adopted by Environment Canterbury at a Council meeting on 22 September 2016 and adopted as the Council's 'decisions' at that meeting. The decisions on PC3 were publicly notified on the 1 October 2016 and a 15 day appeal period was provided to any person that made a submission on the plan change to appeal the decision. Appeals are only able to be made to the High Court, and the matters of appeal are restricted to points of law.

Appeals

One appeal was filed with the High Court on the decisions on PC3. That appeal was filed by the South Canterbury Province of Federated Farmers of New Zealand Incorporated. The appeal relates to that part of the decision (including the plan change provisions) that relate to Schedules 29, 30 and 31 of the plan change. Schedules 29, 30 and 31 of the plan change set out the methodology for updating the flexibility caps, maximum caps, and catchment nitrogen load limits for farming activities, in response to updates to the OVERSEER[®] model.

Effect of the appeal

The legal status of the plan change is that it remains in a proposed state. The plan change will remain a 'proposed plan change' until such time as:

- the appeal by South Canterbury Province of Federated Farmers of New Zealand Incorporated has been determined or dismissed (by the High Court), or withdrawn (by the appellant); and
- the proposed plan change is made operative by way of Council resolution.

The appeal also affects which rules in the region-wide section of the LWRP need to be considered when carrying out an activity in South Coastal Canterbury.

Council is currently carrying out analysis to determine which parts of PC3, (and in particular which rules) are affected by this appeal. It is expected that this information will be available within the next two weeks. Based on initial analysis it is reasonably likely that the appeal will affect all of the 'nutrient management rules' (farming rules). Until such time as the effect of that appeal has been established, all activities carried out in South Coastal Canterbury must be assessed against the rules in the region-wide section of the Land and Water Regional Plan (Section 5) and the rules in proposed Plan Change 3.

Next Steps

Once Environment Canterbury has carried out its analysis we will be in a position to advise which rules, if any, in PC3 may be treated as operative (and therefore which rules in PC3 prevail over the region-wide rules).

The appeal by South Canterbury Province of Federated Farmers of New Zealand Incorporated will need to be determined, withdrawn or dismissed before the Council can proceed to make PC3 operative.