

Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee (Water Management)



**WORKSHOP OF THE
SELWYN - WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD ONLINE VIA MS TEAMS
ON MONDAY 26 MAY 2025
AT 5:00 PM-6:00 PM**

"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water..."

Loran Eisely, US Author

Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee - 26 May 2025 online workshop

26 May 2025 05:00 PM - 06:00 PM

| Agenda Topic | Page |
|--|------|
| Agenda outline | 3 |
| 1. Karakia | |
| 2. Welcome | |
| 3. Apologies | |
| 4. Priorities for the Future | 4 |
| 5. Meeting Close and Karakia Whakamutunga | |

SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE –Workshop Agenda & Runsheet

WORKSHOP: **Monday 26 May 2025, 5:00-6:00 pm**, online via **Microsoft Teams**

TIMETABLE & ORDER OF BUSINESS

| Item | Time | Description |
|------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | 5:00 pm (5 min) | Session opened with <i>karakia</i> . Welcomes and apologies |
| 2 | 5:05 pm (40 min) | Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – Priorities for the Future An overview of the funding will be provided following by presentation from some of the funding recipients who have received funding over the past four years. |
| 3 | 5:45 pm (10 min) | Committee Farewell options (no paper) An opportunity to discuss a farewell for the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee |
| 4 | 5:55 pm | Session closed with <i>karakia</i> . |

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| WORKSHOP ITEM NO: 1 | SUBJECT MATTER: Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – Priorities for the Future |
| REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant, Zone Facilitator | DATE OF WORKSHOP: 26 May 2025 |

Purpose:

To identify and document the Committee’s top priorities for any new leadership model’s consideration.

Background:

In 2023, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) initiated a review of Zone Committees to assess how to better include local leadership in freshwater decision-making. A report presented to the CMF in November 2024 acknowledged the valuable contributions of these committees but noted they may no longer be the preferred option to support effective local freshwater leadership in some areas. The CMF agreed further work is needed to develop an improved approach, with Environment Canterbury leading this effort alongside Councils and Papatipu Rūnanga in early 2025, ahead of a proposed model being presented in May.

To support the transition to a new leadership model, the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee is developing a list of priorities and key issues a new model can utilise to inform any future work programme. This list may include actions and focus areas from the Committee’s current Action Plan, and priorities/issues identified in the Selwyn Waihora Zone Implementation Plan or Addendum, or broader priorities that require collaborative and coordinated leadership.

Consideration can be given to:

- Zone Committee Action Plan (ZCAP) - This outlines the current priority areas and actions the committee is working on to implement the CWMS at a local level. Progress has been made against several priorities with further work to be done on several actions. A ZCAP progress table draft is attached (Attachment 1) which will be used to support discussion and be added to at the workshop. The Zone Committee can consider what actions or priorities included in the ZCAP that they would like to see carried on. A copy of the Selwyn Waihora ZCAP can be found online here: [Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024 | Environment Canterbury](#)
- Zone Implementation Plan (ZIP) and Zone Implementation Plan Addendum (ZIPA) – The Selwyn Waihora ZIP and ZIPA were developed to outline local priorities and actions for achieving the goals of the CWMS. These documents reflect community input and provide guidance on freshwater management, biodiversity, and cultural values across the zone. As a new leadership model is considered, the ZIP and Addendum offer valuable insights into established priorities and can help identify incomplete or ongoing actions that may be important to carry forward into future planning.
- Current issues of relevance that have been identified by the community, the Committee, or other stakeholders, or are widely recognised—such as contact recreation and water quality monitoring.

Discussion:

Prior to this online workshop, Committee members were invited to complete a short survey to support the identification of priorities for the Committee.

The 'Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – Priorities for the Future - DRAFT' attached as **Workshop Agenda 1.1** outlines the top priorities identified through the survey and is the starting point for this workshop discussion.

Some questions for the Committee's consideration:

- What should we keep/drop?
- Is there anything missing?
- Does anything need more focus?
- Are they right for a governance focussed group?

Documents/links:

- Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan
 - [Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024 | Environment Canterbury](#)
- Selwyn Waihora ZIP and ZIPA can be found via the links under Zone Committee Key Resources:
 - [Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee | Environment Canterbury](#)

Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – Priorities for the Future – DRAFT

The Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee (SWZC) acknowledges that the priorities outlined below will be considered within the scope of the new local leadership group. The Committee understands that, at the time of drafting, decisions on the groups' purpose, structure, and function were still pending.

The SWZC have considered their 2021–24 Zone Committee Action Plan as well as suggested other actions for consideration by the new local leadership groups. While some priorities and/or actions may extend beyond the group's scope, they still represent valuable opportunities that could be led or supported by other partners/organisations/groups etc.

| PRIORITY | RATIONALE AND EXAMPLE ACTIONS |
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| 1. Enhancing Mahinga Kai, Recreation and Biodiversity | <p>This is an established priority identified in the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan (ZCAP), and the Committee is keen to see its continuation as these values are central to the identity, wellbeing, and environmental health of the Selwyn Waihora Zone.</p> <p><i>Examples of actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to shared priorities across the agencies and rūnanga. • Advise on priority sites for restoration based on ecological, cultural and recreational significance • Recommend funding priorities e.g. projects that protect and restore mahinga kai (traditional food gathering areas) and native biodiversity. |
| 2. Restoring Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere | <p>This is an established priority identified in the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan (ZCAP), and the Committee is keen to see its continuation due to its cultural, ecological and recreational significance to the zone.</p> <p><i>Examples of actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise and advocate actions that address nutrient loading and sedimentation to enhance the lake's mauri (life force). • Supporting Te Waihora Co-Governance e.g. prioritise funding for projects that support the shared vision for Te Waihora. |
| 3. Ensuring Sustainable Groundwater Management | <p>This is an ongoing priority – groundwater quality and quantity – for the Selwyn Waihora Zone and is important given its impact on drinking water, ecosystem health, long term water availability, etc.</p> <p><i>Examples of actions:</i></p> |

**Selwyn Waihora
Water Zone Committee**

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend managing groundwater abstraction to prevent over-extraction and maintain base flows in connected surface water bodies. • Enable education and risk awareness through recommending events that raise public and landowner awareness of groundwater depletion, contamination risks, and long-term lag effects, nitrate risks and personal actions. • Back projects that enhance natural groundwater recharge or mitigate nitrate through constructed wetlands, denitrification walls, or targeted land retirement. |
| 4. Supporting Community Engagement and Education | <p>The Committee would like to see a continued emphasis being put on community engagement and education in order to empower local people to understand, care for, and take action to improve freshwater health—ensuring long-term, community-led stewardship of water resources.</p> <p><i>Examples of actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster community involvement in freshwater management through education programs and citizen science initiatives. • Encourage local stewardship and awareness of water resource issues. • Support drinking water testing events that help increase the awareness of private bore owner responsibilities and risks to water supplies. |
| 5. Facilitating or supporting collaborative catchment planning and governance with rūnanga, ECan, councils, and landowners | <p>The Committee views collaborative catchment planning and governance as essential as it brings together rūnanga, councils, ECan, and landowners to make informed, inclusive decisions. It honours Treaty commitments, incorporates local knowledge, and ensures actions are practical, aligned, and widely supported. A collaborative approach will strengthen trust, improve outcomes, and reflect the collaborative spirit of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.</p> <p><i>Examples of actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide or support a forum for regular dialogue between LLG, community and stakeholders for catchments. • Working collaboratively to support the development of catchment-based plans. • Champion clear roles, transparency and accountability by promoting transparent reporting, shared learning, and community updates to maintain momentum and trust. |
| 6. Facilitate actions to achieve catchment nutrient targets and water quality outcomes in priority area | <p>This is an established priority identified in the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan (ZCAP), and the Committee is keen to see its continuation. This is important because it helps directly address the health of rivers, streams, and groundwater.</p> <p><i>Examples of actions:</i></p> |

Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend priority catchments to focus on • Ensure strategic focusses across parties are aligned. • Encourage mana whenua and community priorities. • Champion catchment-scale planning. • Promote targeted mitigation practices e.g. riparian planting, constructed wetlands, improved effluent management in high risk areas. • Support/recommend collaborative research with universities or agencies to improve understanding of water quality trends and the effectiveness of interventions. |
| 7. Integration of Cultural Values | <p>This is important to the Committee to ensure that freshwater management reflects te Ao Māori/Māori world view, responsibilities, and rights of mana whenua as kaitiaki.</p> <p><i>Examples of actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate Ngāi Tahu cultural values and mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) into freshwater management decisions, where possible. • Ensure that water management practices respect and uphold the significance of water bodies to mana whenua. • Encourage planning and restoration projects to be co-designed with rūnanga. |
| 8. Restoring Waikirikiri/Selwyn River back to a healthy state | <p>This is an established priority identified in the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan (ZCAP), and the Committee is keen to see its continuation given its cultural, ecological and recreational significance, and feeds into Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.</p> <p><i>Examples of actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support targeted prioritisation of work such as prioritising priority reaches and tributaries for focussed action. • Recommend funding priorities e.g. investment in community based riparian restoration, flow enhancement trials etc. <p>Promote cultural and community monitoring e.g. river scorecards and encourage regular reporting back to the community.</p> |