



Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee (Water Management)

**127th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SELWYN - WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD AT THE TAI TAPU
COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024
AT 4PM**

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

Loran Eisely, US Author

Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee - 11 November 2024

11 November 2024 04:00 PM - 06:30 PM

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SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE – Meeting Runsheet

MEETING: **Monday 12 August 2024, Check in at 4:00pm then meeting starts at 4:15 pm-6:30 pm,**
at **Tai Tapu Community Centre**

TIMETABLE & ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item	Time	Description
	4:00 pm	<i>Committee check-in</i>
		Opportunity for Committee members to provide non-committee related updates and for whakawhanaungatanga
		<i>Public meeting begins</i>
1	4:15 pm (10 min)	Meeting commences with Karakia and formal order of business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Apologies • Identification of Urgent General Business • Register of Interests review • Confirmation of minutes 12 August 2024 • Public contribution • Correspondence
2	4:25 pm (15 min)	Zone Committee Action Plan Budget – confirm recommendations – for decision The Committee will confirm projects for recommendation to Environment Canterbury to support using the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan Budget FY24/25.
3	4:40 pm (30 min)	Matuku-hūrepo – the Australasian bittern: a taonga we can save if we have a vision and work together – for information Peter Langlands and Ken Hughey will provide details of a proposal - A new ‘farming’ venture for Canterbury, with an initial focus around Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere: Matuku-hūrepo (Australasian bittern) farming.
4	5:10 pm (30 min)	Enviro Collective and Advance Mitigations – for information Richard Fitzgerald, General Manager of Enviro Collective will provide a presentation which includes an overview of Advanced Mitigation (AM) and how it builds on GMP practices, farmer responses to AM, changes at the farm level, insights into farmer engagement and measuring success.
5	5:40 pm (10 min)	Committee updates – for information and decision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selwyn Well Water Testing Events – Killinchy and West Melton • CWMS Chairs and Deputy Chairs – Zone Committee Review Update • Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee and Element Environmental – Selwyn Waihora Leaders Project and Catchment Support scoping project - update
6	5:50 pm (10 min)	General Business
7	6:00 pm	Meeting closed with <i>karakia</i> .
8		End of year kai for Committee members

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE TAI TAPU COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 12 AUGUST 2024
COMMENCING AT 4PM**

Agenda

Item	Time	Description
	4:00 pm	<i>Committee check-in</i>
		Opportunity for Committee members to provide non-committee related updates and for whakawhanaungatanga
		<i>Public meeting begins</i>
1	4.15 pm (10 min)	Meeting commences with Karakia and formal order of business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Apologies • Identification of Urgent General Business • Register of Interests review • Confirmation of minutes 11 March 2024 • Public contribution • Correspondence
2	4.25 pm (35 min)	Impact of Onsite Wastewater Management Systems (OWMS) in Canterbury – for information Bronwyn Humphries, ESR Senior Scientist will provide a presentation on the project to estimate OWMS systems in Canterbury.
3	5:00 pm (30 min)	Te Waihora GIS Platform project – <i>Deferred to the September meeting</i>
4	5:30 pm (30 min)	Introduction to the wider Waikirikiri Selwyn District works – for information Dann Meehan, Area Engineer for Environment Canterbury will provide an update on the Selwyn District River Management Rate and works.
5	6:00 pm (15 min)	Committee updates – for information and decision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZCAP 2021-24 confirmation • ECan Representation Review • ECan Long Term Plan adopted • Community engagement updates • Waitātari Harts Creek Bird Hide and Boardwalk Working Group • Waitaha Action to Impact fund • Councillor verbal updates • Actions • Zone Committee Calendar

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Long Term plan adopted • SDC Long Term plan adopted • Selwyn Waihora Leaders Project and Catchment Support scoping project – update
6	6:15 pm (10 min)	General Business
7	6:25 pm	Meeting closed with <i>karakia</i> .

PRESENT

Matt Dodson (Community Member/Chair); Les Wanhalla (Te Taumutu Rūnanga); Councillor Vicky Southworth (Environment Canterbury Regional Council); Khan McKay (Community Member); Councillor Sophie McInnes (Selwyn District Council); James Booker (Community Member); Allanah Kidd (Community Member/Deputy Chair); Tayla Nelson-Tūhuru (Community Member); and Caine Tauwhare (Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke - Rāpaki Rūnanga -online).

IN ATTENDANCE

Jaimee Grant (Facilitator, Environment Canterbury); John Benn (Department of Conservation); Therese Davel (Committee Advisor).

The Chair welcomed everyone, and Jaimee Grant opened the meeting with a karakia.

Caine Tauwhare attended online.

APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Helen Troy, Marie Pollisco and Alice Docking.

Moved – Councillor McInnes / **Seconded** – Councillor Southworth

‘That the Selwyn Waihora Zone committee receive the apologies as noted.’

CARRIED

IDENTIFICATION OF URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

No urgent business was noted.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved – Les Wanhalla / **Seconded** – Khan McKay

‘That the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee confirm the minutes of the meeting on 11 March 2024, as circulated.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

James Booker resigned with immediate effect. He thanked everyone for the opportunity and especially Jaimee Grant for supporting the Committee and keeping it moving. Les Wanhalla said he always welcomed James’ inputs and Matt Dodson said that James made positive and insightful contribution to the group. Councillor Southworth thanked James for being part of the team and said that hopefully he would continue to be an advocate for the work the Committee does.

Moved - Matt Dodson / **Seconded** – Les Wanhalla

‘That the Selwyn Waihora zone committee formally receive and accept the resignation of James Booker, with immediate effect.’

CARRIED

REPORTS

1. Impact of Onsite Wastewater Management Systems (OWMS) in Canterbury

Presenters noted they were seeing evidence of mixing of water sources, with the interaction not yet fully understood. They spoke about the number of systems, areas which were considered dense and the fact that positive effects of reticulation justified the money spent. Home-owner awareness is important and they do go out and have workshops and presentations to improve people’s knowledge on onsite wastewater management systems.

It was noted that soil would be the greatest barrier for protection.

Refer attached presentation for full details including maps, identified sites and scientific data.

Moved – James Booker / **Seconded** – Councillor Vicky Southworth

‘That the Zone Committee:

Receives the information in the Impact of Onsite Wastewater Management Systems (OWMS) in Canterbury presentation.’

CARRIED

2. Te Waihora GIS Platform project

The item is to be deferred to a future meeting.

3. Introduction to the wider Waikirikiri Selwyn District works

Environment Canterbury Rivers staff, Dan Meehan and Christina Taylor spoke about the schemes within the Selwyn district and the new Selwyn District River Management Rate. They noted that a large area of Selwyn is not covered by a water river rating scheme. During the recent Environment Canterbury Long-term Plan process communities indicated they wanted Environment Canterbury to be more proactive. Staff said they would be arranging to have similar presentation to several different groups within Selwyn.

Moved – Allanah Kidd / **Seconded** – Councillor Sophie McInnes

'That the Zone Committee:

Receives the update on the Selwyn District River Management Rate and works.'

CARRIED

4. Committee Updates

Jaimee Grant told the Committee they should consider looking at a new action plan but will extend this to the end of the year to consider the current CWMS Committee Review being undertaken by Environment Canterbury.

The committee said they were comfortable continuing with the current plan until more information comes to hand.

Councillors McInnes and Southworth shared more about recent council activities, including the Long-term Plan adoption and Representation Review progress.

The Committee indicated they would want to be part of the Superheroes Awards and staff would be working alongside Selwyn District Council to make this happen.

It was also noted that Waitātari Harts Creek recently secured funding to appoint a project manager.

Jaimee Grant also said that applications in respect of the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan budget are expected in by 13 September. After this date there will be a workshop for confirmation of successful applicants in November. For this reason, she asked whether the Committee would be comfortable moving their September meeting from the 9th to the 23rd. The Committee agreed.

Moved – Allanah Kidd / **Seconded** – Tayla Nelson-Tūhuru

'That the Zone Committee:

- 1. **Receives** these updates for its information and in consideration of its Action Plan 2021-24; and*
- 2. **Confirms** it will continue to use its 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plan, with any required amendments, until the requirements for a 2024-2027 CWMS Action Plan are clarified.'*

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

None.

CLOSE OF MEETING

Jaimee Grant closed the meeting with karakia.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.59pm.

CHAIRPERSON

DATE

AGENDA ITEM NO: 2	SUBJECT MATTER: Zone Committee Action Plan Project Recommendations (for decision)
REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant – CWMS Facilitation, Environment Canterbury	DATE OF MEETING: 11 November 2024

Purpose:

The purpose of the agenda item is to enable the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee (SWZC) to confirm its support of projects using the Zone Committee's Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Action Plan Budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are presented to the SWZC for its consideration and decision.

That the Zone Committee:

- **Confirms** its decision to support the funding recommendations for the following projects:

1. RCS Tunnel House Irrigation Project	Rolleston Christian School	\$1,297.00
2. Fantail Trust Bird Sanctuary	Fantail Trust	\$2,500.00
3. Old Tai Tapu Bush Deer Fence	Queen Elizabeth II Trust	\$12,762.00
4. Halswell/ Huritini Wetland Restoration	Environment Canterbury	\$10,000.00
5. Scamander Swamp Wetland Restoration	Environment Canterbury	\$16,500.00
6. Te Ara Kākāriki Kids Discovery Plantout and Monitoring at Te Motu Huritini o Ahuriri 2025	Te Ara Kākāriki Greenway Canterbury Trust	\$6,941.00

Background:

As part of their Long-Term Plan 2024-2034, Environment Canterbury committed \$50,000 per zone for the 2024-25 financial year for the Zone Committee Action Plan Budget. The confirmed purpose of the budget is to allow Zone Committees to focus on implementing their action plan and leverage other funding opportunities to achieve the CWMS priorities. The Zone Committee recommends the allocation of the budget and Environment Canterbury then makes the decisions and provides administration.

The main criteria is that projects recommended have alignment with Committee's Action Plan. Other criteria that are considered include: the significance of the problem or opportunity; expected impact of the project; the extent to which the community are likely to be engaged; mahinga kai; value for money; whether the project is feasible, realistic, ready to start; and project management, including leadership and financial oversight.

Projects considered:

On 23 September 2024, the Zone Committee held a closed workshop session with the purpose of considering several project proposals to recommend Environment Canterbury to support using the \$50,000 allocated for the Selwyn Waihora ZCAP Budget.

The ZCAP budget was oversubscribed receiving a total request of \$127,034 worth of funding. Discussions on all applications was undertaken with consideration given to applications based on the criteria noted above.

A summary of the applications received including the recommended funding allocations is included **Agenda Item 2.1**. The recommendations are made in consideration of the project's alignment with the Committee's Action Plan goals and objectives and Committee discussions from the briefing session.

A copy of the Committee's Action Plan 2021-2024 can be viewed online here: [Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024 | Environment Canterbury](#).

Agenda Item 2.1

Project Name	Applicant	Project Summary	Alignment	Requested amount	Recommended amount
Scamander Swamp Wetland Restoration	Biodiversity Advisor (Environment Canterbury)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim: This project aims to control Crack Willow (<i>Salix × fragilis</i>) which is increasingly encroaching on the wetland and will help protect the function of the wetland ecosystem and the benefit it provides to the surrounding landscape, habitat for native biodiversity and aesthetic values. - Builds on the work already undertaken in the wetland in line with the Scamander Wetland Management Plan supporting Year 1-2 work. - Funding will go towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Contracted works for willow removal 	Links with the overarching priority: “We will enhance mahinga kai, biodiversity and recreation opportunities” as it supports the wetland ecosystem and habitat for biodiversity values. This project aligns strongly with the “Protection and enhancement of wetlands.” (Environment Canterbury priority for the zone committee).	\$33,000.00 (can be scaled back to a smaller amount)	\$16,500.00
Halswell/Huritini Wetland Restoration	Biodiversity Advisor (Environment Canterbury)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim: There is an extensive wetland along the Huritini/Halswell river that is largely dominated by Raupō but has an increasing invasion of Crack and Gray Willow as well as some other woody pest species. This project would look to start controlling the willow and then other pest species before they become overly problematic. - The works will prevent willow invasion and allow for raupō to reclaim the area. This would improve the wetland’s function and support flood retention to help protect the environment and community areas downstream. The overall aim is to connect this wetland with the Ahuriri Lagoon restoration plan and join this wetland up to create a contiguous corridor to Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. - Funding will go towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Begin control work in that area and potentially further assessment of what funding would be required to carry on. The full amount covers just over 300 hours of work excluding costs of equipment, any plants etc. 	Links with the overarching priority: “We will enhance mahinga kai, biodiversity and recreation opportunities” as it will extend the native corridor alongside the river enhancing biodiversity outcomes and improve wetland function. This project aligns strongly with the “Protection and enhancement of wetlands.” (Environment Canterbury priority for the zone committee). FC: \$20,000 is around 307 hours of contracted works excluding costs of equipment, any plants etc.	\$20,000.00 (can be scaled back to a smaller amount)	\$10,000.00
The Fantail Trust Native Bird and Plant Sanctuary	The Fantail Trust	<p>Aim: The Fantail Trust aim to create a native bird and plant sanctuary on the true left side of the Rakaia River in the Rakaia Gorge along the walkway. Purchase of 5 AT220 traps to be deployed in remote sites of the area to eliminate possums and rats. These traps will add to the existing traps in the area. The removal of possums and rats will greatly improve the survival of native birds and invertebrates and enable the forest to regenerate and rejuvenate. It will create over time, an intact native forest environment for lots of people to enjoy. The location has high ecological value and is worth protection and complements weed works in the area. Aligns with Predator Free 2050 goal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding will go towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Purchase of 5 AT220 traps 	<p>We will enhance mahinga kai, biodiversity and recreation opportunities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosting at least one biodiversity-focused celebration each year. <i>Could work with Fantail Trust?</i> - Publicising and celebrating measurable improved biodiversity outcomes for at least one project each year. <i>Could be promoted as a SW project.</i> - The Fantail Trust is really about biodiversity, creating an intact thriving environment in the forest in the Rakaia Gorge providing recreational opportunities along the walkway. 	\$2,500.00 (incl. GST as not GST registered)	\$2,500.00

Waianiwaniwa Headwaters Restoration Project	Private individual	<p>A restoration project on a small stretch of the Waianiwaniwa Stream that runs through the applicant's property and is the centre of their restoration vision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim: The objective for this funding is to fence a 13ha area to exclude stock from the waterway, keep wild animals at bay, and allow for the native seedlings to regenerate. The project area features a waterfall and small beech remnant high upstream. Outcomes include increased biodiversity with flora and fauna due to stock exclusion, increased recreational opportunities with mahinga kai and walking tracks and potential to be an exemplar. The stream is a tributary of the Waikirikiri/Selwyn River. - Funding will go towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Deer fencing (as noted in the budget) for the project. It is a substantial cost that is unobtainable for applicants currently but will have an instant and significant effect on the native revegetation and water quality of the stream with flow on effects downstream. 	<p>Enhancing mahinga kai, biodiversity and recreational opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting a full canopy back over the Stream to keep water temperatures down and increase the Mahinga Kai opportunities that will exist in the future, especially with protection of mud fish habitat. - Increased recreational opportunities with Walking tracks <p>ECan priority - Increased riparian management to protect aquatic ecosystems</p>	\$17,000.00	Nil.
Old Tai Tapu Bush deer fence – QEII	The Trust QEII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim: The Old Tai Tapu bush is a 6.5-hectare indigenous lowland forest with a canopy of tōtara, mataī, kōwhai, māhoe, rōhutu, mānau, and houhī, but its future is bleak due to heavy browsing by fallow deer. The deer have devastated the forest by eating seedlings, ground cover, and vines, and ring-barking saplings, preventing regeneration. As a result, the forest will eventually degrade into a scattering of wind-damaged trees. The Old Tai Tapu Bush was identified as the most deer-damaged QEII covenant in its region for the "Deer Exclusion Project" led by the QEII Trust, a project to protect key conservation areas from pest deer. QEII are looking to fence 11015 m of the bush to exclude deer, eliminate deer within the bush and undertake monitoring. QEII can cover some costs however, there is a shortfall of \$25/metre, or \$32,762. The owners are keen to see the bush fenced and free of deer, but they need community funding to make it happen. - Funding will go towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fencing contractor o ground works contractor o deer-cullers o QEII funds project management by the rep, administration, and ongoing monitoring. 	<p>We will enhance mahinga kai, biodiversity, and recreation opportunities by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publicising and celebrating measurable improved biodiversity outcomes for at least one project each year. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The QEII monitoring photos that have tracked the degradation of the forest understory for many years will instead record the greening of the forest floor, and be available to publicise the difference deer-removal makes to forest on the Port Hills. b) Publicising the importance of reducing the many small sources of silt to improve the water quality downstream. c) Publicising the detrimental impact of deer on existing forest as part of a long-term ambition to reduce red and fallow deer on the Port Hills. 2. Hosting at least one biodiversity-focused celebration each year: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The owners and QEII Trust representative will host an Open Day walk through the forest. b) The owners will welcome seed collectors, and the forest will act as a reference site for revegetation project planning. 	\$12,762.00	\$12,762.00
Tunnel House Irrigation Project	Rolleston Christian School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim: Cover costs of installing an irrigation system in the school's Recycled Trampoline Plastic Bottle and Tunnel house to provide water for their compost bins, food forest, vegetable and native plants shade house. Ākonga/students learn to grow vegetables and native plants. The school wish to partner with community growing groups and Ellesmere Food Bank and others to provide kai for those in need. Native plants grown can be used for their 	<p>Overarching priority: We will enhance mahinga kai, biodiversity and recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Publicising and supporting at least two planting days per year. <i>Not a typical planting day but students, supported by staff, look after the tunnel house.</i></p>	\$1,297.00	\$1,297.00

		<p>planting needs around the school and out-of-school riparian projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding will go towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o irrigation system costs including required equipment and pump shed, and installation costs. 			
Lincoln Kids Discovery Plantout and monitoring at Te Motu Huritini O Ahuriri 2025	Te Ara Kākāriki Greenway Canterbury Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim: This project is part of a broader effort to restore vegetation along the Huritini awa in Ahuriri Reserve, connecting with previous plantings at Te Motu Huritini and other restoration initiatives upstream and downstream, including Environment Canterbury's te Ahuriri wetland restoration and Te Ara Kākāriki's Jobs for Nature project. Funding is sought for the delivery of a monitoring day and planting day with Lincoln Primary School at Te Motu Huritini O Ahuriri. Through these events tamariki have the opportunity to learn about and enhance indigenous habitat along the Huritini Halswell Awa. - Funding will go towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All costs of providing the planting day and monitoring day. 	<p>We will enhance mahinga kai, biodiversity and recreation opportunities by: Publicising and supporting at least two planting days per year. This funding will support one Te Ara Kākāriki Kids Discovery Planting Day that enhances biodiversity and mahinga kai through the creation of habitat. Seeking support in the form of a partnership and actively seeking resources and practical projects, including: Promoting and enabling school engagement and citizen science (<i>ZC notes this is not on the Waikirikiri/Selwyn</i>) This project enables school engagement through the Kids Discovery Plantout programme. Citizen science will be carried out through the monitoring day as well as on the planting day. We upload our observations to iNaturalist and keep a record of species planted and wildlife species encountered.</p>	\$11,475.00	\$6,941.00
Te Waihora Lakeside Trail	Waihora Ellesmere Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim: The Te Waihora Lakeside Trail project aims to create a multi-use recreational trail around Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere, connecting the community with its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and ecological importance. It seeks funding to build a safe, accessible trail for cyclists, recreationists and educational groups. The initiative promotes environmental stewardship and cultural awareness through immersive outdoor experiences. The project is currently at the project planning and design phase. Funding will be spent on Trial Engineering and design, ensuring a sensitive, sustainable, well-structured trail that will guide recreational users, protect Te Waihora and allow engagement with the taonga. Noted support from SDC, DOC and rūnanga. - Funding will go towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o developing the trail design with assistance from engineering consultancy. 	<p>Overarching priority: We will support actions to restore Te Waihora to a healthy state. <i>A pivotal opportunity to enhance awareness of the ongoing conservation efforts required for the lake's restoration. By broadening engagement with the lake across the regional catchment, the trail will foster a deeper connection with Te Waihora and instil a lasting sense of guardianship among the community.</i></p>	\$14,000.00	Nil.
Waitātari Harts Creek Rebuild Project	Ellesmere Lions Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim: The Waitātari Hart's Creek Rebuild Project is a community-driven initiative aimed at revitalizing the Waitātari Hart's Creek recreational area, located on the shores of Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere. The project seeks to restore and enhance the track, boardwalk and bird hide facilities, which have deteriorated over time, to ensure their safety, functionality, and enjoyment for future generations. - Funding will go towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o initial project costs - engineering, penetrometer testing, design of boardwalk and bird hide, consent costs and project management 	<p>Overarching priority: We will support actions to restore Te Waihora to a healthy state. The Waitātari Hart's Creek reserve offers a key opportunity to raise awareness of the conservation efforts needed to restore the lake. Replacing the boardwalk and bird hide with sustainable infrastructure will renew local and regional engagement, fostering a lasting sense of guardianship for Te Waihora.</p>	\$15,000.00	Nil.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 3.0	SUBJECT MATTER: Matuku-hūrepo – the Australasian bittern: a taonga we can save if we have a vision and work together (for information)
REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant – CWMS Facilitation, Environment Canterbury	DATE OF MEETING: 11 November 2024

Purpose:

The purpose of the agenda item is to provide the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee (SWZC) with a presentation on the Matuku-hūrepo – the Australasian bittern proposal and discuss.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are presented to the SWZC for consideration.

That the Zone Committee:

- **Receives** the presentation “Matuku-hūrepo – the Australasian bittern: a taonga we can save if we have a vision and work together” in consideration of their Action Plan 2021-24.

Background:

The Matuku-hūrepo or Australasian bittern is one of our most fascinating birds, and unfortunately, one of our most endangered. It is estimated there are only between 30 and 50 bittern remaining in Waitaha/Canterbury, and fewer than 1,000 across the country. They are currently classed as ‘threatened - nationally critical.’

The bittern’s declining numbers are reflective of the region’s shrinking wetlands, where they are commonly found. Since European settlement, 90 per cent of freshwater and natural wetlands and half of our coastal wetlands in Waitaha have been lost through human impact. Other threats include collisions with vehicles and starvation caused by several factors.

90 per cent of bittern sightings in Waitaha over the last 15 years have occurred in the Te Waihora and Pegasus Bay areas. Their most important habitat is dense/mature raupō beds on river, wetland or lake edges.

Presentation:

Peter Langlands and Ken Hughey will provide details of a proposal - A new ‘farming’ venture for Canterbury, with an initial focus around Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere: Matuku-hūrepo (Australasian bittern) farming. A copy of the presentation is attached as **Agenda Item 3.1**.

Matuku-hūrepo – the Australasian bittern: a taonga we can save if we have a vision and work together



Ken Hughey, Waihora Ellesmere Trust
Peter Langlands, Wild Capture Research

Presentation to Environment Canterbury
10th September 2024

Draft vision (noting that this proposal was also submitted to ECan as part of its LTP process)

A thriving population of matuku-hūrepo Australasian bittern, in Canterbury within 15 years, based on a focused and large-scale approach at Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere, assisted by complementary work elsewhere

A little about the species ...

- The matuku-hūrepo is a bird of our wetlands. It is brown, stocky and rarely seen. And it is thought to number less than 1000 in NZ and maybe a few more than that in Australia. In NZ it is defined as of 'Threatened-National Critical' conservation status.
- We face losing matuku-hūrepo from Canterbury with possibly as few as 30 now present. It is declining as habitat is lost, food supplies reduced and predation occurs.
- Peter has seen many matuku-hūrepo and I also have seen a lot, and we have both worked on the species. Peter locally, me for DOC in negotiating a mitigation agreement with an energy company in Northland looking to build a large wind farm and potentially impacting the species, are committed to this species.
- To us the matuku-hūrepo is the 'canary in the coal-mine' in terms of wetland conservation in Canterbury, and its loss is entirely preventable!
- Bittern need wetlands. They have a home range size of roughly 40-50ha per pair (and that is a very large area) but frequent multiple wetlands at different times of the year. They feed primarily on juvenile tuna but also on bullies and other animals. They typically nest in raupo dominant wetlands.
- So, we propose ...

The proposal: A new ‘farming’ venture for Canterbury, with an initial focus around Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere: matuku-hūrepo (Australasian bittern) farming

- Experience in Australia, in the Riverina rice area, shows that bitterns can effectively be farmed.
- We propose a similar venture here, but not of course with rice but with raupō.
- Based on the breeding pair home range size then to produce and secure 20-30 pairs would require a farmed area of around 1000ha, admittedly enormous.
- But, this is doable if we buy into the vision and work together (i.e., we have a plan and we implement it) – we get the land (not necessarily all contiguous), we plant and otherwise secure raupō dominant plant communities, we manage water levels and we control predators. And we undertake other complementary initiatives elsewhere.
- Doing this will deliver matuku-hūrepo but also other ecosystem (e.g., water quality, other species such as the now locally extinct Mātātā South Island fernbird), cultural (mahika kai) and economic benefits (e.g., tourism).
- Achieving this vision will not be cheap, but it is doable, and without it we will likely lose this species.

Next steps – simple:

Someone (?: ECan or Kai Tahu or?) needs to take the lead, sell the vision, get everyone committed, draw up the plan and **'jdi'** (just do it!).



Key points from our meeting with ECan:

- Farming is a good metaphor because likely we will need to harvest sediment trapped over time
- Raupō in this context is a catch all for a mosaic of wetland plants and areas of open water
- Northern side of the lake favoured but need to be careful we don't destroy other important native plant communities, e.g., salt tolerant plants on Greenpark Sands
- Need to talk to the runaka
- Has been thought about a 'park' on this northern area - complementary
- DOC need to be heavily involved and have a lot of the science
- ECan staff will consider the proposition and report back to Council

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4	SUBJECT MATTER: Enviro Collective and Advance Mitigations – for information
REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant – CWMS Facilitation, Environment Canterbury (or update)	DATE OF MEETING: 11 November 2024

Purpose:

The purpose of the agenda item is to provide the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee with an overview of the work Enviro Collective undertakes with farmers and landowners to achieve environmental outcomes.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are presented to the SWZC for consideration and decision.

That the Zone Committee:

- **Receives** the presentation, “Enviro Collective and Advanced Mitigations”.

Background:

Enviro Collective (ECL) is an independent environmental advisory owned by three irrigation companies and executive staff. ECL, who are staffed by five personnel, provide environmental services to the schemes, private farmers and industry. Amongst a range of services, ECL provides farmers with support for FEP development and their independent audit, as well as running extension events that enable the uptake of Advanced Mitigation (AM) practices.

ECL personnel, formerly through Irrigo, provided expert guidance for Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Limited (BCI), MHV Water Limited (MHV) and Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Limited (ALIL) during their consenting process and were integral in the development of AM as an environmental management approach.

AM is a standard that demonstrates environmental management above and beyond “Good Management Practice”. There are five targets which promote advanced irrigation and N surplus management as well as reduce contaminants from point sources on a property.

AM is defined in BCI resource consent CRC211511. The outcomes were developed in consultation with other irrigation schemes, industry experts and farmers. As an outcome focussed framework, AM takes the farm-specific risks into consideration.

Presentation:

The presentation will provide an overview of AM, beginning with its background and the factors that led to its development. A key part of the discussion will focus on the distinctions between AM and Good Management Practice (GMP), showing how AM builds on GMP to enhance farmer performance and support continuous improvements on farm.

We will highlight how farmers have responded to AM, detailing the changes that have occurred at the farm level and providing insights into the farmers level of engagement. We'll discuss how its success is being measured.

AM has not been without its challenges. We'll discuss the obstacles faced in adopting and implementing AM, from technical and financial considerations to on-the-ground practicalities. Finally, we'll look toward the future, discussing what's next for AM, and how AM can continue support ongoing environmental improvements.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5	SUBJECT MATTER: Committee Updates (for information)
REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant – CWMS Facilitation, Environment Canterbury	DATE OF MEETING: 11 November 2024

PURPOSE:

The following updates are provided for the Committee's information.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Zone Committee:

1. **Receives** these updates for its information and in consideration of its Action Plan 2021-24.

1. Selwyn Well Water Testing Events – Killinchy and West Melton

On 31 October 2024, two well water testing events were held at Killinchy Hall and the West Melton Community and Recreation Centre. The events were supported by Selwyn District Council, Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee, Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Incorporated, Dr Tim Chambers from University of Canterbury, Food and Health Safety, Waterforce, Macmillan Drilling, Fiona Ambury from Whiterock Consulting Ltd and Andrew Brough, Courtenay Environmental Consultants Ltd.

The aim of these events was to allow private well water owners to test their water for nitrates and learn about other risks such as E. coli and responsibilities for bore owners. The events provided an opportunity for people to learn what their result meant by speaking to experts as well as learning about the solutions and services are available to them. Both events were fully booked and well attended.

The next testing event will be held in Sheffield on Thursday, 7 November 2024 and an update on that event can be provided at this meeting.

2. CWMS Chairs and Deputy Chairs – Zone Committee Review Update

On 30 October 2024, an online session was held with CWMS Zone Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs to provide an update on the Zone Committee review prior to recommendations going to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum later this month.

Matt Dodson, Chair, will provide the Committee with a verbal update on what was covered at the online session.

3. Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee and Element Environmental – Selwyn Waihora Leaders Project and Catchment Support scoping project - update

At the 8 July workshop, feedback was sought on a scoping project with the aim to understand, plan for the needs of those working towards improved freshwater outcomes in the Selwyn Waihora Zone, and support capability-building for the community.

An application was lodged for funding from the Access to Experts (A2E) fund however, the application was unsuccessful.

4. Actions from previous meetings

<i>From 12 February workshop</i>		
1	J Grant and M Dodson	Request information on PC1 e.g. background and/or progress. <i>Underway.</i>