

4. STYX LIVING LABORATORY TRUST MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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The purpose of this report is to inform and obtain support from the Board for a Memorandum of Understanding that will be signed between the Styx Living Laboratory Trust and the Council.

The Council has adopted a long term vision for the sustainable management of the waterways and wetlands associated with the Styx ecosystem. This vision is now starting to be implemented, including the development of the Styx Living Laboratory which focuses on both research and learning.

Although the concept underpinning the vision for Styx Living Laboratory includes all of the Styx catchment, the development of a field centre precinct will provide a physical touchstone for the Styx Living Laboratory. The Council has acquired property on both sides of the Styx River downstream of Janet Stewart Reserve for this purpose.

A Styx Living Laboratory Charitable Trust has been established to oversee the implementation of the Styx Living Laboratory, including the Styx Field Centre precinct. The Trust includes eight trustees and a Board of Management. Community representatives and people from a range of organisations are also involved, including Environment Canterbury, NIWA, Landcare Research and tertiary organisations. Please refer to Attachment 1 for a diagram outlining the management structure.

The development of partnerships has been seen as critical to the success of the Styx Living Laboratory. To assist in this process, a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed that not only clarifies the objectives, structure, functions and responsibilities of the Trust, but also forms a statement of good intent by the organisations who have become partners in this project.

A copy of the unsigned memorandum is attached to this report (Attachment 2).

This report will also be presented to the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board and the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee. The Mayor will then sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Council at a joint signing involving major partners.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Shirley/Papanui Community Board support the Memorandum of Understanding between the Styx Living Laboratory and the Christchurch City Council.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be adopted.