

3. DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

AVON/HEATHCOTE ESTUARY – PROPOSED CHARTER

The Committee received a deputation from the Christchurch Estuary Association, represented by Mr Les Batcheler and Dr Kevin O'Connor.

A copy of the association's proposed charter and recommendations for the management of the Avon/Heathcote Estuary was circulated with the agenda.

Mr Batcheler spoke of the association's establishment in 1971, its membership and the issue with which it had dealt. The association was proposing the establishment of a combined estuary management board or similar type organisation comprising representation from:

- Christchurch City Council
- Canterbury Regional Council
- Ministry for the Environment
- Department of Conservation
- North Canterbury Fish and Game Council
- Canterbury Employers' Association
- Canterbury Manufacturers' Association
- Ministry of Fisheries
- Christchurch Estuary Association
- Tangata whenua – Ngai Tahu
- Friends of the Avon/Heathcote Estuary Association
- University of Canterbury
- Lincoln University

ESTUARY CHARTER

A ten-point estuary charter, which fulfilled the main objectives of the Resource Management Act and provided a clear statement of expected outcomes was tabled.

- The Estuary is valued as a significant wetland
- The Estuary requires integrated management as a natural ecosystem
- Integrated Management must transcend divided powers and responsibilities
- Planning for integrated management must provide for uses to be compatible
- Management involves enhancement and protection of estuary margins
- Management involves quality control of estuary inflows
- Management involves reducing pollution and restoring naturalness
- Management should foster native biodiversity over naturalised lifeforms
- Management involves active participation of all interested parties
- Management requires financial resourcing for research and planning

Ken Hughey, Lincoln University, offered the university's assistance to develop the framework, through the utilisation of post-graduate students over a two-and-a-half month period.