

## 1. "OUR WATER IN THE BALANCE"

The purpose of the meeting was to consider Environment Canterbury's draft discussion document titled "Our Water in the Balance".

A presentation was provided by Allan Watson, Assistant Director of Policy and Eric Van Toor, Water Services Planning Team Leader, and took the form of a series of overhead transparencies showing:

- CCC desired outcomes
- Likely CCC strategy to meet longterm water requirements
- Summary of recommended submission points
- Groundwater quality
- Groundwater quality suggestion submission points
- Surface water quality
- Management options
- Stream/groundwater flow relationships
- Response to stream flow issues
- Response to groundwater quantity issues
- Recharge options
- CCC preferred groundwater management scenario
- Active management of groundwater by ECan

Comments on issues raised in respect of the discussion document and proposed submission points included:

- The effectiveness of charging for water as a conservation measure (to be the subject of the seminar)
- The city only had one day's storage in several reservoirs, relying on the natural inground storage
- Other groundwater sources should be explored outside the immediate district to supply the southwest area of the city
- There was a certain public perception of the quality of the water source
- Stormwater run-off may be able to be collected and used for recharging the aquifers
- The large local authority owned properties at the airport and Orana Park, savannah grasslands etc could be used for the holding of water reserves
- Farm effluent management was essential as this posed one of the biggest potential threats to water supply quality.
- Any investigations carried out into securing groundwater sources for the south-west growth area should be extended to cover the north-west area as well.
- In industrial zoned areas, industries needed to be divided into different categories to determine which could operate without harming the unconfined aquifers
- It should be recognised that there are some types of activities that may contaminate groundwater and steps needed to be taken to prevent this from occurring.
- There is a need to ensure monitoring processes are properly carried out
- In the flyer accompanying the discussion document the way the options were presented could be misleading to the public
- The document only deals with one part of the wider water issues

The Committee **decided** that its comments be included in the Council's submission to Environment Canterbury on the draft discussion document 'Our Water in the Balance'.