

## **7. AVON-HEATHCOTE FACILITATION**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Regional Council, in conjunction with the City Council and the Christchurch Estuary Association, have been discussing management options for the Estuary and its environs. The purpose of this has been to work towards co-ordinating management of the Estuary issues in a manner that transcends the administrative boundaries of the Region and the City around the Estuary. Initial discussions have centred on the Estuary issues and the formulation of a “Charter” or “Vision” for the Estuary. From this point it is intended to examine the various ways of achieving this vision.

At the Canterbury Regional Council workshop, staff will present a review of Estuary issues and discussed the potential ways of tackling them on the road to the “vision”. Initial discussions have taken place with Lincoln University (Ken Hughey) in incorporating a scoping exercise into students course work. This would involve working with interested parties to focus on Estuary issues and the processes and mechanisms for resolution., as well as seeking community in formulating the vision. Further work by Lincoln could involve developing this into proposals to be considered by the community and the two councils. Ken Hughey attended the workshop and can talk about the Christchurch City Council’s expected role.

Jenny Ridgen of the Christchurch City Council, also attended and amplified the involvement of the Christchurch City Council.

The Christchurch Estuary Association are developing ideas for the Avon-Heathcote Estuary which may include an “Estuary Conservation Authority”. It is important for future integrated management of the Estuary that all possibilities are explored before decisions like this are contemplated.

Report prepared by David Gregory, Senior Resource Management Planner.

### **Chairman’s**

**Recommendation:** For discussion.