

44. ENDORSEMENT OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Strategy and Planning, DDI 941-8281
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's document, the "Canterbury Water Management Strategy" (CWMS), as published on 5 November 2009, subject to satisfactory progress in resolving the ongoing matters outlined in the strategy document.
2. In addition, the CWMS Steering Group has requested (**Attachment 1**) that the Council consider authorising the establishment of zone committees in line with the process outlined in the strategy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. Development of the CWMS has been led by the Mayoral Forum and supervised by a multi-stakeholder Steering Group. Consultation with the public and territorial authorities has occurred throughout the development of the strategy, for example, through public meetings, presentations to councils, and via a website. The strategy recognises the challenges of water management in Canterbury and provides a framework for a new approach to the way water is allocated and managed. The primary principles for this approach include: sustainable management, regional approach and tangata whenua. Supporting principles include: natural character, indigenous biodiversity, access, quality drinking water, recreational opportunities, and community and commercial use.
4. The "Draft Canterbury Water Management Strategy" (August 2009) was presented to the Council by members of the Steering Group at a Council workshop on 22 September 2009, and was the subject of a further Council workshop on 30 September 2009. In response to submissions, the draft strategy has been amended and copies of the final strategy have been separately circulated to Councillors. The Council did not make a submission on the strategy.
5. To address concerns raised in submissions, particular attention was paid to the proposed governance structure of zone and regional committees. The strategy proposes that:

"Water management committees will be set up to develop, adopt, monitor and review the proposed water and land implementation programmes. The committees will develop the implementation programmes collaboratively so that they have a broad measure of stakeholder support – locally, regionally and nationally" (see pages 45-46 of CWMS).
6. The proposed three-tier governance structure comprises:
 - o Local level - Zone Water Management Committees for each of ten zones, with members drawn from Environment Canterbury, territory authorities with an interest in the zone, Ngāi Tahu/runanga, consent-holder representatives and stakeholders, and respected members of the community.
 - o Regional level – a Regional Water Management Committee to deal with issues that are common across the region or which need to be escalated from the local level. This committee to include representatives of each zone committee, local and central nominees, Ngāi Tahu and other stakeholders.
 - o National level – a national tripartite forum involving relevant Cabinet ministers together with representatives of Ngāi Tahu and the Canterbury regional and district councils.
7. The strategy states that the zone water management committees will be established in early 2010 using existing Local Government Act powers so that work can start on the preparation of implementation programmes. The timing for establishment of the committees will vary from zone to zone and it is expected that the Hurunui River zone committee will be the first to be established. The Implementation section of the CWMS recognises that further work is required before these committees can be fully functional (page 59 of the CWMS).

This further work includes:

- (a) The legal status of the committees.
- (b) Membership of the committees.
- (c) Remuneration of committee members.
- (d) Terms of Reference.
- (e) Boundaries.

8. Once that work has been completed, then a further report will be put before the Council regarding establishment of the committee in relation to Christchurch city.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no direct financial implications with regards to endorsing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy although additional costs are likely to be incurred as the strategy is implemented. Any costs associated with the implementation of the CWMS would need to be considered by the Council as part of the 20012-2022 LTCCP. The CWMS provides insufficient detail to estimate the scale and quantity of these costs. The establishment of zone committees, as recommended in this report, is likely to have a small impact on the costs of governance for the Council.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. The CWMS is a non-statutory document, however, aspects of its implementation will rely on provisions of the Resource Management Act and the Local Government Act.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. Endorsement of the CWMS aligns with the LTCCP community outcome of a “well governed city”, and in particular, the activity of providing a reliable supply of water which is safe to drink.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

12. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

13. The CWMS recognises the need for quality drinking water and is consistent with the Council's Water Supply Strategy (2009).

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

14. As above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

15. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Endorse the Canterbury Water Management Strategy as published on 5 November 2009, subject to satisfactory progress in resolving the ongoing matters outlined in the strategy document, and
- (b) Note that a report authorising the establishment of zone committees in line with the process outlined in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, will come before the Council in 2010, and that any future funding issues associated with implementation of the strategy will need to be considered as part of the 2012-2022 LTCCP process.

BACKGROUND

16. The Canterbury Water Management Strategy has been amended in response to submissions and was published in its final form on 5 November 2009. The CWMS has been prepared under the overall leadership of the Mayoral Forum. The strategy deals with management of the regions' water resources and was prepared by a Steering Group made up local and regional government representatives, Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu, conservation groups, irrigation interests, commercial interests, recreation interests, and other key stakeholders.
17. Development of the strategy has included several rounds of stakeholder and public consultation and engagement over the past three years.
18. Key drivers for the development of a regional water management strategy are:
 - Competing demands for water resources
 - Pressures on aquatic and groundwater ecosystems
 - Uncertain reliability of available water for agricultural use.
19. A set of 'fundamental principles' underpin the draft strategy:
 - Primary principles include sustainable management, regional approach, and tangata whenua; as well as first and second order priorities:
 - First order priorities: environment, customary use, community supplies and stock water
 - Second order priorities: irrigation, renewable electricity generation, recreation and amenity
 - Supporting principles – natural character, indigenous biodiversity, access, quality drinking water, recreational opportunities, and community and commercial use.
20. The strategy proposes a tiered system to manage water resources:
 - Zone Water Management Committees, with one committee for each water management zone which will be created. Ten zones are proposed. Each committee would be made up of 7 to 10 members drawn from Environment Canterbury, territorial authorities with an 'interest' in the zone, Ngāi Tahu, consent-holder representatives and stakeholders, and 'respected' members of the community. The chair would be a stakeholder representative.
 - Regional Water Management Committee, made up of 10 to 15 representatives of each of the zone committees, local and central government, Ngāi Tahu and 'stakeholders with the chair nominated by Environment Canterbury and territorial authorities.
 - Water Executive, which would: manage the implementation programme on a day-to-day basis; be a semi-autonomous arm of Environment Canterbury; develop a charging regime (applies to new consents, with application to existing consents yet to be developed), and be an 'active facilitator' that will jointly develop consent applications and broker new consents.
 - Water Infrastructure and Services Entity, which would be responsible for designing, building, financing and operating larger storage and distribution systems in the region.
21. A suite of draft targets, to include a set of goals for 2015, 2020 and 2040, are proposed for nine criteria:
 - Drinking water quality
 - Irrigated land area
 - Energy security and efficiency
 - Ecosystem health/biodiversity
 - Water use efficiency
 - Kaitiakitanga
 - Contribution to regional and national economies
 - Natural character of braided rivers
 - Recreational opportunities.