


**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
WATER AND WASTEWATER COMMITTEE  
4 February 2011**

**PART A - MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION**

**1. CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: OVERVIEW, ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO ZONE COMMITTEES, AND CHANGE IN COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON THE SELWYN - WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE**



<b>General Managers responsible:</b>	General Manager, City Environment Group, DDI 941-8608
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Programme Manager, Healthy Environment
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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - (i) Provide the Committee with a brief overview of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (the Strategy).
  - (ii) Outline the timetable for the establishment of the Banks Peninsula and the Christchurch - West Melton Zone Committees.
  - (iii) Request a change in Christchurch City Council (the Council) representation on the Selwyn - Waihora Zone Committee.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**I - Overview of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy**

2. The Strategy was developed by Environment Canterbury (ECan) following wide consultation across the region. It establishes a set of fundamental principles, priorities and targets that provide guidance and a framework for integrated water management.
3. To implement the Strategy, ECan has formed the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Water Management Committee (the 'regional committee') and divided the region into ten zones. Each zone will have a Zone Committee comprising regional council, district council, iwi and community representatives. The ten zone committees are in various stages of being established. The zone committees will work collaboratively to develop water management implementation programmes, taking into account programmes in other zones, as well as work addressed by the regional committee.
4. The Council has direct interest in three zone committees: Selwyn - Waihora (operational); Banks Peninsula; and Christchurch - West Melton.
5. Significant further detailed information on the Strategy can be found at <http://www.canterburywater.org.nz/>

**II - Establishment of Banks Peninsula and Christchurch - West Melton Zone Committees**

6. In July 2010 Council appointed representatives to four Canterbury Water Management Strategy Committees: Councillor Williams was appointed to the Regional Committee, Councillor Buck was appointed to the Christchurch - West Melton Zone Committee, and Councillor Reid was appointed to both the Selwyn - Waihora and Banks Peninsula Zone Committees. Prior to the establishment of the Zone Committees for Banks Peninsula and Christchurch - West Melton the Council appointees have acted as interim representatives for these committees on the Regional Committee.

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7. ECan is to establish a Selection Working Group for community representation on the Banks Peninsula and Christchurch - West Melton zone committees by March 2011. Following the assessment of applications, membership is expected to be confirmed in April 2011 and the two zone committees established shortly after this.

**III - Proposed change in Council representation on the Selwyn - Waihora Zone Committee**

8. Councillor Claudia Reid is the Council's representative on the Selwyn - Waihora Zone Committee. Due to other commitments, including her current responsibilities on the regional committee and her future potential involvement on the Banks Peninsula Zone Committee, Councillor Reid has suggested that she be replaced by Stewart Miller (member of the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board) as the Council representative on the Selwyn - Waihora Zone Committee. Mr Miller has confirmed his interest in being the Council's representative on the zone committee and a recommendation to this effect is presented in this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9. There are no changes to the financial implications for the Council in approving the replacement of Councillor Claudia Reid with Mr Stewart Miller on the Selwyn - Waihora Zone Committee.

Other financial matters relating to the Selwyn - Waihora Zone Committee were presented to the Council at the 22 July 2010 Council meeting.

**Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?**

10. Yes. The cost of managing the appointment of members to the committees is included in existing budgets.

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

11. Legal matters on the establishment and appointments of Councillors to zone committees (and the regional committee) were reported to the Council on 22 July 2010, and include:
  - (a) Existing powers and/or new legislation will be used to ensure the implementation programmes are given appropriate legal status under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991. The regional and zone committees will be joint committees of ECan and the relevant district councils. The committees will operate in accordance with Local Government Act powers and terms of reference drawn up by their parent councils. It is intended that decisions will be made on a consensus basis rather than by majority voting.
  - (b) The Canterbury Water Management Strategy is now recognised in the ECan Act 2010.
  - (c) The ECan Act 2010 provides that the Commissioners assume all the responsibilities of the elected representatives under the Local Government Act 2002. This means that as currently proposed, an Environment Canterbury Commissioner will be required to be a member of each joint zone committee.

**Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

12. Yes. Refer above.

**ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

13. The establishment and operation of Canterbury Water Management Committees will support a wide range of LTCCP environmental, governance, prosperity, health and recreational community outcomes. Of particular significance is the Council's responsibility of providing a clean and reliable water supply.

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

14. Yes. The establishment and operation of Canterbury Water Management Committees will support levels of service under the areas of water supply including: "A reliable supply of water that is safe to drink" (page 60), waterways and drainage (page 132), economic development (page 144), and city development (page 188).

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

15. The establishment and operation of Canterbury Water Management Committees is consistent with the Council's Surface Water Strategy and Water Supply Strategy.

**Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

16. As above.

**CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

17. Not required.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Water and Wastewater Committee recommend to the Council that Mr Stewart Miller be appointed as the Council representative on the Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee to replace Councillor Claudia Reid.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council appoint Mr Stewart Miller as its representative on the Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee to replace Councillor Claudia Reid.

**BACKGROUND**

**Overview of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy**

18. Following several years of collaborative work by the Mayoral Forum, a steering group, ECan and the region's ten territorial authorities, the Strategy is in the early stages of being implemented.
19. The Strategy identifies Canterbury's water resources as important to the region and to New Zealand. Lakes, rivers, streams and aquifers are used for a wide range of purposes including drinking water, agriculture, electricity generation, customary use and recreation. The desired outcome of the Strategy is:
- "To enable present and future generations to gain the greatest social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits from our water resources within an environmentally sustainable framework".*
20. The Strategy has a set of fundamental principles, priorities and targets that provide guidance and a framework for integrated water management. The principles (sustainable management, regional approach and Tangata whenua) establish clear balanced objectives that the Strategy will achieve to meet the desired outcome. The Strategy's first order priorities are the environment, customary use, community supplies and stockwater. Second order priorities are irrigation, renewable energy generation, and recreation and amenity. Targets include a set of goals that apply from 2010 and reflect the fundamental principles. Targets have been set for 2015, 2020 and 2040. Further detailed information on the targets can be found at <http://www.canterburywater.org.nz/>

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21. To implement the Strategy, ECan has established a committee called the regional committee to take an overview of water issues for the region and deal with cross-zone issues.
22. The regional committee comprises about 25 members selected from ECan (2), territorial authority appointments from each of north, mid and south Canterbury (3), the Council (1), Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu (1), runanga appointments from each of north, mid and south Canterbury (3), the chairs, or another member, of each zone committee (10), including representatives from a number of key sectors, these being, fisheries, energy, environmental/biodiversity, primary production/agriculture, recreation and regional development including tourism (6).
23. In addition to the regional committee, ten joint committees ('zone committees') are currently being formed to address local issues within each zone. Five of the ten zone committees have been formed. These are the Selwyn - Waihora, Waimakariri, Lower Waitaki-South Coastal Canterbury, Hurunui -Waiau and Ashburton Zone Committees. Three zones are of direct significance to Christchurch, the Banks Peninsula Zone (completely within Christchurch City), Christchurch - West Melton Zone (predominantly within Christchurch City) and the Selwyn - Waihora Zone.
24. The Selwyn - Waihora Zone Committee was established in 2010 as a joint committee of ECan, Selwyn District Council and Christchurch City Council. The Selwyn - Waihora Zone includes that part of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora within the Christchurch City boundary. This is a small but significant part of Christchurch City in terms of water resource and water management matters.
25. The purpose of the 'zone committees', which report to their constituent territorial local authorities and ECan, is to develop strategies, tactics and activities to give effect to the fundamental principles and targets of the Strategy within each zone. The focus for the regional committee which reports to ECan, is on infrastructure associated with managing large scale storage and the transfer of water across Canterbury, along with related issues such as energy generation and region-level biodiversity issues. The regional committee is also tasked with co-ordinating the development of a Regional Implementation Programme that gives effect to the Strategy and takes into account the work of the zone committees. The regional committee is funded by a regional rate.
26. Zone committees have the following general membership:
  - (a) One member appointed by ECan who is an "elected member" (to initially be filled by a commissioner under the Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act 2010).
  - (b) One member appointed by each territorial authority operating within the zone boundary who is an elected member (the Council and Selwyn District Council both operate within the zone boundaries for the Selwyn - Waihora, and Christchurch - West Melton zones).
  - (c) One member appointed by each Runanga with interests in the zone.
  - (d) Between four and six members appointed from the community and who come from a range of backgrounds and interests within the community.
27. The zone committees are required to work collaboratively to develop water management implementation programmes, taking into account programmes in other zones, as well as work addressed by the regional committee. Council resolutions will be required to approve and formalise committee implementation programmes. The zone committees operate as joint committees of the regional council and the local territorial authority. The regional committee is a committee of the regional council (to meet requirements of the Local Government Act), and will operate to include all local authorities in Canterbury. Membership of committees is by appointment. Councils must advertise for expressions of interest from community members and then conduct an agreed selection process for recommendation back to the councils involved.

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28. The regional committee and zone committees will exist for three years, after which new committees will be formed. Members will be paid travel expenses as well as an honorarium. An appointed member will be paid \$2,000/year, the deputy chair \$3,000/year, and the chair \$5,000/year. Staff or elected members of local bodies are not eligible for remuneration. Each committee will meet at least four times each year, with workshops and additional meetings as required and reasonable travel expenses reimbursed. Proxies or alternates are not permitted. Any committee may co-opt such other expert knowledge or advisory (non-voting) as it deems necessary to ensure it is able to achieve its purpose.
29. In July 2010 the Council appointed Councillor Claudia Reid as the Christchurch City Council member to sit on the Selwyn - Waihora Zone Committee, a 'permanent' appointment. Three Councillors were also appointed to sit on the regional committee, Councillor Chrissie Williams to represent the Council (a 'permanent' appointment), Councillor Sally Buck to represent the Christchurch - West Melton Zone Committee (an interim appointment), and Councillor Claudia Reid to represent the Banks Peninsula Zone Committee (an interim appointment). Following the establishment of the Christchurch - West Melton and Banks Peninsula Zone Committees, a new appointment process will need to be carried out to appoint permanent Council members to the two zone committees.