

Media Release

10 July 2008

Canterbury water under spotlight

The uses and benefits of water will be discussed at a series of meetings to be held around Canterbury, starting this month, Canterbury Water Management Strategy Steering Group Chair Bede O'Malley said today.

“Most people in Canterbury agree on the importance of fair and equitable allocation of water for all uses. That’s what the Canterbury Water Management Strategy is all about and that’s why we’ve invited a wide range of groups and organisations to have their say at one or more of these meetings.”

Bede O'Malley said the meetings, at 11 different localities around Canterbury, will focus on listing all the uses and benefits of water as a prelude to developing strategies and plans for managing it. To be involved in this first round of discussions, participants must register and represent a community group or organisation. The discussion will be opened up to the wider community later in the year.

“I have written to a wide range of groups and organisations, inviting them to attend one or more of the meetings,” he said. “The uses and benefits of water are likely to vary from one locality to another so it’s important that a wide range of interests is represented at each meeting.”

“I urge everyone to take this opportunity to be involved and have their say on the future direction of Canterbury’s water use management.”

To find out more about the Canterbury Water Management Strategy programme, or register to attend a meeting, go to www.canterburywater.org.nz

Ends

For further information:

Bede O'Malley
Chairman of the Steering Group
Mayor of Ashburton District Council
027 631 4784