

2 October 2008

Special Topic Workshops

Dear Stakeholder,

I invite members of your organisation to attend one or more of the special topic workshops being held between Monday 13 October and Wednesday 5 November 2008. All workshops will be held at the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church, corner Oxford Terrace and Madras Street, Christchurch. Details of the dates and times for the workshops are attached with this letter.

This is an opportunity to talk in detail with other stakeholders about water use in relation to particular topics. Members of your organisation may be interested in more than one topic, so they are welcome to attend any of the workshops they choose.

The topics to be discussed are biodiversity, land use intensification, tourism, energy and water quality. There is also a workshop focused on water management from a youth perspective.

These workshops will provide an opportunity to examine water issues in more depth. They will also help us deepen our understanding of perspectives and requirements of water use that may not have been fully canvassed in the locality workshops held around the region in July and August 2008.

The information gathered from the July/August meetings will be sent to you and posted on the Canterbury Water web site before this next round of meetings commences. At the same time we will send you an agenda for the workshops.

I hope someone from your organisation will be able to attend at least one of these workshops, which will build on information gathered in the first round. Those workshops have helped us build a wide group of stakeholders representing the broad spectrum of opinions on Canterbury water, both locally and regionally, which will ensure that any debate involves all the points of view.

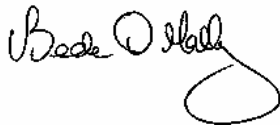
The previous workshops have also helped establish key principles on the uses and benefits of water. We now have a much clearer understanding of those things about water that are most important to the people of Canterbury. We are also developing a basis of discussion and interaction that will stand us in good stead as we approach discussion on the really difficult issues.

To ensure we arrange appropriate catering please ensure your members register at least three days beforehand for the workshops they wish to attend. **They can either call on our toll-free number, 0800 677 748 or email us at info@canterburywater.org.nz.**

If people will be travelling to this workshop from a town or district outside Christchurch we will reimburse them at the public service rate of 62 cents per kilometre. Claim forms will be made available at the workshop. We would, however, ask that where practicable, car pooling is used.

This is an important opportunity for your organisation to have a say on a range of subjects as they relate to water use in Canterbury, not just for now but well into the future, and to influence development of the strategy. Please encourage your members to register for and attend these workshops.

Regards



Bede O'Malley
Canterbury Mayoral Forum