

Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Water Management Committee

Information for Applicants

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) envisages Water Management Committees being the conduit for community discussion and development of solutions to water issues in Canterbury.

The Committee model is not intended to create a hierarchy or bureaucratic structure that distances decisions from the community or overly formalises the process. The following bullet points are intended to help clarify the way in which those Committees are intended to work.

The Committee model - what it **is**:

- A collaborative process where stakeholders actively work to seek consensus of the majority
- A network of groups designed around clusters of interest in the water natural resource
- Nested decision-making, with decisions made at the lowest appropriate level taking into account relevant external considerations
- An adaptive and flexible system whereby local dynamics and uniqueness are accommodated
- Solutions-driven from bottom up rather than top down
- A system that recognises the inter-connectedness of various bio-physical, spatial, cultural, social and economic influences within and between geographic areas
- A process that requires individuals to think creatively and consider new and different solutions
- A system based on a commitment to participation, trust and transparency with an emphasis in decision-making on collective as well as individual benefit
- A system intended to result in collective changes for the benefit of the communities involved
- A system that drives real change and in doing so delivers the benefits identified.

The Committee model - what it **is not**:

- A hierarchical or multi-layered structure with top down authority
- A “one-size fits all” approach that precludes local flavour or uniqueness
- A formal or traditional model of decision-making with authority vested in individuals or groups without reference to wider interests

- A representative model whereby individuals seek to represent the views of; and protect the interests of, a particular group or sector of the community
- A mandate to make decision on behalf of or without input from the communities to which the decision relate
- An endless “talk-fest” with no end or deliverable.

Hurunui – Waiau Zone Water Management Committee

Terms of Reference

Establishment

The Committee is established under the auspices of the Local Government Act 2002 in accordance with the Canterbury Water Management Strategy 2009.

The Committee is a joint Committees of Environment Canterbury (the Regional Council) and Hurunui District Council (the Territorial Authority).

Purpose and Functions

The purpose and function of the Committee is to:

- Facilitate the development and periodic review of a Water Management Implementation Programme that gives effect to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and takes into account the Implementation Programmes of other Committees where there is a common area of interest or interface; and
- Monitor progress in the implementation of the programme by the Water Executive.

Objectives and Delegated Powers

1. To develop a rolling 10 year Implementation Programme that seeks to advance the management of water and any associated documentation required to support the programme or as required by legislation.
2. Take into account and support other Implementation Programmes to the extent they have common areas of interest or interface.
3. Consult with other Committees throughout the development of their Implementation Programme on matters impacting on those Committees.
4. Consult with relevant stakeholders throughout the development of the Implementation Programme.
5. Recommend the Implementation Programme to their respective Councils.
6. In developing the Implementation Programme ensure that the obligations to consult and obtain input from the public are met
7. To consider the Management Plan prepared by the Water Executive in response to the Implementation Programme and, if satisfied approve the Management Plan.

8. To monitor the performance of the Water Executive in relation to the implementation of the Management Plan.
9. To provide the relevant Territorial and Regional Authorities and from time to time, the Mayoral Forum, with updates on progress against the Implementation Programme and if necessary raise concerns regarding the performance of the Water Executive.
10. To review the Implementation Programme on a three yearly cycle and amend as deemed necessary.

Limitation of Powers

No Committee shall have the authority to commit any Council to any path or expenditure and shall operate in such a way as it does not compromise those Council's freedom to deliberate and make such decisions as it deems appropriate.

No Committee shall have the authority to submit on resource consent matters in its own right.

Committee Membership

Each Zone Committee will comprise no less than 7 and no more than 10 members made up as follows:

1. 1 member appointed by the Regional Council who shall be an elected member
2. 1 member appointed by each Territorial Authority operating within the Zone Boundary who shall be an elected member
3. 1 member from each Runanga within the Zone appointed by Ngai Tahu to represent the interest of that Runanga
4. Between 4-6 members appointed from the community and who come from a range of background and interests within the community

In determining the composition of the Committee consideration shall be given to balancing the following interests in water management:

- Agricultural interests
- Indigenous biodiversity/Environmental groups
- Recreational users
- Economic development interests
- Energy/electricity interests
- General community interests
- Geographic spread

To be eligible to be considered for appointment to a Zone Committee the candidate must either live in or be able to demonstrate a close connection with the zone.

Quorum

At least half plus one of the membership of the Committee shall be present to form a quorum.

Officers

The Committee shall appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair from the membership.

Term of Appointment

Members of Committees are appointed for a term of three years and can be reappointed for a second term of three years. To coincide with Local Government Election processes terms shall commence from December each year, with each Committee requiring confirmation of membership by the incoming Council.

Financial Delegations

None

Operating Philosophy

The Committees will at all times operate in accordance with the following.

1. Give effect to the Fundamental Principles, Targets and goals of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
2. Be culturally sensitive observing tikanga Maori.
3. Give consideration to and balance the interests of all water stakeholders in the region in debate and decision-making.
4. Work in a collaborative and co-operative manner using best endeavours to reach solutions that take account of the interests of all sector of the community.
5. Members of the Committee are appointed on the basis of their experience and knowledge and not to representing a particular interest or group. Accordingly members will contribute their knowledge and perspective but not promote the views or positions of any particular interest and stakeholder group.
6. Promote a shift in philosophy from an individual rights basis towards using water resource to a collective interests approach to water management.
7. The Committee will seek consensus in its decision-making where at all possible. Where, despite the best endeavours of members, unanimous agreement is not able to be reached a decision may be taken if in the view of the significant majority (i.e. 75% or more of members) it represents the best interest of all sectors of the community.
8. In the event that neither unanimous agreement is able to be reached nor a significant majority view formed, the Committee must in the first instance seek assistance from an external facilitator to further Committee discussions and deliberations.

9. Where the Committee is unable to reach consensus (75% or more) despite having sought assistance and exhausted all avenues, they must recommend that the respective Councils disband them and appoint a new Committee.

Guidelines

1. The Committee is formed on a three-yearly basis.
2. Remuneration for members will be paid in the form of an honorarium at the following levels:
 - a. Appointed members - \$2,000 pa
 - b. Deputy Chair - \$3,000 pa
 - c. Chair - \$5,000 pa.

Staff or elected members of Territorial Authorities or the Regional Council shall not be eligible for remuneration.

Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed.

3. Meeting of the Committee shall be called and operate in accordance with the requirements of the LGOIMA.
4. The Committee will meet at least four times per annum and with workshops and additional meetings as required.
5. Proxies or alternates are not permitted.
6. Any Committee may co-opt such other expert knowledge or advisory as it deems necessary to ensure it is able to achieve its purpose. Any such co-option will be on a non-voting basis.

Committee Support

1. The Committee shall be supported by the Territorial and Regional Councils operating primarily through the Water Executive.