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MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stakeholders Debate future Options

Stakeholder meetings have begun this week to discuss a series of possible options for the future management of water in the Canterbury region. These options being put forward will eventually form the basis of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

In preparation for these meetings stakeholders have received a discussion paper that outlines four alternative strategies for the management of water and will form the basis of discussion at the upcoming meetings.

“We are very much at the business end of preparation of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy,” says chairman of the Steering Group and Ashburton Mayor, Bede O’Malley.

“Therefore these meetings are hugely important and we really encourage all those with an interest to attend. We want stakeholders to help us refine the possible alternative strategies that will then be presented for public consultation beginning in late April.

“These alternative strategies need to tease out the various points of view in the community so that we can have a robust and constructive debate prior to preparation of the final strategy which is due 31 August,” he says.

Meetings are being held in Darfield, Culverden, Christchurch, Twizel, Timaru and Ashburton. Technical and scientific people will attend the meetings to assist with background information.

A public consultation document will be sent out to all Canterbury households at the end of April inviting feedback and encouraging the community to advocate their preferred option.

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy is an initiative of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and is overseen by a Steering Group of community representatives. Background on the programme is available on the web site: www.canterburywater.org.nz .

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