

Media Release



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New Faces Added to Canterbury Water Management Strategy

Chairman of the Steering Group overseeing the preparation of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, Bede O'Malley, has announced the appointment of six new people onto the Steering group.

The Steering Group is appointed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, sponsors of the Water Management Strategy, which is Stage Four of the Canterbury Strategic Water Study. This study, which has been undertaken since 2001, has produced a wide range of scientific information on the water resource in Canterbury and provides valuable research for the Water Management Strategy.

The new members are:

- Graham Sutton - Irrigation New Zealand
- Peter Scott - Opihi irrigation/Minister of Environment water advisory group/southern part of region
- Martin Clements - Fish and Game/ Minister of Environment water advisory group
- Hugh Canard - Kayaking/Recreation
- Alistair James - Chair Canterbury District Health Board
- Edith Smith - Forest and Bird/Conservation

These new members will join the existing members of the Steering Group who are:

- Bede O'Malley – Chair, Mayoral Forum representative and Mayor of Ashburton
- John Greer - central government agencies (alternate Murray Doak)
- Brian Lester & Bryan Jenkins - chief executive representatives
- Peter Townsend - industry representative/regional economic
- David O'Connell - Ngai Tahu
- Murray Rodgers - Community/Water Rights Trust
- Eugenie Sage and Angus McKay – both representing the councillors of Environment Canterbury
- Grant McFadden - historical knowledge of water management in Canterbury and water management policy

“We are very pleased to have these people on board and we are grateful that they can lend us their expertise for what is a vital role in planning future water management in Canterbury.”

“We now have a Steering Group with wide representation across agriculture, irrigation, recreation, environment and conservation. The Group will oversee what is to be a thorough consultation and strategic planning exercise involving extensive stakeholder engagement and two stages of public consultation,” says Bede O’Malley.

The programme is currently involved in a stakeholder engagement phase looking at the range of uses and benefits of water. Stakeholder groups will be convened around the region from late July and through August. There will also be special stakeholder groups formed to advise the Steering Group on subjects such as energy and tourism. Details on the programme can be found on the newly developed programme web site:

www.canterburywater.org.nz.

Ends

For further information:

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