

Kaikōura Water Zone Committee (KWZC)

Meeting summary and update June 2018

June's Water Zone Committee Meeting had an in-depth update on the Biodiversity Action Plan for the Waiau Toa/Clarence catchment. The management plan is proposed as a 5 year work programme from 2016 to 2020, building on the success and collaboration established through weed management in the catchment over the last two and a half years. Daniel from Amuri Helicopters displayed the data logged for plant pest areas, and the work that has been done over the last 2.5 years.

The aim of the project is to protect braided river habitat from the threat of weeds and to ensure that the native flora and fauna can continue to thrive.

In terms of funding, the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee (KWZC) funded three Immediate Steps projects in the upper and lower Waiau Toa/Clarence in 2015 which came to a combined \$148,000. This funding helped establish a work programme and start the project for weed management in the area.

The Kaikōura Water Zone Committee committed to ongoing Immediate Steps funding in the upper and lower Clarence/Waiiau-toa for 2016 to 2020 which comes to a total of \$250,000 (based on \$50,000 per year for five years).

The problem areas have been systematically approached, with all parties involved working to fit pest areas together like a puzzle. The area has been extensively and accurately mapped, which allows for easier management and identification of problem areas in the Waiau Toa/Clarence catchment.

A report was submitted to inform the Zone Committee and stakeholders of the development of a Southern Black Backed Gull/Karoro strategy for Canterbury.

Research on braided rivers has highlighted that SBBG are predatory to other bird species that are dependent on braided river environments. With the land clearance and conversion to agriculture seen in Canterbury, SBBG have formed larger colonies than previously seen - which in turn means they have greater impact on the smaller bird species.

Because the gulls predate the eggs and chicks of most species found in braided river environments, Environment Canterbury have contracted a company to develop a Strategy to deal with this ongoing issue. The Zone Committee look forward to seeing where this project goes.

Other updates in the June meeting included:

- Committee updates: Nutrient Management and Water Efficiency working group update, Love the Lyell/Waikōau working group update, communications update and confirmation of powers of Zone Committee update letter
- A welcome to Makarini Rupene who will be the Cultural Land Management Advisor for ECan in Kaikōura over the next three months. His role is supported by the Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project
- Kaikōura District Council Works and Services (3 Waters) report circulated

[See full agenda and meeting papers here.](#)

Ted's Talk:

Update from Water Zone Committee member Ted Howard.

[6 June 2018](#) - All about septic tanks! The importance of having one that works, and keeping it checked regularly.