

Kaikōura Water Zone Committee (KWZC)

Meeting summary and update August 2018

There were updates on the Lyell, funding allocations, the Peketa phenomenon, general committee updates and the CWMS Regional Committee Update.

[Want to read the full agenda \(plus minutes from the July meeting\)? Download them here.](#)

Lyell Creek/Waikōau update

NIWA have provided the Water Zone Committee with a report on catchment recovery recommendations for Lyell Creek/Waikōau.

NIWA's Catchment Recovery Plan gave recommendations on how the Lyell Creek/Waikōau could be rehabilitated. Some of these recommendations included:

- Reducing sources of key contaminants from farming, sewerage and possible stormwater,
- Enhancing instream riparian and remnant wetland habitat,
- Replacing exotic vegetation with native plants,
- Restoring connections between people and the stream network, and
- Removing 'legacy' contaminants that have entered the stream network in the past but may take many years to be removed naturally.

Work is ongoing to follow up these action points, but it is great to see the start of a plan for the Lyell Creek/Waikōau. Want to help towards restoring the Creek? [Join the community clean-up day on Wednesday 12 September 2018.](#)

Related article:

- [Community project inspires scientists](#) (NIWA)

The Peketa Phenomenon - report

Following the Kaikōura earthquake the residents of Peketa have been noticing a "rotten egg" smell at times. The Water Zone Committee had some tests done to see what was going on...

- Sampling was taken in May 2018 to better understand what might be causing the smell.
- The May 2018 sampling indicated there was anoxic groundwater discharging to the surface.
- Anoxic groundwater produces hydrogen sulphide which has a characteristic "rotten egg smell".
- There are known to be coastal peat deposits along the Kaikōura coastline and it is likely that the Peketa phenomenon is caused by groundwater discharge from an old peat deposit to the surface through a new pathway caused by the Kaikōura earthquake.
- Mystery solved!