

September 2011



## Ashburton Zone Committee

### DRAFT ZONE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME (ZIP)

#### FEEDBACK FORM

This form is for you to provide feedback on the Draft ZIP.

The Ashburton Zone Committee will take all views into account as it works to reach consensus on the final Zone Implementation Programme.

Keeping your comments brief and to the point will help ensure your views count. Please complete the form and return by 21 October, 2011 to:

Email: [mailroom@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:mailroom@ecan.govt.nz) (Put Ashburton ZIP in the subject line)

Post: Environment Canterbury ZIP Feedback, PO Box 345, Christchurch

Fax: 03 365 3194

To fill this feedback form out online visit: [ecan.govt.nz/canterburywater](http://ecan.govt.nz/canterburywater)

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Date: *21/10/11*

#### CONTEXT FOR YOUR FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS

THE TARGETS ARE A SET OF TIME-LIMITED GOALS WHICH COVER 10 BROAD AREAS

- Ecosystem health and biodiversity
- Braided rivers and natural character
- Kaitiakitanga
- Drinking water
- Recreational use and amenity opportunities
- Water-use efficiency
- Irrigated land area
- Energy security and efficiency
- Regional and national economies
- Environmental limits

Zone Implementation Programmes contain recommendations to councils and other organisations on how to meet the targets and goals defined in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

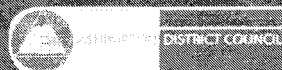
The recommendations in Zone Implementation Programmes also need to encompass the economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes envisaged in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

#### Priority areas in the Ashburton Zone Implementation Programme

The committee identified key priority areas for the zone:

- Water quality
- Security of water – for the environment, for drinking water, for people and stock, as well as for irrigation.
- Ecosystem health and biodiversity
- Hakatere / Ashburton River

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#### 4.2.1. Using water efficiently in rural areas

The Valetta Zone, I believe, has two distinct areas

- Upper plains, best suited as primary surface water (deeper natural ground water and less land recharge area)
- Lower plains, principally ground water (Shallow ground water and a larger surface recharge area)

#### 4.2.6. Investigating use of water from different sources (Valetta Zone)

- Surface water distribution (RDR BCI etc) best use of on the upper plains
- Ground water (A2 or deeper) best used on the lower plains
- The connection between the decline of the stock water races and the low flows of the lowland drains and also the impact of the minimum drain flows
- The impact of changing RDR practices from flood to spray irrigation is having on the lowland drains is also impacting on minimum drain flows
- The advantages of using ground water for irrigation in the larger catchment areas of the lowland drains.
- Positive outcome for drain flows, by using ground water (A2 or deeper) in the catchment area of the drains, rather than irrigating from the drain itself.

#### 4.2.7. Managing ground-water levels

- Surface water in the upper plains would have the positive effect on ground water in that area. This could in turn reduce the amount of leakage from the rivers to ground through a higher water table and also at times return water to the rivers through natural surface flows
- Ground water abstraction encouraged in the lower plains to protect the surface environment in that area with a positive effect on stream flow
- **Zone irrigation limits should be flexible so as to achieve practical outcomes**

#### 4.2.8. Investigating issues and opportunities around stock water races (Valetta Zone)

- There is less reliance on the stock water system with the piped water troughs
- The impact of reduced flows in the lowland drains and how they can be best managed
- Surface drainage that occurred from the race system
- Simply to us the stock water "consented takes" to supplement the Ashburton river is like supporting the River at the expense of Drains

#### Notes

We are primarily concerned about the Valetta Zone area

Having had an application in the last hearing for additional irrigation ground water we were frustrated by the fact that we weren't able to merely exchange existing surface water consents for deeper ground water

We believed that the transfer of our surface consents for deeper ground water would have been a logical outcome and would have had a positive spin for both us and the environment (drains).

Our application lodged in **10/05/2005** ended up as part of the larger group of 80 applicants. We believed that as part of that group we would share in the positive outcome of that decision

Having ended up as part of the 40% that missed out and the process still ongoing is frustrating to say the least

Denis Stoddart