

“Solution package” to deliver Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) in the Selwyn Waihora catchment

Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee

ZIP Addendum Solution Package

Vision for the lake:

to restore the mauri of Te Waihora while maintaining the prosperous land-based economy and thriving communities.

Goal of the Solution Package:

To improve cultural and environmental outcomes in the Selwyn Waihora catchment while maintaining farm viability and economic growth.

Key values include:

- The lake – Te Waihora – and its margins are a taonga for Ngāi Tahu.
- Agriculture, underpinned by reliable water supply, is a significant contributor to the economy.

Overview of current situation



Agriculture is a significant contributor to economy:

- about a third of District's GDP
- employs 2,600 on-farm
- SW agriculture contributes \$620 million to regional economy & employs 14,700 regionally.



Water use, irrigated area & intensive land use substantially increased in last 20 years

Most (80%) of water-use consents do not come up for renewal until 2030-2040

Reliable water supply is critical to a high-value agricultural economy



Flows in lowland streams & Selwyn/Waikirikiri have decreased by about 15-20%.

High nitrate concentrations in lowland streams & shallow groundwater.



Decline in health of Te Waihora has led to increase in algal blooms. Mahinga kai not considered safe to eat.

Phosphorus has accumulated in lake-bed sediments

Lag in groundwater system of 10-30 yrs



Central Plains Water: 60,000ha irrigation from alpine water. Includes 30,000ha new irrigation

NPS for Freshwater Management requires regional councils to set limits for quality & quantity



Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee's ZIP Addendum

Delivering Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) by

improving cultural & environmental outcomes in catchment while maintaining farm viability & economic growth

Recommended package achieved through SW Sub-regional Section of LWRP and other actions.

see www.ecan.govt.nz/selwyn-waihora

Selwyn Waihora ZIP Addendum

Goals, pathways and outcomes

GOALS

A healthy Te Waihora

Kaitiakitanga recognised

Quality drinking water

Biodiversity enhanced

Healthy lowland streams

Healthy hill-fed streams

Thriving communities and sustainable economies

PATHWAYS

Lake rehabilitation

Farming at significantly better than good management practice (GMP)

Water allocation to deliver ecological and cultural flows

Use water from alpine rivers

Manage catchment recognising its cultural importance to Ngāi Tahu

WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE

Water quality improved, clearer lake margins, fewer algae blooms

Tuna and Pātiki fisheries increased, cultural landscape areas

Nitrates:

- Less than 8mg/l in drinking wells
- Toxicity guidelines met in streams

Streams & wetlands:

- Stock excluded
- More vegetation including along 850km of streams & 1000km of drains
- Springhead wetlands protected
- Flow up 15-20%
- No takes from Waikekewai

No water storage in Selwyn/Waikirikiri, Waiāniwaniwa

Regional GDP + \$300m, 30,000 ha new irrigation

On-farm:

Sub-regional Chapter and other components

Stock exclusion:
streams, **drains**,
wetlands &
springheads

**Effective riparian
margins, protection
of springhead
wetlands**



Surface water & stream-depleting GW takes meet revised **minimum flows** (from 2025)

Consented **annual/seasonal volumes** based on measured water use

In Rakaia-Selwyn & Selwyn-Waimakariri Water Allocation Zones can **transfer** if surrender 50% (excluding CPW)

Everyone farming at GMP by 2017

If exceeding 15 kgN/ha/yr required to make **further reductions on GMP nitrogen loss rates from 2022** to achieve an 'on average' 15% reduction for the catchment

Audited Farm Environment Plan:

- Irrigation management;
- Nutrient management;
- Soil management;
- Wetlands & riparian margins;
- Cultural health.

Land use change – constrained by N limits

Can intensify provided operating at GMP and intensification does not result in discharges exceeding 15 kgN/ha/yr;

If exceeding 15 kgN/ha/yr and outside CPW can only intensify if no increase in N loss

Land use change as part of CPW provided for within Irrigation Scheme Load Limit

- The “Package” is described in the SW ZIP Addendum endorsed by ECan, SDC and CCC.
- Variation 1 of the proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) will provide the RMA policies and rules for the “solution”.
- This variation will be notified in January 2014, the first step of the formal RMA submission and hearing process.