



Action Plan



Realising the Vision for Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere

The Waihora Ellesmere Trust Action Plan was first adopted by the Board of Trustees on September 24th, 2012. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated in June 2015.



Left to right – Caspian Tern with fish, Mimulus repens, Royal Spoonbill, Common Copper Butterfly, Wrybill



Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere

- A place where healthy and productive water provides for the many users of the lake while supporting the diversity of plants and wildlife that make this place unique.
- A place of cultural and historical significance that connects us with our past and our future.
- A place where environmental, customary, commercial, and recreational values are balanced while respecting the health of the resource.
- A special wide open place for the enjoyment and wonderment of present and future generations.
- A place of contemplation and tranquillity as well as activity, a place just to be.

Our mission statement:

Waihora Ellesmere Trust (WET) is a community organisation dedicated to the improvement of the health and biodiversity of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its catchment.

Acknowledging the past and looking to the future, we:

- **Educate** - enhancing understanding, awareness and the values of the Lake through education programmes, newsletters, and field days;
- **Facilitate** -promoting better management practices through public seminars and by partnering with private landowners, community groups and government agencies;
- **Activate** - providing opportunities and encouragement for people to get actively involved in projects to rehabilitate the ecosystem through riparian and wetland enhancement.



Working to make our place better.



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PART A

1. Purpose of this plan

This plan is intended to build on the *Community Strategy for the Future Management of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora and its Tributaries* detailed below. Taking account of progress since 2003 and changes in planning context, Part B sets out issues and opportunities for all those involved in the management and governance of the catchment. A key difference to the *Strategy* however, is the inclusion of what this means for WET. This will be a way to identify our desired outcomes for Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its catchment and guide our activities. This will assist with internal decision making around what sort of projects to get involved with and where to seek funding.

The plan is also a way to articulate to others how we see our role, what WET actually does, and how we see those activities contributing to the Vision for the lake. Waihora Ellesmere Trust represents a broad spectrum of interests and values and our activities will be varied.

The plan will provide a framework for regular reporting to Trustees, members and the wider community.

2. Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere

Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, one of New Zealand's most important wetland systems, is a brackish, shallow lagoon with an average depth of

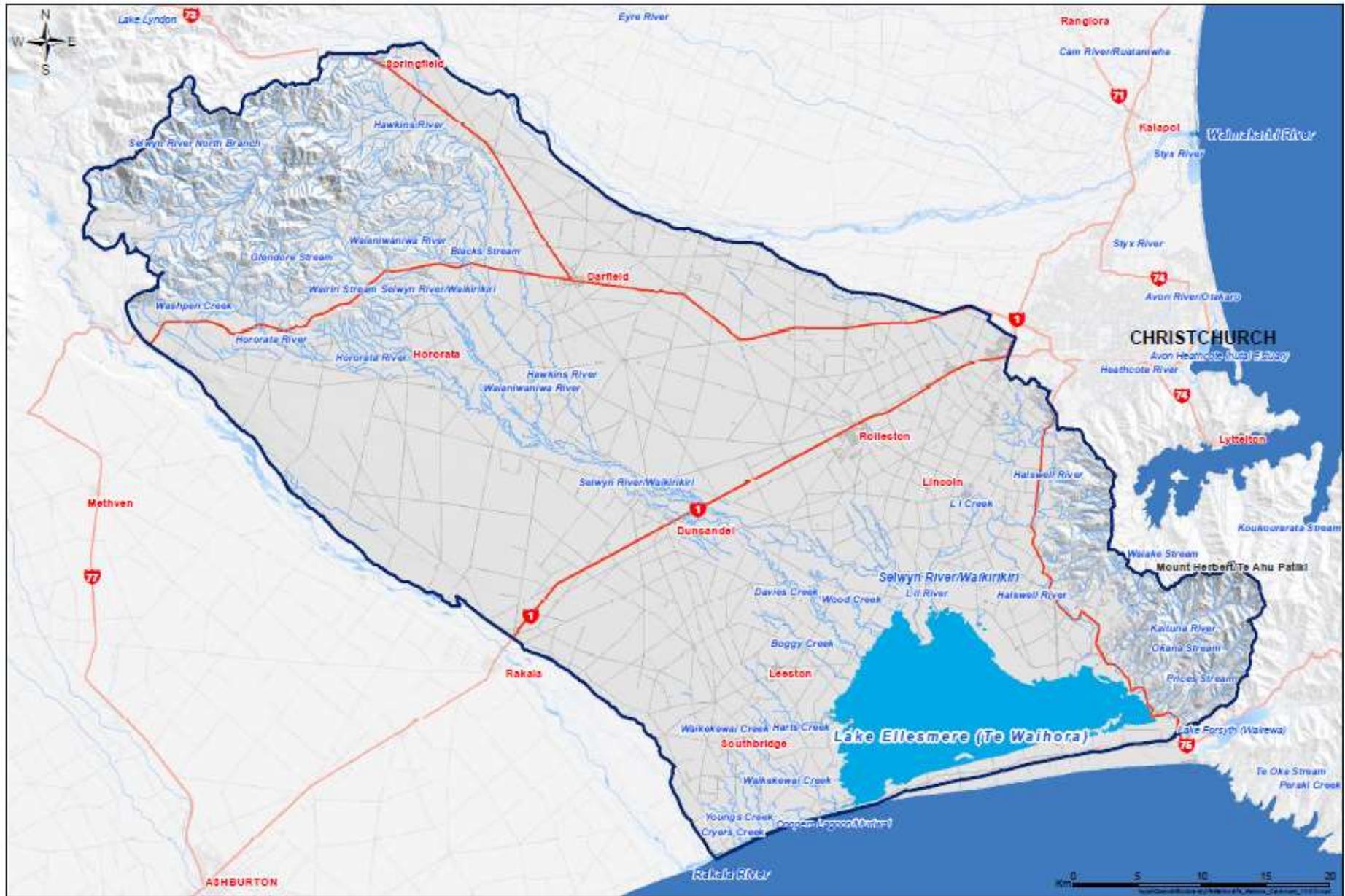
1.4m. Covering around 20,000 hectares, Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, which lies just to the south of Banks Peninsula, is New Zealand's fifth largest lake and is internationally significant for its wildlife abundance and diversity - 167 species of birds have been recorded, with very large numbers of some species. The fisheries are also important, with 43 species of fish recorded, and the indigenous wetland vegetation is recognised as being of national significance.

Te Waihora is an area of cultural, natural, historic, recreational and commercial importance to many people. To Ngāi Tahu, Te Waihora represents a major mahinga kai and an important source of mana. Te Waihora is a descriptive name, meaning spreading out waters.

In 1990 a National Water Conservation Order (WCO) recognised the Lake as an outstanding wildlife habitat. In December 2010 the Department of Conservation and Ngāi Tahu applied for a variation to the existing WCO.

In 2011 the hearing committee recommended a number of changes: including the words Te Waihora in front of Lake Ellesmere in the title of the WCO and throughout the document, in line with current accepted practice; expanding the list of the Lake's "outstanding features" to include habitat for indigenous wetland vegetation and fish, and significance in relation to tikanga Māori in respect of Ngāi Tahu history, mahinga kai and customary fisheries; and allowing additional lake openings at any level, primarily to aid eel migration, from April 1 to June 15.





Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Catchment



The Commissioners noted that:

By any conventional measure the current water quality in Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere is very poor. The water is very turbid, with sediment stirred up by the wind in the very shallow waters (the maximum depth of the lake is only about 2m). Concentrations of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus are very high, which results in high concentrations of phytoplankton (very small algae) in the water column. A composite index that measures the trophic status of lakes (i.e. how enriched they are) indicates that Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere is amongst the eutrophic (enriched) lakes in New Zealand. In calm summer conditions blooms of toxic blue green algae known as Cyanophyta can develop in parts of the lake.

Because of the highly enriched status, and because the water is well oxygenated by the wind, Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere is a very productive water body. The lake is certainly not “dead” as has been asserted at times; rather it supports a great variety of flora and fauna.

As noted here, high concentrations of phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N) contribute to the poor water quality. The sources of P and N are the lake sediment, where it has accumulated, and the water that flows in via the numerous lowland streams and rivers which drain the surrounding agricultural land.

Issues and challenges are outlined more fully later in this plan.



Kaitorete Spit

3. Background

3.1 The Community Strategy 2003 - 2010

In 2004, following extensive community consultation, a *Community Strategy for the Future Management of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora and its Tributaries* drafted for the ‘Lake Ellesmere Issues Group’ was adopted by Waihora Ellesmere Trust. It set out a Vision for the next 50 years for the Lake and tributaries, guiding principles, strategic actions and a series of goals, targets and actions for the period 2004 – 2010.



3.11 The Vision

- A place where healthy and productive water provides for the many users of the lake while supporting the diversity of plants and wildlife that make this place unique.
- A place of cultural and historical significance that connects us with our past and our future.
- A place where environmental, customary, commercial, and recreational values are balanced while respecting the health of the resource.
- A special wide open place for the enjoyment and wonderment of present and future generations.
- A place of contemplation and tranquillity as well as activity, a place just to be.



3.12 Guiding Principles

- Recognise and support the unique and diverse character of the Lake.
- Provide opportunities for people to increase their knowledge and enjoyment of the Lake.
- Promote ongoing consultation, involvement and action.
- Work co-operatively to achieve the Vision for the Lake.
- Recognise and support the many and diverse uses of the Lake while respecting and cherishing the ecosystem.

3.13 Strategic Actions

Strategic actions are more general than those associated with specific targets, and promote long-term solutions to some of the fundamental issues.

- Support and promote the management of the lake and its catchment in an integrated manner¹, i.e. ensure all plans, policies and actions are consistent and focus on the overall health of the lake and its catchment;
- Continue to provide opportunities for ongoing dialogue and debate on the different aspirations of the stakeholders in the lake and catchment;
- Over time, and involving the community, improve the health of the lake and its tributaries so that there is community ownership and pride in its local, national and potential international significance;

¹ Amended June 2015



- Promote the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (as set out in Appendix 1 of the [Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy](#) (2000))

The Strategy included 13 targets, each with several actions identified.

3.2 Formation of WET

Given the nature of the issues, the complexity of the Lake and tributary system, and the number of targets identified, a co-operative approach was seen as the most efficient, effective and equitable solution to achieving long-lasting results. To this end the Lake Issues Group, with wider consultation, formed the Waihora Ellesmere Trust. Fifteen founding Trustees were nominated onto the Trust and had their first Trust Board meeting in September 2003.

The strategy, guiding principles and strategic actions underpinned the formation of WET in 2003.



Springston School at Chamberlains Ford

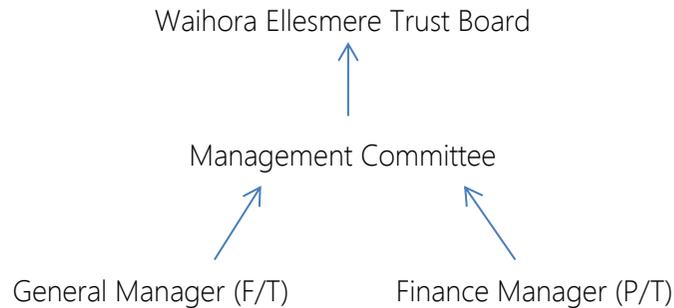
3.21 The Objects of the Trust are:

- i) To promote and, where appropriate, support best management practices as a means of enhancing the ecological health of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its tributaries.
- ii) To raise awareness regarding the cultural and historical significance of the Lake and its environs, including the settlement history and current status.
- iii) To provide appropriate dialogue opportunities for decision-making to ensure the various economic, social, cultural, recreational and environmental interests are considered.
- iv) To maintain the sense of place and character that makes the Lake and its environs special to current residents and users, and for future generations.
- v) To raise awareness and understanding of the values of the Lake to recreational and other users to ensure the integrity of the Lake is not compromised.
- vi) In attaining the Objects the Trust shall recognise the views and expectations of Mana Whenua, to respect and implement the dual heritage of the partners of Te Tiriti O Waitangi.



3.3 Governance structure of WET

At the beginning of 2012 the Trust has around 100 members and a similar number of subscribers who receive newsletters and updates.



The members of the Trust elect up to 15 Trustees from a variety of sectors of the community, representing a wide range of different values associated with the Lake. The Trust Board meets at least 4 times per year, which includes the AGM held in September each year, and the Trustees have delegated the responsibility for day to day management to a Management Committee, which includes the Chair, the Deputy Chair and the Treasurer. This committee meets approximately six weekly and the staff report to the management committee.

3.4 Working Collaboratively

WET has Memoranda of Understanding with Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council and Te Ara Kākāriki. WET leads or participates in many collaborative projects with a wide

range of partners.

Summary of achievements

The actions set out in the *Strategy* were planned before WET came into existence and so focused on the role of statutory agencies, community groups in general, and members of the community. WET's role was to drive the implementation of this Strategy.

A *Community Strategy Update*, which outlines actions and progress towards the targets up to the end of 2010, along with the *Community Strategy* itself, can be downloaded from the WET website at www.wet.org.nz.



4. 2011 - 2021

A series of discussions and WET Trustee workshops held in the first half of 2011 reviewed and debated the relevancy of the *Community Strategy*, the Vision Statement and the Objects of the Trust. Informal discussions were also held with a number of Trustees and representatives of agencies and other organisations about the role of WET from 2011 onwards.

At the Trust meeting of July 18th, 2011 the Trustees confirmed that the Vision Statement developed in 2002/3 was still representative of the views of the community and should continue to underpin the actions of the Trust. There was agreement that WET's focus is catchment wide and it was decided to develop a mission statement to reflect that interest in the wider catchment.



Harts Creek

A mission statement, which can be seen on page 1 of this plan, was discussed and a draft agreed, and then accepted with a small amendment at the Annual General Meeting of September 19th, 2011. The headings 'Educate, Facilitate, Activate', which have been used for a number of years to describe the activities of WET, were incorporated into the mission statement. WET also reaffirmed a commitment to promoting consultation, involvement and action, and to working collaboratively to achieve the Vision for the Lake.

Discussion also covered the Objects of the Trust. At the meeting of July 18th, 2011 the Trustees also confirmed the Objects of the Trust, noting that Object 6 "In attaining the Objects the Trust shall recognise the views and expectations of Mana Whenua, to respect and implement the dual heritage of the partners of Te Tiriti O Waitangi" be retained and considered a guiding principle for the Trust.

The *Community Strategy* will continue to guide the work of the Trust in working towards the Vision. This *Action Plan* for WET builds on the achievements of the last decade, and sets out activities that the Trust can be involved with, providing the basis for annual planning.



5. Planning context

This plan will shape the work of the Trust, but the context within which the *Action Plan* sits is the national, regional and local planning framework¹, which has changed a great deal in recent years.

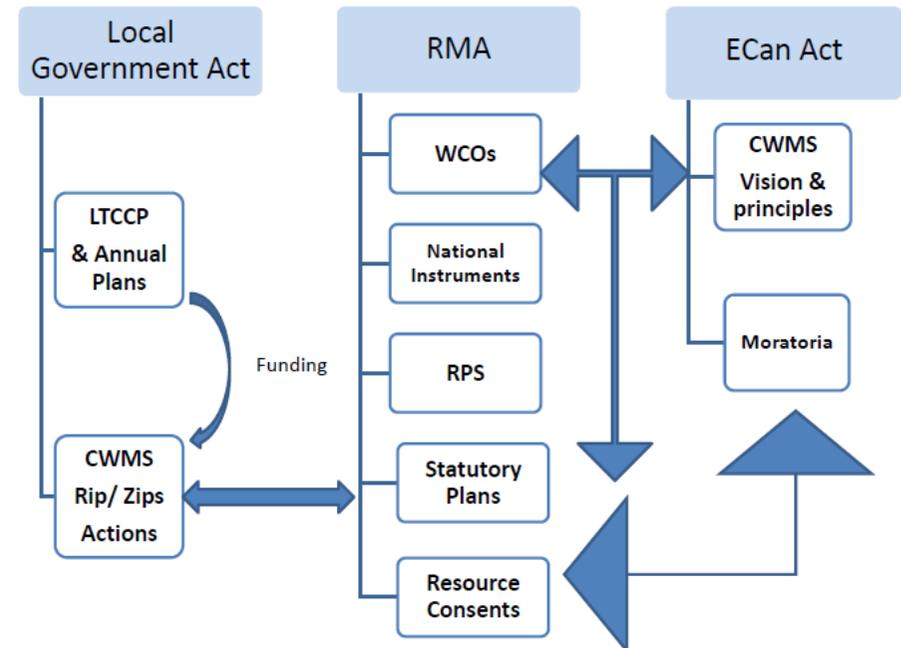
Of particular significance was the adoption of a (statutory) Joint Management Plan for Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere by the Department of Conservation and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in 2005. More recently the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) has provided a framework for a more collaborative approach to managing water and land use in Canterbury and has increased community involvement.

Planning for the Lake and catchment is determined by national level instruments such as the Resource Management Act (1991), Local Government Act (2002), the National Water Conservation (Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere) Order 1990, National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards and, more recently, the Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act 2010.

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy is now being implemented, with the mechanism for translating the CWMS recommendations into regional and local plans being included in the ECan Act (2010). This will provide many opportunities for community

¹ Planning framework diagrams were prepared by ECan Commissioner Peter Skelton for the Living Lake, Changing Catchment Symposium in November 2011 and updated in June 2015

6.1 Statutory planning framework - water

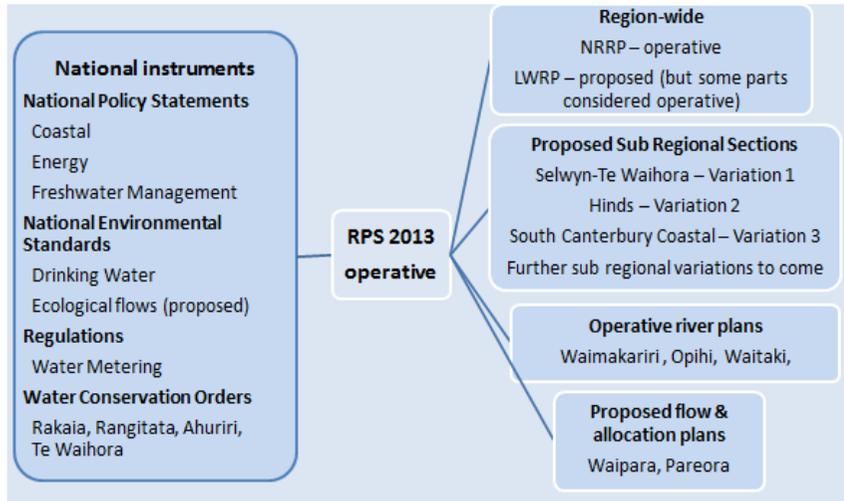


groups such as WET to become actively involved.

Under the CWMS there is a Regional Committee and Canterbury has been divided into 10 zones, each with its own Zone Committee. The Selwyn-Waihora Zone includes Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its catchment.



6.2 Existing planning framework for Canterbury



In mid-2015 much of the proposed Land and Water Regional Plan is operative and the decisions on the Selwyn-Waihora subchapter of the Land and Water Regional Plan have been released. This creates rules relating to water quantity and quality, and gives statutory weight to the recommendations of the Regional and Zone Committees.

On 25 August 2011, a long-term relationship agreement and shared commitment was signed between the Te Waihora Management Board (representing Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu) and Environment Canterbury. This long-term relationship agreement signalled a shared commitment to the restoration and rejuvenation of the mauri and ecosystem health of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

The parties signed an interim co-governance agreement which sought to establish an enduring co-governance framework for the active management of Te Waihora and its catchment. In 2012 the co-governance agreement was signed by the Environment Canterbury Commissioners and the Te Waihora Management Board and in 2014 Selwyn District Council also became a signatory to the agreement.

The Co-governors oversee the implementation of a Joint Cultural and Ecological Restoration Plan and considerable funding, including around \$6 million from the Ministry for the Environment, has been committed to implementing it over 5 years. Additional funding is being sought to continue the programme beyond 2017.

There is a need for WET to be aware of these significant developments and to be flexible and ensure we contribute to and, where appropriate and consistent with the Vision, align with the new planning documents being prepared.

6. Community Consultation

Our draft *Action Plan* was circulated for comments and feedback, firstly to Trustees and then to key stakeholders. In July 2012 it was made available to members and the wider community via our website, and feedback encouraged. At the 2012 AGM on September 24th the Trust adopted the *Action Plan*. Updates to our annual workplans have been available on the WET website and in 2015 the revised Action Plan will be made available via the website for feedback before the Trustees adopt a



revised version at the AGM in September. The plan will be a living document and will continue to be available on our website, with comments and feedback always welcome.

Our Trustees, representing a wide cross section of interest and expertise guided the development of the *Action Plan*. We also drew on a number of community consultation processes underway in 2011/12 including 'Nutrient, flow and allocation limits in the Selwyn Waihora catchment' (ECan), 'Future for Selwyn' (SDC), Whakaora Te Waihora (ECan/ Ngāi Tahu), and will continue to take note of future relevant consultations. Consultation on the amendments to the National Water Conservation Order and the Selwyn-Waihora Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP) was also extensive.

For example, 'Future for Selwyn' community workshops asked people to describe what they would like their grandchildren to be doing. Answers included: *"..swimming, boating and fishing in local rivers and lakes.."*, *"Farmers will have learned to minimise environmental impacts and utilise water wisely"*, *"(People) will have a wider awareness of environmental impacts of water use"*.

7. Monitoring and review

The *Action Plan* will provide a framework for reporting to the Trustees, members and wider community at least annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Trust, held in September each year. A comprehensive annual report of activities will also serve as a means of recording the history of the Trust.

The *Action Plan* will be reviewed by the Management Committee annually in conjunction with budget setting, and will be guided by feedback and comments received during the year. An *Action Plan update* will be prepared annually to set out the plan for WET activities in the following year. Any significant changes from the agreed *Action Plan* will be discussed and require approval by the Trustees at the AGM. Essentially, review will be ongoing and regular revisions of the Plan will ensure that the issues and outcomes are still relevant. Current versions of the *Action Plan* and the annual *Update* will be available on the WET website.



Royal Spoonbills



In this plan we have identified possible actions that we believe will contribute to achieving the outcomes. We can measure and report outputs, such as volunteer planting events, new brochures, number of members/subscribers and so on. However, it is much harder to assess the impact of these outputs. Are the actions addressing the issues in a meaningful way? When will the impacts of actions begin to be noticed?

WET has long championed the need for a regular “State of the Lake and Catchment” update, reporting on a range of indicators and we have made significant progress in this area since 2012. By monitoring and reporting on trends we hope to gauge the impact of actions and how they contribute to desired outcomes and this will continue be a focus for the Trust.

We will also continue to seek opportunities to work collaboratively and seek to actively support work programmes such as Whakaora Te Waihora and the DOC/Fonterra Living Water Programme which contribute positively to achieving the Trust’s vision for the lake.



Gecko shedding skin



PART B

The Action Plan

This section will attempt to outline some of the issues and challenges facing Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, desired outcomes and possible actions that may achieve those outcomes. This is organised around four themes, based directly on the vision statement.

- A place where healthy and productive water provides for the many users of the Lake while supporting the diversity of plants and wildlife that make this place unique.
- A place of cultural and historical significance that connects us with our past and our future.
- A place where environmental, customary, commercial, and recreational values are balanced while respecting the health of the resource.
- A special wide open place for the enjoyment and wonderment of present and future generations; a place of contemplation and tranquillity as well as activity, a place just to be.

A great deal of work is currently underway in the catchment and the key to successful outcomes will be good communication and collaboration. For each theme, issues and challenges are briefly outlined and outcomes identified with a (numbered) series of possible actions and an indication of who may be responsible for these actions.

The statement of issues and opportunities for each theme is very brief, subjective and informed by the knowledge and experience of the Trustees. It is an attempt to highlight the aspects that concern WET, and where we can make a contribution. There is evidence to inform these statements, including research undertaken by Lincoln University and University of Canterbury, the publication *Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere: State of the Lake and Future Management*, which brings together information presented at the first Living Lake Symposium in 2007 (and which is available on the WET website). More recently, throughout 2011/12 a huge amount of information and scientific reports have been made available through the Zone Committee process and can be accessed via the Environment Canterbury website.

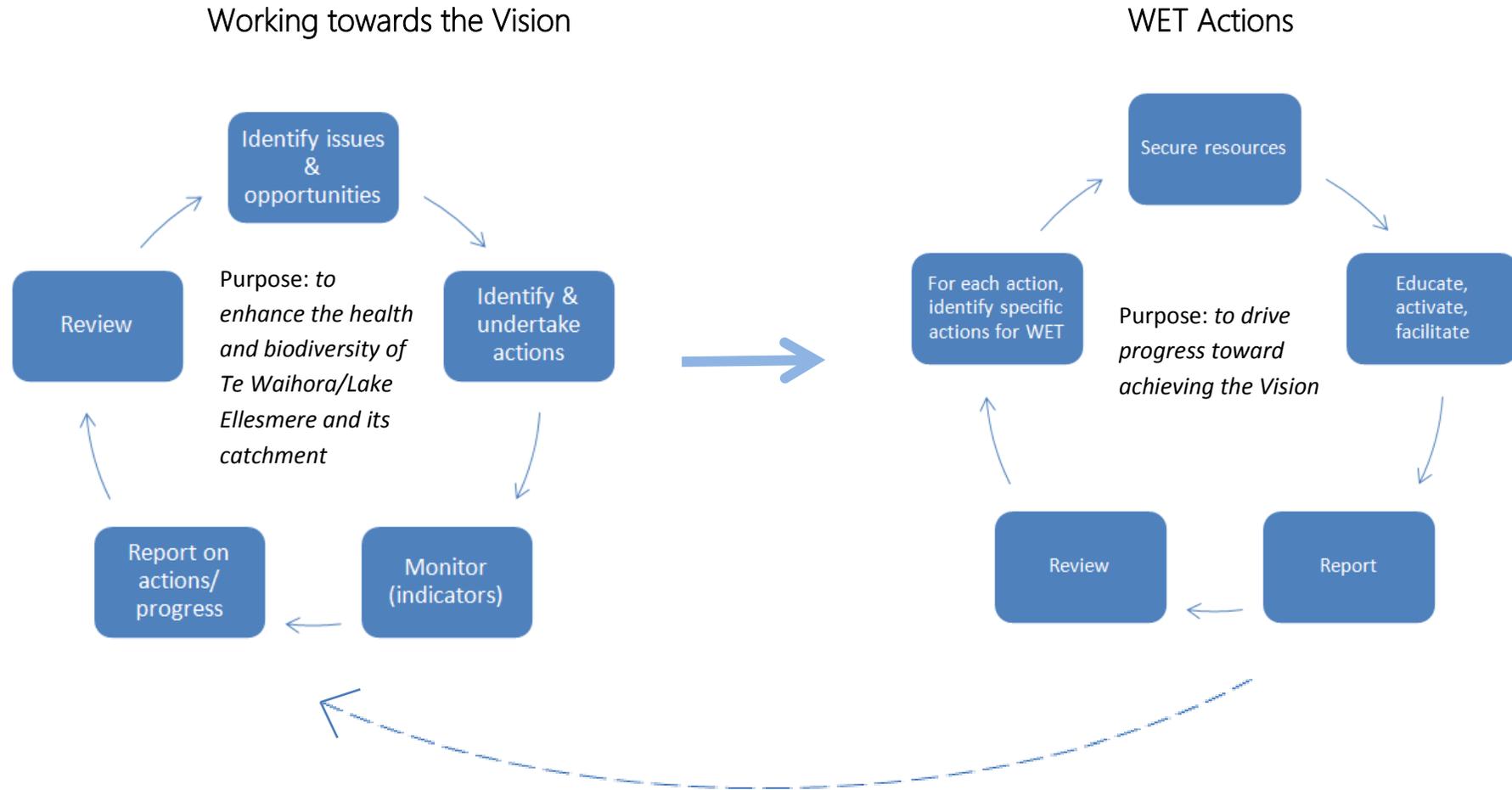
Below the overview of each theme, which includes an indication of outcomes sought and possible areas of action, is a section which identifies where WET fits into this overall picture and specifically how WET can contribute to the actions identified. The Objects (i) – (v) of Waihora Ellesmere Trust will provide a framework for actions and Object (vi) will be a guiding principle for the Trust. Activities that the Trust is involved in may contribute to more than one theme. The “What does this mean for WET?” tables include a general description of the “Action”, a list of potential outputs and some more specific examples of what this might mean under the headings of Educate, Facilitate, and Activate.

The two tables should be read together, so that it can be seen how the WET actions may contribute to the outcomes sought.



It should be noted that the activities WET can undertake will depend on capacity and availability of funding. For that reason no priorities are indicated in the lists of possible actions. Many activities will provide opportunities for Trustees and members to become directly involved in

the work of the Trust. The activities suggested are not exhaustive and additional (relevant) activities can be added at any time.



The statements of issues/opportunities now note some developments since 2012 but the tables of outcomes and actions have been left as written in 2012. In the second table – What does this mean for WET? – a new column has been added to summarise any significant changes relating to each action.

Statement of Issues/Opportunities for each theme

1. A place where healthy and productive water provides for the many users of the lake while supporting the diversity of plants and wildlife that make this place unique.

Significant changes to the catchment as a result of human impacts, including deforestation, draining of the land around the Lake, use of chemicals in agriculture and the growth of settlements have contributed to a decline in the quality of the habitat and biodiversity in and around the Lake. Recreational use is also adversely affected as water quality declines.

In order to manage issues we need to monitor a wide range of indicators to build a better understanding of the relationship between land and water use



2013 Living Lake Symposium

throughout the catchment and environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes. There are numerous agencies with overlapping responsibilities for managing land and water use around the Lake and a great deal of monitoring already underway. However, relevant information on the state of the Lake and catchment and the factors which impact on that are not always brought together in a way that informs the community and decision makers.

A good deal of progress has been made since 2012 in this area, with the publication in 2013 of the State of the Lake report and work underway at Lincoln University on developing a comprehensive integrated monitoring strategy for the lake and catchment.

An update on the state of the lake, reporting on agreed indicators, will be published in November 2015.



Working towards the Vision

2012

	Issues/ opportunities	Outcomes sought		Possible Actions	Performance measure(s)	Who	Resources	When
1.1	Declining ecosystem health	A healthy state of the Lake and environs	1.1.1	Establish an indicator working party and agree a range of indicators for different values	Agreed set of indicators which are regularly measured and reported on (biennial report)	Research organisations (LU, UC, Landcare Research etc), councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups	\$\$, expertise Input from a wide range of agencies	Report every 2 years prior to symposium, first report 2013
			1.1.2	Raising awareness of impact of land and water use on Lake through education programmes etc	Increased awareness of impact of land use by land owners/managers and the wider public	Research organisations (LU, UC, Landcare Research etc), councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups	\$\$, expertise, industry and media cooperation	Underway – needs continued work to increase awareness. Measureable increase within 2 years
			1.1.3	Implement best management practices in the catchment (through ZIP and regional planning processes)	Rules established and enforced	Landowners (including public land) ECan, SDC, industry groups, community groups	\$\$, expertise, staffing to enforce rules	Preparatory work underway. Medium term (3 – 5yrs)
			1.1.4	Protect existing indigenous riparian biodiversity/ restore indigenous biodiversity	Updated comprehensive survey to establish extent of existing biodiversity and restoration projects	Landowners (including public land) ECan, SDC, iwi, industry groups, community groups	Access to private land, expertise, \$\$, eco-sourced plants	Work underway, but information not well collated. Comprehensive survey within 2 years



1.2	Lack of understanding of systems and impacts of land and water use on environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes	Increased understanding of ecological and biophysical systems and impacts of land and water use; increased understanding of social, cultural and economic links to land and water use	1.2.1	Establishing appropriate systems for collecting and sharing data	Data collected regularly and accessible to key agencies and wider community	Research organisations (LU, UC, Landcare Research etc), councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups, industry, recreation, tourism sector	\$\$, expertise	Some work underway but gaps in data collection and what data is collected not always widely available. Improved availability Within 2 years
			1.2.2	Facilitating collaborative research projects	Number and nature of research projects underway	Research organisations (LU, UC, Landcare Research, NIWA etc), councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups	\$\$, expertise	Already underway - ongoing
			1.2.3	Undertake full investigation of impacts, considering a wide range of values within an integrated systems approach, of any proposals for development/ infrastructure likely to affect the Lake, environs or tributaries	Increased understanding of potential impacts to assist with decision making	Research organisations (LU, UC, Landcare Research, NIWA etc), councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups, industry, recreation, tourism sector	\$\$, expertise	Information available within 2 years of an issue being identified or sooner if the timetable for decisions or action requires it.



1.3	Climate change	Resilience to climate change	1.3.1	Raising awareness of potential changes to climate (including impacts of projects such as CPW)	Increased awareness of impact of climate change	Research organisations (LU, UC, Landcare Research, NIWA etc), councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups	Access to survey data of changing perceptions, educated media	Underway – needs continued work to increase awareness. Measureable increase within 3 – 5 years
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What does this mean for WET?

	Progress since 2012	Action from WET	Outputs	<i>EDUCATE</i>	<i>FACILITATE</i>	<i>ACTIVATE</i>
1.1.1 Establish an indicator working party and agree a range of indicators for different values	Established in 2013 and extended in 2014/15	Facilitate a working party to determine indicators and how to collect and collate data relating to indicators for reporting	A biennial “ <i>State of the Catchment</i> ” report, available prior to next symposium. Consider information needs of different groups within the community in reporting	<i>Clarify and articulate responsibilities and expectations of different agencies and individuals</i>	<i>Facilitate an indicator working party as a sub group of the Statutory Agencies Group (SAG); ensure wide range of values represented</i>	<i>Ensure a biennial report is prepared, either by a key agency or by WET on behalf of SAG. Ensure information is relevant for different groups.</i>
1.1.2 Raising awareness of impact of land and water use on Lake through education programmes etc	Many activities have contributed in this area, including the Kids Discovery Plantout project, led by TAK, focusing on Selwyn Primary Schools	Raise awareness of the impacts of land and water use and potential solutions	Written resources, web pages, AV material, display material, events and meetings, submissions	<i>Develop appropriate display material and resources & seek opportunities to use it, eg A&P Shows, Field days, website</i>	<i>Work with partners to ensure messages are consistent; make submissions on any plans/developments which may impact on ecological health of Lake</i>	<i>Organise/host community talks/workshops /symposia; attend A&P Shows, Field days etc</i>



1.1.3 Implement best management practices in the catchment (through ZIP and regional planning processes)	Good management is being defined by industry groups and new rules will require better than good practice to be implemented progressively	Provide advice and support for landowners on implementing best management practices, including riparian restoration	Written resources, web pages, display material, events and meetings	<i>Develop appropriate display material and resources & seek opportunities to use it; celebrate success</i>	<i>Work with partners to ensure messages are consistent, eg Sustainable Drain Management project (SDM)</i>	<i>Seek funding to support practical assistance/advice for landowners</i>
1.1.4 Protect existing indigenous riparian biodiversity/ restore indigenous biodiversity	Rules for riparian stock exclusion have been strengthened and planting of indigenous vegetation is actively promoted and implemented by a number of work programmes	Provide advice and support for landowners on protecting/restoring indigenous riparian biodiversity and work with other organisations to collate data on new and existing restoration projects	Details of indigenous biodiversity and restoration projects included in <i>State of Catchment</i> report and remnants protected	<i>Develop appropriate display material and resources & seek opportunities to use it; celebrate success</i>	<i>Work with partners to ensure messages are consistent and biodiversity sites protected/maintained</i>	<i>Assist with accessing funding; community volunteer planting projects to assist landowners</i>
1.2.1 Establishing appropriate systems for collecting and sharing data	This is being addressed in the monitoring strategy being developed at Lincoln University	Contribute to developing appropriate systems for data collection and storage	Good systems in place, notes from meetings , information on WET website, symposium every 2 years	<i>Ensure relevant people know about any data collections, and how to contribute data through networking, use of newsletters, websites etc</i>	<i>Bring different stakeholders together, eg by facilitating the SAG, host symposia</i>	<i>Initiate data collection and systems sharing if applicable, and contribute/share data</i>
1.2.2 Facilitating collaborative research projects	Ongoing	Facilitating collaborative research projects	Research projects relevant to the Lake	<i>Ensure potential researchers are aware of possible areas for research, and potential partners; summarise and disseminate research findings</i>	<i>Look for opportunities to link researchers and projects</i>	<i>Assist with accessing funding</i>



<p>1.2.3 Undertake full investigation of impacts, considering a wide range of values within an integrated systems approach, of any proposals for development/ infrastructure likely to affect the Lake, environs or tributaries</p>	<p>CPW Stage 1 will come on stream in September 2015. It is clear that the impacts are not fully understood and CPW will be required to undertake extensive monitoring</p>	<p>Encourage investigations into the impacts of any proposed scheme, ensuring a wide range of values are considered</p>	<p>Public reports, progress updates and community informed research projects</p>	<p><i>Ensure relevant people know about any investigations, and that investigators are made aware of community interests and the desirability of reporting back to the community</i></p>	<p><i>Look for opportunities to link stakeholders, tangata whenua and researchers, and to ensure progress updates and research outputs are readily accessible to the community</i></p>	<p><i>Press for the establishment of a research facility, research projects and programmes to be focused on matters relevant to 1.2, including compiling a list of topics for potential researchers to investigate that might provide baselines and trends against which new development/infrastructure proposals can be assessed; assist with seeking research funding</i></p>
<p>1.3.1 Raising awareness of potential changes to climate (including impacts of projects such as CPW)</p>	<p>Little specific progress but several extreme weather events (floods and drought) in the 2012-15 period are increasing the need for discussions to take place. There is an increased awareness, noted in a number of reports, of the effect of sea level rise on lake opening</p>	<p>Raising awareness of climate change impacts</p>	<p>Written resources, web pages, display material, events and meetings</p>	<p><i>Source relevant information and use it where appropriate</i></p>		



2. A place of cultural and historical significance that connects us with our past and our future.

Although there are some excellent publications available which detail aspects of cultural and historical significance, these are not always readily available and may not cover all the areas of potential interest. There are many different groups with strong links to the Lake who may not be connected with each other or have an opportunity to hear about others viewpoints and what is significant to them.

There are few visitor facilities or little in the way of interpretative information on sites around the Lake or at key points for public access on main tributaries, so visitors to the area do not always have an awareness or understanding of the significance of the Lake and tributaries across a range of values. Progress has been very slow on visitor facility projects put forward over recent years.

There has been a great deal of research carried out on the Lake and catchment over recent years. This research is not always widely known and understood.

Since 2012 a set of Ngai Tahu/DOC interpretation panels have been installed at key lakeside locations. Unfortunately a bid for funding for a visitor facility was unsuccessful. The Waterways centre for Freshwater Research has become well established and good source of information about lake related research.



Working towards the Vision

2012

	Issues/opportunities	Outcomes sought		Possible Actions	Performance Measure(s)	Who	Resources	When
2.1	Lack of available information	Easily accessible information on the cultural and historical significance	2.1.1	Develop and update printed resources and web based information on cultural and historical significance to different groups	Printed and web based resources available and up to date	Councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups, research organisations educators	\$\$, expertise,	Some resources available – ongoing work required
			2.1.2	Develop and update on site interpretative information on cultural and historical significance to different groups	On site interpretative information installed and up to date	Councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups, research organisations	\$\$, expertise,	Within 2 years
			2.1.3	Provide visitor facilities at key access points to the Lake	Visitor facility established, which features Lake related information	Councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups	Land and/or premises made available, \$\$, expertise,	Within 3 - 5 years



2.2	Potential conflict, particularly around proposed development, as different groups don't always understand and respect what is valued by others	Better understanding and awareness of cultural and historical significance of Lake and catchment, and respect for different views	2.2.1	Allowing different groups an opportunity to articulate their views, including bringing to attention of decision makers	Cultural and historical perspectives considered, resulting in a reduction of conflicts/negative submissions	Councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups, research organisations, local media,	\$\$, expertise	Underway, can be improved - reduction in conflicts seen in medium term (3 - 5 years)
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What does this mean for WET?

	Progress since 2012	Action from WET	Output	<i>EDUCATE</i>	<i>FACILITATE</i>	<i>ACTIVATE</i>
2.1.1 Develop and update printed resources and web based information on cultural and historical significance to different groups	Publication of the 2013 State of the Lake report covered a range of values.	Review and update resources available, ensure a wide range of interest areas covered	Up to date web site information, new printed resources; information available via range of media (eg Facebook etc)	<i>Ensure accurate information made available via websites (eg Papers Past), display material and printed resources</i>	<i>Bring different groups and experts together to contribute to developing information and resources (eg Papers Past, cookbook, geological information. school resources)</i>	<i>Seek funding for specific projects (eg Papers Past, updated Lake Access Brochure, cookbook, developing a Lake App)</i>
2.1.2 Develop and update on site interpretative information on cultural and historical significance to different groups	Interpretation panels installed at several lake side locations.	Work with other organisations on interpretation projects	Active projects working towards on site interpretation and/or signage; new signs/interpretation installed on site	<i>Identify appropriate content for on site information</i>	<i>Work in partnership with other groups to have information and/or signage installed (eg DOC, LRRTT, SDC, F&G, ECan)</i>	<i>Seek provision in annual work programme of statutory agencies for funding of interpretive signage</i>



2.1.3 Provide visitor facilities at key access points to the Lake	Little progress	Work with other organisations on visitor facility projects	Facilities which attract visitors to the Lake	<i>Use opportunities provided by visitor facilities eg Lake Research Centre, viewing platforms etc,</i>	<i>Work with different groups and experts to contribute to developing new projects</i>	<i>Seek funding for specific projects, eg creation of walkways, viewing facilities, land purchases</i>
2.2.1 Allowing different groups an opportunity to articulate their views, including bringing to attention of decision makers	2013 Living Lake Symposium; many submissions; participation in Selwyn Waihora focus groups process and confirmed as member of the lake opening protocol group under the new resource consent.	Represent views of WET (as articulated in the Vision and Objects); provide a platform for other stakeholders where relevant	Attendance at key meetings/workshops; hosting events, community meetings; submissions on plans, resource consent applications etc	<i>Ensure a wide cross sections of views are represented, offer opportunity to different sectors to share views</i>	<i>Bring different stakeholders together; make submissions where relevant</i>	<i>Organise and host events (eg symposia), meetings etc; provide opportunities for specialist to share knowledge eg seminars, Lake appreciation days</i>



Royal Spoonbills, Kaituna



3. A place where environmental, customary, commercial, and recreational values are balanced while respecting the health of the resource.

A number of descriptions of different values exist (e.g., State of the Lake, 2009), however, there is a lack of information about the impacts of different uses on those values and on other user groups. Identifying potential negative impacts and managing users and the interaction between user groups needs more consideration. One key question is around the level of use. If there is increasing awareness of the values and opportunities associated with the Lake, will there be an increase in visitors which may adversely impact on some values such as wildlife?

Many statutory and non-statutory processes are underway which will determine the future of land and water use in the catchment (CWMS, WTW, co-governance arrangements, irrigation schemes such as CPW, Future for Selwyn). Many of these processes include public meetings, the opportunity to make submissions, hearings and so on, which provide an avenue for people to state their concerns. Not all sectors of the community find it easy to engage with these processes. Where significant development is planned, the economic benefits need to be balanced with environmental, social and cultural concerns and so all sectors of the community need an ability to participate in the process. .

From 2015 work will begin at Selwyn District Council on a revision of the District Plan which will provide further opportunities for public participation.



Working towards the Vision

2012

	Issues/opportunities	Outcomes sought		Possible Actions	Performance Measure(s)	Who	Resources	When
3.1	Lack of information about some values and user groups/levels of use	Ability to plan for minimising conflict	3.1.1	Gathering data on current and past use, attitudes to the Lake etc which can contribute to decision making <i>Also see Actions 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.1</i>	Information gathered and made available in a useful format, and regularly updated	Research organisations (LU, UC, Landcare Research etc), councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups	\$\$, expertise	Within 2 years
			3.1.2	Identifying possible points of conflicts, and appropriate levels of use to ensure there is a balance between values <i>Also see Actions 1.1.2, 1.3.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1</i>	Possible points of conflicts identified and measures in place to identify and manage for appropriate levels of use	Research organisations (LU, UC, Landcare Research etc), councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups	\$\$, expertise	Within 3 - 5 years



3.2	Public consultation processes may be more difficult for some user groups than others	All sectors of the community and stakeholders have an opportunity to have their views heard	3.2.1	High quality participatory community consultation when new developments are planned or key decisions made on land and water use; decision makers consider informal as well as formal consultation <i>Also see Action 2.2.1</i>	Community is consulted and no groups/ individuals feel excluded	Councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups, industry/developers	\$\$, expertise	Underway (eg zone committee) – improvement seen within 3 – 5 years
3.3	Developing a Lake opening regime to meet the needs of multiple groups	A Lake opening regime which represents a balance between values and stakeholders	3.3.1	Undertake research and modelling to improve understanding of the effects of different opening regimes and monitor and report impacts of different regimes on a wide range of values <i>See also Action 1.1.1, 1.2.1</i>	Research and modelling continues and data is shared between agencies and researchers, monitoring is undertaken and reported on, including effects of any changes to opening regime.	Councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups, industry organisations	\$\$, expertise	Work underway - establish reporting format within 2 years



What does this mean for WET?

	Progress since 2012	Action from WET	Output	<i>EDUCATE</i>	<i>FACILITATE</i>	<i>ACTIVATE</i>
3.1.1 Gathering data on current and past use, attitudes to the Lake etc which can contribute to decision making	Some work done for the 2013 State of the Lake report, still lots of gaps	Facilitate collaborative research projects and collation of data	Research detailing current (and past) use , attitudes etc	<i>Ensure research/data is made available, eg via WET website, and key decision makers are aware of it eg by reference in submissions</i>	<i>Look for opportunities to link researchers and projects</i>	<i>Assist with accessing funding</i>
3.1.2 Identifying possible points of conflicts, and appropriate levels of use to ensure there is a balance between values	Discussion have begun at Ngāi Tahu and DOC about the review of the JMP; the establishment of a Lake Margin Working Group has provided a forum for progressing discussion	Facilitate collaborative research projects and collation of data	Research which identifies potential conflicts	<i>Promote education about and enforcement of statutory agency rules</i>	<i>Look for opportunities to link researchers and projects</i>	<i>Assist with accessing funding</i>



<p>3.2.1 High quality participatory community consultation when new developments are planned or key decisions made on land and water use; decision makers consider informal as well as formal consultation</p>	<p>One example was the establishment of the Selwyn Waihora focus groups which allowed selected representatives from a wide range of groups to participate in the development of a 'solutions package' which contributed to the development of new planning rules. 7 WET Trustees and the Manager participated</p>	<p>Help to ensure the community is well informed about planning and decision making underway</p>	<p>Community meetings/displays, newsletters, regularly updated website information, submissions on relevant plans/consents etc</p>	<p><i>Use newsletter, website etc as additional avenues for accurate information to be disseminated to the wider community</i></p>	<p><i>Provide a forum eg newsletter, community meetings, for different sectors to be heard and to share their views</i></p>	<p><i>Organise and host events, meetings etc if relevant, eg the eel seminar hosted in 2008; make submission where relevant to the Lake and catchment</i></p>
<p>3.3.1 Undertake research and modelling to improve understanding of the effects of different opening regimes and monitor and report impacts of different regimes on a wide range of values</p>	<p>WTW funded research by NIWA and UC has addressed some of the engineering questions.</p>	<p>Continue to be actively involved as a party to the Lake Opening Protocol and act as a conduit for information to the community</p>	<p>Information relating to the resource consent for Lake opening and any impacts of changes (eg website updates, newsletters)</p>	<p><i>Help to ensure the wider community has an understanding of the process and potential implications of changes eg by using newsletter, website, display opportunities</i></p>	<p><i>Ensure all relevant stakeholders know how to share their views</i></p>	<p><i>Seek funding for development of information sharing methods, eg interactive computer programmes/apps</i></p>



4. A special wide open place for the enjoyment and wonderment of present and future generations; a place of contemplation and tranquillity as well as activity, a place just to be.

Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere has many unique qualities and, as recognised by the National Water Conservation Order, many outstanding features. Amongst the wider community, particularly on a regional basis, there is a lack of awareness of the Lake and its values. Media reports often focus on negative perceptions of the Lake and environs and disregard the positive attributes. There is some risk that, if the Lake and environs are developed in a way that promotes greater visitor numbers and more participation in recreational activities, it may jeopardise the qualities that many value so highly. However, the area covered by the Lake is large and there is considerable capacity for increasing use of the area for recreational and other activities.

To assist in raising awareness, it is important that the qualities and values that make Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere a special place are recognised in planning documents, and can be factored into decisions made on the future of the catchment. For example, biodiversity values are well articulated in recent planning documents such as the Zone Implementation Programme, and the Regional Policy Statement recognises the Lake as having significant landscape value – exceptional for natural science¹ and tangata whenua, and very high for transient² and legibility³ landscape values.

The Lake is also recognised in other databases, e.g., the New Zealand Geopreservation Inventory, which classifies Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere as B2 – of national importance but vulnerable to significant modifications by human actions.

1. *Natural Science values – the geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic components of the landscape*
2. *Transient values – occasional presence of wildlife, or its values at certain times of the day or of the year*
3. *Legibility (expressiveness) values – how obviously the landscape demonstrates the formative processes leading to its creation*



Working towards the Vision

2012

	Issues/opportunities	Outcomes sought		Possible Actions	Performance Measure(s)	Who	Resources	When
4.1	Low awareness of the Lake and its potential for recreation (passive and active)	Increased awareness and appreciation of the Lake, and increased recreational opportunities, but with its character being maintained for future generations	4.1.1	Develop a visitor information centre for the Lake and/or Lake Research Centre <i>See also Actions 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3</i>	Visitor facility established, which features Lake related information	Universities, councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups, events managers/sponsors	Land and/or premises made available, \$\$, expertise	Within 3 – 5 years
			4.1.2	Encourage recreational activities, while ensuring they are managed in a way that maintains the character of the Lake <i>See also action 3.1.2</i>	Participation in active and passive recreational activities on and around the lake increases from current (2012) levels	Universities, councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups, events managers/sponsors	\$\$, expertise	Underway – increase in activities seen within 3 – 5 years



4.2	Lack of appreciation of biodiversity and landscape values	Protection of the special character of the Lake for future generations	4.2.1	Greater public discussion of the special character of the Lake and environs <i>See also Actions 1.1.3, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.3.2</i>	Opportunities to discuss special character of the lake provided and documented; positive media interest in the lake and environs increases	Universities, councils, statutory agencies, iwi, community groups	opportunities, media cooperation	Ongoing – increase in positive media coverage within 3- 5 years
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What does this mean for WET?

	Progress since 2012	Action from WET	Output	<i>EDUCATE</i>	<i>FACILITATE</i>	<i>ACTIVATE</i>
4.1.1 Develop a visitor/information centre for the Lake and/or Lake Research Centre	A joint bid, with the Waterways Centre, for funding from the Next Foundation was made in 2014. This was unsuccessful.	Support the development of a Lake centre for visitors and/or research	Involvement in discussions on the development of a Lake visitor centre	<i>Raise awareness of Lake values and opportunities for visitors and for further research through newsletters, website, networking etc</i>	<i>Encourage interested parties (eg Ngāi Tahu, universities) to link with other interested groups in the public and private sectors</i>	<i>Investigate the provision of a set of models of possible designs (eg via a student project)</i>
4.1.2 Encourage recreational activities, while ensuring they are managed in a way that maintains the character of the Lake	ongoing	Support recreation initiatives	Opportunities to participate in catchment based events which highlight the values of Lake	<i>Promote greater understanding of the Lake's outstanding values by ongoing contact with user groups</i>	<i>Assist and support initiatives eg LU Recreation students/triathlon proposal</i>	<i>Assist with finding sponsorship for appropriate events</i>



4.2.1 Greater public discussion of the special character of the Lake and environs	ongoing	Offer opportunities for discussion of the special character of the Lake and what it means to people	Newsletter articles, blog posts, display material, artistic and literary works with links to the Lake and catchment	<i>Raise awareness of what the Lake means for different people using the newsletter, website, display material, artistic works etc</i>	<i>Assist artists, writers and performers to engage creatively with the Lake</i>	<i>Investigate organising seminars, debates, art exhibitions, theatre and literary events with a Lake focus</i>
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List of Abbreviations:

AGM	Annual General Meeting	RPS	Regional policy Statement
CPW	Central Plains Water	SAG	Statutory Agencies Group
CWMS	Canterbury Water Management Strategy	SDM	Sustainable Drain Management Project
DOC	Department of Conservation	SDC	Selwyn District Council
ECan	Environment Canterbury	TLI	Trophic Level Index
F&G	Fish & Game NZ	UC	University of Canterbury
LRRTT	Little River Rail Trail Trust	WCO	Water Conservation Order
LU	Lincoln University	WET	Waihora Ellesmere Trust
RIP	Regional Implementation Programme	WTW	Whakaora Te Waihora
RMA	Resource Management Act	ZIP	Zone Implementation Programme



Black swans

What will our plan mean for WET over the next year?

A separate and more specific annual work plan for WET is developed each year in to outline the areas WET will be focusing on. This is available from the WET website www.wet.org.nz.



Possible Actions – timeframes (at Sept 2012)

1.1.1	Establish an indicator working party and agree a range of indicators for different values
1.1.2	Raising awareness of impact of land and water use on Lake through education programmes etc
1.1.3	Implement best management practices in the catchment (through ZIP and regional planning processes)
1.1.4	Protect existing indigenous riparian biodiversity/restore indigenous biodiversity
1.2.1	Establishing appropriate systems for collecting and sharing data
1.2.2	Facilitating collaborative research projects
1.2.3	Undertake full investigation of impacts, considering a wide range of values within an integrated systems approach, of any proposals for development/ infrastructure likely to affect the Lake, environs or tributaries
1.3.1	Raising awareness of potential changes to climate (including impacts of projects such as CPW)
2.1.1	Develop and update printed resources and web based information on cultural and historical significance to different groups
2.1.2	Develop and update site interpretative information on cultural and historical significance to different groups
2.1.3	Provide visitor facilities at key access points to the lake
2.2.1	Allowing different groups an opportunity to articulate their views, including bringing to attention of decision makers
3.1.1	Gathering data on current and past use, attitudes to the Lake etc which can contribute to decision making Also see Actions 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.1
3.1.2	Identifying possible points of conflicts, and appropriate levels of use to ensure there is a balance between values Also see Actions 1.1.2, 1.3.1, 2.2.1
3.2.1	High quality participatory community consultation when new developments are planned or key decisions made on land and water use Also see Actions 2.2.1
3.3.1	Undertake research and modelling to improve understanding of the effects of different opening regimes and monitor and report impacts of different regimes on a wide range of values See also Action 1.1.1, 1.2.1
4.1.1	Develop a visitor information centre for the Lake and/or Lake Research Centre See also Actions 2.11, 2.12, 2.13
4.1.2	Encourage recreational activities, while ensuring they are managed in a way that maintains the character of the lake. Also see action 3.1.2
4.2.1	Greater public discussion of the special character of the lake and environs. Also see Actions 1.1.3, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1

Total number of actions = 19

Underway - needs to be ongoing	
Underway – improvement seen within 2 years	
Underway - improvement seen within 3 - 5 years	
Within 2 years	
Within 3 – 5 years	



Possible Actions – timeframes (at June 2015)

1.1.1	Establish an indicator working party and agree a range of indicators for different values
1.1.2	Raising awareness of impact of land and water use on Lake through education programmes etc
1.1.3	Implement best management practices in the catchment (through ZIP and regional planning processes)
1.1.4	Protect existing indigenous riparian biodiversity/restore indigenous biodiversity
1.2.1	Establishing appropriate systems for collecting and sharing data
1.2.2	Facilitating collaborative research projects
1.2.3	Undertake full investigation of impacts, considering a wide range of values within an integrated systems approach, of any proposals for development/ infrastructure likely to affect the Lake, environs or tributaries
1.3.1	Raising awareness of potential changes to climate (including impacts of projects such as CPW)
2.1.1	Develop and update printed resources and web based information on cultural and historical significance to different groups
2.1.2	Develop and update site interpretative information on cultural and historical significance to different groups
2.1.3	Provide visitor facilities at key access points to the lake
2.2.1	Allowing different groups an opportunity to articulate their views, including bringing to attention of decision makers
3.1.1	Gathering data on current and past use, attitudes to the Lake etc which can contribute to decision making Also see Actions 1.21, 1.22, 1.31
3.1.2	Identifying possible points of conflicts, and appropriate levels of use to ensure there is a balance between values Also see Actions 1.1.2, 1.3.1, 2.2.1
3.2.1	High quality participatory community consultation when new developments are planned or key decisions made on land and water use Also see Actions 2.2.1
3.3.1	Undertake research and modelling to improve understanding of the effects of different opening regimes and monitor and report impacts of different regimes on a wide range of values See also Action 1.11, 1.21
4.1.1	Develop a visitor information centre for the Lake and/or Lake Research Centre See also Actions 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3
4.1.2	Encourage recreational activities, while ensuring they are managed in a way that maintains the character of the lake. Also see action 3.1.2
4.2.1	Greater public discussion of the special character of the lake and environs. Also see Actions 1.1.3, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1

Total number of actions = 19

Underway - needs to be ongoing	
Underway – improvement seen within 2 years	
Underway - improvement seen within 3 - 5 years	
Within 2 years	
Within 3 – 5 years	



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