

Our Reference: A1060196

25 March 2024



**The Members
Makarewa Catchment Liaison
Committee**

Notice of Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee** will be held on **Monday, 25 March 2024** at the **Hedgehope Community Centre, Hedgehope**.

Light lunch available from 1pm, **meeting starts at 1:30**.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Terms of Reference (attached)
4. Minutes of meeting of 20 February 2023 (attached)
5. Chair/co-Chair report – Julie Freeborn and Polly Hudson, Co-Chairs
 - a) New Vale / Goodwin Mines enquiry – two letters (attached)
 - b) Possible edits to Terms of Reference e.g., ‘rating district to catchment community’ and others
6. Matters arising – New Vale/Goodwin
7. Appointment of Committee and membership
8. Financial report – 2023/24 and proposed 2024/25 (attached)
9. Catchment report and opportunity to discuss future river works and/or areas in need of attention (community feedback)
10. Thriving Southland update/catchment reports from Mid and Lower Oreti, Hedgehope and Makarewa Headwaters.

Coffee break

11. General Business
 - a) Long -Term Plan 2024-34
 - i. Infrastructure Strategy 2024-54 – *Randal Beal*
 - ii. Proposed Rates Review – *Tanea Hawkins*
 - iii. Other matters
 - iv. Consultation information – including information on upcoming public meeting with catchment cluster re LTP and proposed rates review
 - b) Showcasing the catchment presentation by Catchment Integration.
 - i. Includes brief update on gravel.

12. Meeting close

After the meeting Environment Southland staff will be available to discuss matters of interest. There will be a focus on providing information relating to the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

Julie Freeborn and Polly Hudson
Co-Chairs

Enclosed for your information:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Terms of Reference | <i>(Page 3)</i> |
| 2. Minutes of 20 February 2023 meeting of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee | <i>(Page 6)</i> |
| 3. New Vale / Goodwin Mines enquiry letters x 2 | <i>(Page 11)</i> |
| 4. Financial report - 2023/24 and proposed 2024/25 | <i>(Page 15)</i> |
| 5. List of members | <i>(Page 18)</i> |

Terms of Reference

Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee

Reporting to

The Community

The Regional Services Committee, Southland Regional Council (or "the Council")

Objective

To be a connection between the catchment community, its rating district and the Council to effectively manage the catchment's natural resources, and assist the Council to maintain better communications.

Catchment Liaison Committees role:

1. be an advisory group that provides a leadership role in integrated catchment management, developing and supporting projects with agreed principles and structures through which competing interests in natural resources can be discussed.

Areas of opportunity are in: water quality and quantity, soil health, river management, land drainage, land management that affects water and flood planning;

2. report to the Council on project initiatives and budgets for projects and maintenance works, including advice on the financial overview of budgets and reserves;
3. make recommendations on behalf of the community to maintain and improve the state and management of the catchment and its environment, with any decisions resting with the Regional Council in terms of its statutory obligations;
4. provide advice to the Council on behalf of the rating district for the annual work programme for these projects, including long-term work programmes, maintenance works, river and flood planning and special projects;
5. provide advice to the Council on the development of any plan or strategy in their catchment;
6. reflect the opinion of the whole catchment, complaints or other matters relating to individual ratepayers must be redirected to the Council.

Standard operating Procedures (16/09/2020)

Membership

Public membership is limited to ratepayers including lessees (or their representative) who own land within the Catchment. Membership of Industry, Non-Government-Organisations and Government organisations that do not own land in the catchment is limited to scope of work.

A Sub-Committee or Technical Advisory group may be appointed at the AGM to deal with specific matters and feedback on financial expenditure when required.

The larger membership and the Sub-Committee/Technical advisory group have the ability to co-opt and are generally open to any ratepayer.

Representation from interest groups and industry groups where appropriate.

Environment Southland will appoint its own representative with the agreement from the committee.

Appointment process

Nominations are to be sought at the Annual General Meeting.

Key considerations will be ensuring Committee interest and geographic balance to enable productive dialogue to occur.

Each committee member reflects the interests of a wider group within the community and preferably have the skills, experience and knowledge to relay information between the (catchment name) committee and different sectors within the community.

Governance

Chairperson

The group will select a Chair and/or Co-Chairs from amongst its members. The Chair will ensure a fair and equitable group process and be responsible for fostering an atmosphere of respect, open mindedness and group learning.

Quorum

A quorum shall include the Chair or Deputy Chair and a total of at least 3 normal committee members. The size of each quorum can change at an Annual General Meeting, on November 1 2020 the following applies: *Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee – 6; Oreti Catchment Liaison Committee – 4; Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee – 3; Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee – 3; Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee – 3; Waiau Catchment Liaison Committee – 5; Waimatuku Catchment Liaison Committee – 3; Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee - 3*

Meeting Frequency

Meet with the relevant Environment Southland staff and/or Councillors when necessary with one Annual General Meeting and workshops and additional meetings as required.

The Chair and/or Co-Chairs will represent their committee at combined liaison meetings and workshops.

Collaborative Decision-making

A credible commitment to the collaborative decision making process by the individuals and organisations involved is required. Decisions will be based on majority voting but consensus should be sought where possible, with the Chair/Co Chairs holding a casting vote.

Principles of Participation

All members of the committee agree to participate in the following ways:

- contributions are made without prejudice – i.e. nothing said within the group may be used in subsequent planning or legal processes except for any recommendations or agreements reached by the group;
- members to show respect for others views and avoid promoting discord within the group;
- any public statements by the group are to be agreed by the group and made through an agreed spokesperson;

- members of the group are expected to support decisions and recommendations reached by consensus by the group in subsequent public discussions;
- the Chair is responsible for fostering the principles of participation and is expected to be respected as a leader in their role.

**Minutes of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison
Committee Annual General Meeting, held at
Hedgehope Hall, Hedgehope on
Monday, 20 February 2023, at 7.00 pm.**



Present:	Mrs P Hudson	(Makarewa) <i>(Co-Chair)</i>
	Mrs J Freeborn	(Makarewa) <i>(Co-Chair)</i>
	Mr F Weatherburn	(Makarewa)
	Mr R Faulkner	(Makarewa)
	Mrs P Faulkner	(Makarewa)
	Mr P Ruddenklau	(Makarewa)
	Mr J Dary	(Makarewa)
	Mr W MacPherson	(Makarewa)
	Mr M Thomson	(Makarewa)
	Mrs E Thomson	(Makarewa)
	Mr M Janssen	(Makarewa)
	Ms L Gorge	(Makarewa)
In Attendance:	Cr J McPhail	(Environment Southland)
	Cr P McDonald	(Environment Southland)
	Mr R Beal	(Catchment Operations Manager)
	Mrs T Hawkins	(Chief Financial Officer)
	Mr P Pollard	(Team Leader, Catchment)
	Ms S Gray	(River Engineer Officer, Catchment)
	Ms E Whalley	(Catchment Integration)
	Mr K Finlayson	(Catchment Integration)
	Mrs E Kini	(Personal Assistant – Minutes)

1 Welcome and Chairman's Report (*Haere mai*)

Co-Chair Ms Hudson welcomed attendees to the meeting and provided the following Co-Chair Report:

- Focus is to bring more faces to the Committee.
- Effective and efficient use of ratepayers contribution for the wider catchment area.
- Attended Catchment Chairs meeting which included:
 - o A session on how best to work with Environment Southland and other catchments.
 - o Update on Insurance
 - o Review of current rating structure
- Received a report from Sarah Thorn on Thriving Southland Working Catchment Groups including Hedgehope, Makarewa Headwaters and Mid Oreti (brochures provided) hoping for further update or meeting mid-year.

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved:

Moved Ms Freeborn, seconded Ms Hudson, that apologies were recorded on behalf of Mr B Allen, Ms S Thorne, Mr J McKenzie, Chairman N Horrell, Mr R MacPherson, Ms D MacPherson, Mr N Wadworth, Ms A Wadsworth and Mr D Frew for absence, and Mr M Thomson for lateness.

Carried

3 Terms of Reference

No discussion occurred on this matter.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of 18 May 2022

Resolved by Consensus:

That the minutes of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

5 Matters Arising

Mr McPherson asked about concerns/progress on the removal of willows. It was noted this would be addressed in Mr Pollard's upcoming update.

6 Appointment of Committee and Membership

Cr McDonald assumed the Chair. Cr McDonald called for nominations for the position of Chair/Co-Chair of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee.

Resolved:

Moved Mr Weatherburn, seconded Mr Thomson that Ms Freeborn and Ms Hudson be elected to the position of Co-Chairs of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee.

Carried

Ms Hudson then assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting, and called for nominations to the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee.

Resolved:

Moved Mr Thomson, seconded Ms Hudson that the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee comprise of Mr W MacPherson, Mr F Weatherburn, Mr P Ruddenklau, Mr M Thomson, Ms E Thomson, Mr M Janssen, Mr B Allen, Ms S Thorne, Mr J McKenzie, Mr R MacPherson, Ms D MacPherson, Mr N Wadworth, Ms A Wadworth, Mr D Frew.

Carried

8 Financial Report – 2022/23 and proposed 2023/2024

Mr Pollard and Mrs Hawkins spoke to the Draft Budget for the 2023/24 year presentation slides, and the Draft Budget as circulated in the agenda, noting the following:

- Increase to Insurance costs with other cost increases in line with inflation.
- Insurance Claim for 2020 floods took longer than anticipated, scrutinised assets and re-evaluated the level of insurance.
- Confirmed insurance coverage is 75% with catchment contribution of 25%.
- Current value of Makarewa stopbanks is \$1.9 million. Realignment of insurance to ensure all catchments are as close as possible to rebuild costs.
- Budget for 2023/24 is more aligned with actual costs to keep up with the costs of completing the work.
- Budget is currently on track but likely to be fully utilised.
- Discussion took place regarding the rating review being undertaken by Environment Southland and rate types, including:
 - o Classification of land including the current maintenance rate, flood protection which have been in place for up to 30 to 40 years.
 - o Classification map (was available for committee to members). The maps will be more defined and will be made available to Committee Members.
 - o Identified that Makarewa has a simpler, straight forward version of the system.
 - o Rates vary significantly between the classifications.
 - o Communication plan needed, sharing of information to provide as much as possible for the rates classification and review process.
- Discussion regarding spraying, drain management and gorse, broom management. Possible communication to landowners that it is their responsibility for gorse, broom management. Planting more natives, being more proactive to assist in management of this, difficult to obtain the plants (Hedgehope and Makarewa Working Catchment Group focussing on this).
- Discussion occurred regarding riparian planting, maintenance of it, planting on both sides of the river where there is restricted access. Encouraged to be done through Environment Southland.

Resolved:

Moved Mr Weatherburn and seconded Mr MacPherson that the Financial Report 2022/23 be noted and proposed 2023/24 budget increase by 6% as discussed. To also include an Integrated Catchment Plan.

Carried

9 Catchment Report

Mr P Pollard and Mr R Beal presented the Catchment Report including an update on Climate Resilience projects and talked to the presentation slides including:

- Willow clearing taking place on three sites on the Makarewa River including below old Alliance plant and bridge to be removed next month. Willow chips available.
- Investigating options for soft plantings such as toitoi's, for amenity shelters for landowners.
- Advised spraying is being delayed until fronds are sprouting due to increased success when fronds have sprouted.
- Erosion on Titipua Stream, regular maintenance is conducted including willows and erosion spots.
- Environment Southland's Infrastructure Strategy which feeds into the rates review.
- Update on Makarewa assets, which there are not many in the Makarewa Catchment. Review assets which may be nearing the end of their life or creating some risk.
- Hydrology information suggests Makarewa lost 30% of its flow in the past 10 years possibly due to willows.
- Matura River example presented relating to Climate Change, consultation will take place to determine the levels of service committees would like for the next 30 years. There are a range of solutions across the catchments for flood management.
- Discussion occurred relating to gravel management and extraction including Strategic gravel management and addressing erosion issues.
- Gravel going down the Makarewa, when contractors up to Titipua, levels lower than were last time

10 General

Environmental Challenges facing Murihiku Southland

Mrs Whalley and Mr Finlayson talked to presentation slides (a copy of the presentation will be kept on file) including:

- Provided an overview of the Catchment Integration team - who they are and what they do including:
 - Riparian planting advice – what and how to plant.
 - Pilot for Freshwater Farm Plans
 - EnviroSchools
 - Pollution and forestry education and compliance.
 - Working with Federated Farmers regarding winter grazing
 - Land Management Advice and Information

- Forestry
- Planting plans similar to riparian plants, more sheltering plants
- Assistance with Environmental Farm plans
- Projects include Intensive Winter Grazing, working with partners and communities
- Southland Riparian Planting Project – working with Catchment Operations team

Bees

Discussion occurred regarding consideration of bees when planting trees, and the types of trees that are planted being suitable for bees. Suggestion that rosemary and lavender good for bees and the types of plants being planted could be improved on.

Other

Mr Thomson outlined the Hedgehope and Makarewa Working Catchment Group plantings:

- Ways and means of controlling feral's in the bush including Riparian planting.
- Challenges regarding funding
- Presented data to a group of invited industries available on Environment Southland website.
- Working on Riparian Planting and Pest control
- Approach is to conduct a survey with affected parties
- Funds available from Landcare Trust (Westpac) with associated timeframes.
- Lack of engagement or assistance from Government departments

Ducks

Mr MacPherson updated the committee on ducks at his property (was raised in the last Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meeting), progress has been made with Ministry of Primary Industries meeting with him.

New Vale Coal Dross

Mr Weatherburn raised the subject of the trucking of New Vale Coal Dross and Environment Southland's awareness/approval/obligation with regards to it. Environment Southland to follow up and respond. Mr Weatherburn advised previous communication has been sent to Mrs Young.

11 Termination

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.33 pm.

17 August 2023

Julie Freeborn
Co-chair
Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee
Email: 7 (2)(a) [REDACTED]



Dear Julie,

I appreciate your patience while we have been researching your query, on behalf of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee, into potential historic dumping of aluminium dross at the New Vale coal mine at 640 Millar Road, Waimumu, Gore. The research has taken longer than we would have expected and I apologise for that.

We searched historic, physical records of the former Southland Catchment Board and the regional council and located information that shows some aluminium dross was discharged at the adjacent Goodwin mine. We found no evidence of dross being deposited at the New Vale mine.

The records are more than 30 years old and pre-date the Resource Management Act (RMA), so do not contain the detail we might expect today. Nevertheless, they do give a reasonable indication of what occurred and we can provide you with the following information.

In 1988, there was a proposal to bury aluminium dross powder at the New Vale mine site. However, in August 1989 records show the transport company had an issue with access to the New Vale mine site. Consequently, the Southland Catchment Board granted permission to discharge the aluminium dross powder to the Goodwin mine, with the same conditions, i.e. not in the vicinity of surface water and same day covering of the dross.

Records indicate that up to two truckloads of dross powder were taken to the Goodwin mine, which we estimate would have been up to about 70 tonnes, where it was mixed with overburden, rocks and soil and buried.

Subsequently, in 1989 and 1990, monitoring for key contaminants, including fluoride and ammoniacal nitrogen (a measure of ammonia content), was conducted in the areas of both the New Vale and Goodwin coal mines and the Hedgehope Stream.

Samples were collected from the Goodwin mine site from April through to August 1990. On several occasions slightly elevated results were detected for ammoniacal nitrogen. Ammoniacal nitrogen is common in pastoral areas due to fertiliser use, therefore the results did not confirm the contamination originated from the disposal of the aluminium dross powder.

Sampling results for the Hedgehope Stream also showed some slight elevation of ammoniacal nitrogen.

Across the historic sampling undertaken at the time, there were no detectable levels of fluoride. According to the Australasian standards (ANZECC), the slightly elevated levels of ammoniacal nitrogen were not at levels that would generate any significant adverse health or environmental effects; and in each case the source was uncertain.

Based on the information and monitoring results we have located, our contaminated land scientist has assessed the potential environmental impact and human health risk posed by the aluminium dross powder at the Goodwin site to be 'considerably low'. This is primarily due to the depth it has been buried, the potentially large area of the mine, which it has been distributed across and the volume of overburden covering what is estimated to be, a limited amount of dross.

Nevertheless, our monitoring team will be conducting water quality sampling of the Hedgehope Stream, when conditions are favourable, to test for ammoniacal nitrogen and fluoride, as a follow up to your enquiry. Soil and sediment samples will also be taken.

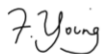
Both the New Vale and Goodwin coal mines are listed as contaminated land sites due to their mining activities, which assists the appropriate future management of these areas. The Goodwin mine is now closed and in private ownership; its current land use is farm grazing.

It is our understanding that attempting to move or unearth the dross now would be unwise as it could pose a considerably higher risk than leaving it undisturbed.

I understand this matter is of considerable interest to the community and we will update you once the monitoring samples have been analysed.

If you would like to meet to discuss the situation further, please get in touch.

Ngā mihi,



Fiona Young
Integrated Catchment Management Manager

31 January 2024

Julie Freeborn
Co-chair
Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee
Email: 7 (2)(a)



Dear Julie,

Further to my letter to you in August last year, I am pleased to advise analysis of water samples taken in the area of the New Vale and Goodwin coalmines for contaminants associated with aluminium dross has now been completed.

The samples we collected showed some expected natural variation but no significant deterioration in the water quality that could be linked to aluminium dross being disposed of in that area.

Based on information provided by new operators of New Vale and information that we had been able to gather from searching historical files, we collected a series of water samples:

- Up and downstream samples collected from a small tributary to the Hedgehope Stream. This tributary runs along the boundary of the current New Vale mine.
- Up and downstream samples collected from the Hedgehope Stream. The Hedgehope Stream runs along the boundary of the historical Goodwin mine.
- A water sample from a pond on the New Vale site that is understood to be fed by groundwater in the area of the New Vale mine.

We conducted a suite of water quality tests, including ammoniacal nitrogen and fluoride, as a follow up to your enquiry.

Once again, I appreciate your patience while we researched and investigated your query into potential historic dumping of aluminium dross at the New Vale and Goodwin coal mines.


We searched historic, physical records of the former Southland Catchment Board and the regional council and located information that shows some aluminium dross was discharged at the adjacent Goodwin mine. We found no evidence of dross being deposited at the New Vale mine.

The records are more than 30 years old and pre-date the Resource Management Act (RMA), so do not contain the detail we might expect today. Nevertheless, they do give a reasonable indication of what occurred, and in my previous letter, I provided you with the available information we obtained.

Due to the historic and dispersed nature of the information, our research took longer than we expected, and again, my apologies for that.

If you would like to meet to discuss the situation further, please get in touch.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F. Young".

Fiona Young
Integrated Catchment Management Manager

Draft Budget Makarewa Catchment Rating District 2024/25
(Compiled by Paul Pollard, Team Leader)

Works in the Makarewa catchment in the current 2023/24 financial year have involved maintenance on the Otapiri, Lora and Hedgehope Streams. Further willow clearance work has been carried out on the Makarewa below SH6 this year as well but this is being funded from an allocation from the Oreti Lease Reserve. The intent of the willow clearance is to improve the efficiency of the flood channel in the SH6 to SH 99 section of the river which has become choked with old crack willows over time.

The following works are proposed for 2024/25:

- ***River Management***

The programme for the 2024/25 year is to be confirmed by the Committee. The following proposed works are provided for consideration:

1. Otapiri Stream – further erosion control	36,000
3. Makarewa River – erosion control and maintenance	121,250
4. Sections of Makarewa River – spraying to control impeding plant growth	10,000
5. Isolated catchment area works – tree planting to control bank edge erosion	<u>8,820</u>

Total Value of Works **\$176,070**

- ***Drainage Works***

The catchment commitment to drainage maintenance is based on agreement that outfall channels require a two to four yearly cycle of cleaning.

During the 2024/25 period, 3 of the catchment outfall channels are scheduled for inspection and possible work. The previously trialled aquatic spraying appears to be working and the drains will continue to be sprayed annually and only cleaned mechanically when required, which should result in a saving of rating district funds.

- ***Effect of inflation on works***

Catchment rate increases had been kept to a minimum for some time. Last year, staff advised increasing river works operational budgets that will be directly affected by increasing machinery hire costs such as channel maintenance, tree planting and structure maintenance. Inflation has continued, putting pressure on budgets again. It is recommended that budgets be increased again allowing work to continue at the same level it has been, or allow for some building of reserves.

All sums exclude GST

River Works		2022/23 Budget	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Current Budget	2024/25 Draft Budget
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue	Rates - General	72,689	79,227	79,880	-
	Rates - Separate	191,494	191,379	211,009	234,381
	Local Contributions Received	-	30,050	-	-
	Investment Income Allocated	2,000	3,554	3,600	3,186
	Insurance Recoveries	-	6,125	-	-
Income total		266,183	310,335	294,489	237,567
Expenditure	Cost of Works Insurance	967	2,362	3,582	4,724
	River Works	-	8,660	-	-
	Channel Maintenance	198,401	223,497	219,605	231,683
	Tree Planting	8,820	549	-	-
	Structure Maintenance	-	3,157	6,700	-
	Cost of Works Miscellaneous	-	495	1,000	1,160
	Floodwarning	8,828	8,832	8,828	-
	Support Costs	49,167	46,587	54,773	-
Expenditure total		266,183	294,139	294,488	237,567
Net Movement		-	16,196	1	-

Land Drainage		2022/23 Budget	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Current Budget	2024/25 Draft Budget
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue	Rates - General	5,750	4,944	6,063	5,869
	Rates - Separate	50,652	50,622	52,695	52,824
	Investment Income Allocated	1,100	1,840	1,872	1,643
Income total		57,502	57,405	60,630	60,336
Expenditure	Channel Maintenance	33,686	35,970	35,700	40,112
	Structure Maintenance	17,026	-	18,000	20,224
	Support Costs	6,790	13,469	6,930	-
Expenditure total		57,502	49,440	60,630	60,336
Net Movement		-	7,965	-	-

Carry-Forwards	
Opening Balance at 1 July 2022	\$136,785
Net movement as above	\$24,162
Closing Balance 30 June 2023	\$160,947
2024/25 Funding	
Income from Interest	\$4,829
Income from General Rates	\$5,869
Income from Separate Rates	\$287,205
Total Budgeted Funding 24/25	\$297,903
(2023/24 Separate Rates \$263,704)	
Disaster Reserve	
Balance Disaster Reserves at 30 June 2023	\$186,014
Estimated interest received	\$5,580
Forecast Disaster Reserve at 30 June 2024	\$191,594
Makarewa Special Fund	
Balance Special Fund at 30 June 2023	\$115,321
Estimated interest received	\$3,460
Forecast Makarewa Special Fund at 30 June 2024	\$118,781

**Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee List of Members
at 24 August 2023**

Name
Julie Freeborn and Polly Hudson, Co-chairs, Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee
Bill Allen
Dan Frew
Mark Janssen
Russell Macpherson
Denise MacPherson
Warren MacPherson
Jim McKenzie
Paul Ruddenklau
Mark Thomson
Elsbeth Thomson
Sarah Thorne
Nick Wadworth
Alexis Wadworth
Findlay Weatherburn

Others that receive AGM information

Dale Turnock
Cattelijne Van Sante
Jerry Schuurmans
Ryan & Jenny McKinnel
Mandy Johnston
Rebecca Jamieson
Grant Barrie
Peter Clinton
John & Rhonda Cowie
Richard Evans
Selwyn Wills