

**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.