

**Minutes of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee
Annual General Meeting, held at Te Anau Club,
Pop Andrews Drive, Te Anau on
Thursday 28 March 2024, at 10.00 am**



Present:	Mr B Taylor	(Te Anau) (<i>Chair</i>)
	Mr S Cranstoun	(Te Anau)
	Mr C Deaker	(Te Anau)
	Mr D Deaker	(Te Anau)
	Mrs K Fraser	(Te Anau)
	Mr N Fraser	(Te Anau)
	Mr B Jarvie	(Te Anau) (Fish & Game)
	Mr G Johnston	(Te Anau)
	Mr R McClean	(Te Anau)
	Mr P McDonald (Paul)	(Te Anau)
	Cr P McDonald (Peter)	(Te Anau)
	Mr D MacGibbon	(Te Anau)
	Mr G McGregor	(Te Anau)
	Mr H Slee	(Te Anau)
	Mr M Slee	(Te Anau)
	Mr L Thomson	(Te Anau)
	Mr J Turner	(Te Anau)
In Attendance:	Chairman N Horrell	(Environment Southland)
	Cr P Evans	(Environment Southland)
	Ms J Lloyd	(Environment Southland)
	Mr D Burgess	(Environment Southland)
	Mr P Pollard	(Environment Southland)
	Ms T Hawkins	(Environment Southland)
	Mr M Harvey	(Environment Southland)
	Mr C Smith	(Environment Southland)
	Ms E Lawton	(Environment Southland)
	Mr P Chartres	(Te Anau)
	Mr P Baker	(Te Anau)
	Mr R Hodson	(Waiau Trust) Arrived late
	Mrs H Hart	(Personal Assistant) (Minute taker)

1 Welcome (*Haere mai*)

Chair Mr B Taylor welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved:

Moved Cr P McDonald, seconded Chairman N Horrell that apologies for absence be recorded on behalf of Mr R Hodson, Waiau Trust.

Carried

3 Terms of Reference

There was no discussion on this topic.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of 23 February 2023

Noted incorrect surname was shown on these minutes. They are to be amended to change members name Chris Hughes to Chris Carran.

Noted that a question about pest control was raised at the last AGM and recorded in the minutes, but this took two months to be answered.

Noted a question from the floor with regards to taking the minutes for this meeting, will there be an action sheet? This moved to a formal request for an action sheet to be created and added to the minutes for this meeting.

MOTION:

Mr B Taylor confirmed the following motion. That the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee:

- 1. Create an Action Sheet with the minutes of the meeting.**

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Taylor and seconded Cr P Evans

Carried

Reference was made to section 7 in the previous minutes regarding Committee's contribution of 50% – Mr B Turner confirmed and clarified.

Mr D Deaker asked where the advertising was for this meeting? He read about this meeting in a Farming magazine. It was also raised if the agenda could be provided at least a week in advance of the meeting. Mr B Turner confirmed he advertised the meeting twice on the local community page. The meeting was also advertised in the Southland Times and on the Facebook page. Chairman N Horrell suggested people could ring around other people prior to the meeting.

Mr B Taylor referred to the trial of grazing the sheep along the rivers which was discussed at the last AGM, and how this never came to anything. The discussion centred around fencing management and contaminates from the sheep. Mr B Taylor expressed concern about the expense of not addressing broom and gorse in the river at the current time. Mr P Pollard informed he has slides regarding this in the presentation later. Discussions continued from floor about what it looks like now, with reference to spraying, and concerns if the native vegetation is sprayed, they could be taken to court. Mr B Taylor is trying to organise a meeting with the local MP to take him on a visit with the aim to gain his understanding and help.

Cr P Evans raised the subject regarding the plan with grazing the riverbanks during the last meeting, a lot of time was spent going over it, with discussion, going over the maps, the rules of engagement, and it was disappointing that at this meeting a year later, there has not been any feedback. Mr B Taylor informed he had been in touch with Mr P Pollard. He referred to spraying the broom, there is native vegetation either side of it that is dead, but there is broom still in the fairway. Mr B Taylor mentioned the issue with this legally, and the root system issue when looking after it. It was questioned as to why we are spraying DOCs weeds? Mr B Taylor informed we will discuss this when we get to the financial section. Chairman N Horrell suggested writing to the MP.

MOTION

Chairman N Horrell confirmed that Environment Southland, on behalf of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee:

- 1. Write a letter to the MP, DOC, copy Director General and Department Land Information regarding grazing of sheep.**

Resolved:

Moved Chairman N Horrell, seconded Mr G Johnston

Carried

Mrs T Hawkins offered the committee that the opportunity to provide their name/address to Ms J Lloyd so she can work out their rates payments.

Mr B Taylor reverted to passing the previous minutes.

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Taylor, seconded Mr J Turner that the minutes of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meeting held on 23 February 2023 be amended as discussed and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carrie

5 Chairmans' Report

Mr B Taylor made a verbal report, raising the following:

- we are in a good space with the way our rivers are, we have kept up with work and within budget. He referred to DOC spraying, bridge clearing and gravel;
- we need to be as prepared as we can be for rain;
- the need for the right information, especially financials;
- requested that financials are presented like last year.

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Taylor, seconded Mr M Slee that the Chair's Report be noted.

Carried

6 Matters Arising

As covered in section 4.

7 Appointment of Committee and membership

Mr B Taylor mentioned his future intention of stepping down from the position of Chair for the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee.

Mr B Taylor assumed the Chair. Mr P Evans called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee. Mr C Deaker nominated Mr B Taylor, no other nominations were called.

Resolved:

Moved Mr C Deaker, seconded Mr R McClaine that Mr B Taylor be elected to the position of Chairman of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee.

Carried

Noted that last year, a co-chairing option was suggested, as with other groups. Mr B Taylor asked the Committee to consider this and advised he will be standing down as Chair next year. Included in the Action Plan.

The meeting noted the existing Committee members list.

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Taylor, seconded Cr P Evans that membership of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee comprise of attendees and apologies for the meeting today.

Carried

8 Financial Report – 2023/24 and proposed 2024/25

Mr P Pollard introduced himself and provided a presentation:

- Provided examples of work being done this year following concerns regarding the Mararoa River.
- has talked with NZTA and got gravel removed under both bridges, showing the area in the photos, giving full update of work completed;
- answered questions about gravel movement, confirming movement is a natural process. Questions and discussions followed;
- noted there has been good support from Fish and Game and DOC;
- resource consents allow removal of underlying gravel, but there is no resource consent for the Mararoa – it is part of the management strategy to apply for a global resource consent to allow for work on other rivers;
- Cr P Evans stated it looks better than the site visit done last year;
- Discussed work Fulton Hogan undertook on the bridge and work yet to be completed;
- Mr P Pollard talked about getting a concession and showed a map and photos of the areas proposing to skim in the next few years;
- Upukarua photos explained;
- issue with the broom on Mararoa river photos shown and explained;
- discussion points for vegetation control program continued, with estimated timescales. Discussions from the floor followed with suggestion to write to the DOC leadership regarding funding;
- Grazing discussed, further discussion required;
- question on the reasons why grazing the waterways is not allowed. Mr P Pollard mentioned advice received was that stock would need to be excluded from water requiring fencing, which is expensive. As much of the riverbed is on DOC Marginal Strip, DOC would likely expect that stock would be excluded from water as part of their Concession process for activities on DOC controlled land;
- Mr B Taylor mentioned in Eastern Bush they are encouraged to graze cows, yet here nobody can do anything;
- question raised as to if it is DOC land and would ES be happy to approach DOC about grazing. Mr P Pollard has already spoken to Mr Lucas at DOC;
- Mr B Taylor mentioned we need to change the rules through the local Member of Parliament (MP).

Cr P McDonald asked Ms E Lawton to talk about the Gravel Working group.

Ms E Lawton briefly introduced herself and referred to the following points:

- gravel is an issue, over the last two years, lots of work has been happening with trials across Whitestone and Upukerora River, this is generating background data for planning, now we are getting the science sorted;
- mentioned the website to look at;
- referred to the need of an ecological perspective, this has been taken to the stakeholders, looking at how some of the problems can be overcome, and progress in future;
- referred to the current proposal, and the new plan in terms of Land and Water transition;

- it is hoped in the next two weeks there will be more answers to enable more trials and to be able to transition to operational certainty;
- regarding the Gravel Working Group, we have representatives from Southland District Council (SDC), Environment Southland, and two chairs (Aparima and Oreti) from the Catchment liaison committees, the general consensus is that the main parties are finding out a way to integrate this into their systems. It is probably a two-prong thing:
 - remove excess gravel and open up the fairways
 - maintain fairways.
- need information on how much gravel is in the rivers, where, and how much is migrating down the rivers, plus how much gravel can sustainably be extracted out of the rivers;
- Mr B Taylor mentioned the design of this working group is to bring people together and all on the same page;
- Cr P McDonald raised needing the science to support the data for our proposals and Mr B Taylor mentioned this is the system we have to work with at the moment;
- Cr P McDonald said if we propose works without science support and data, we could get legally challenged and acknowledge current feelings on the issue;
- Mr P Pollard described working towards global consent, with Fish and Game and DOC involved in this;
- Cr P McDonald advised out of the CLC chairs, two are sitting on the working group;
- Chairman N Horrell advised there are a lot of conversations going on at the moment, with some progress and we need to balance competing views. Mr B Taylor commented he would like to think not spraying rivers will bring things to a head;
- query raised if people are getting a good service delivered for our rates. Mr B Taylor advised Ms T Hawkins will explain this when she speaks about rates;
- Mr C Deaker made an offer to visit his land. Chairman N Horrell agreed to a visit and Cr P Evans requested an invitation also.

Ms T Hawkins introduced herself and spoke to her presentation and raised the following:

- explained percentage of rates, and targeted rates;
- ran through what each cost means and covers, referring to differences people are paying for their land;
- Drainage plan explained and discussed;
- percentages of current total rates paid by each ratepayer explained;
- noted this is a draft budget, councillors adopted the consultation document yesterday which proposed the budget increase, explaining this is putting it to the committee to endorse or approve with recommendations;
- conversations about levels of service and whether an increase is needed;
- committee raised this budget is misleading as a number of costs are missing or have been removed, meaning we won't know what these costs are until they are revealed in the new rating scheme. Need to understand all information before a catchment can make a decision about a budget;
- advised the part of the budget farmers are responsible for has shrunk, it is about where we are accounting to the costs;

- Mr B Taylor suggested we adopt the same budget as last year as there was a bit of surplus, stating we will be well within our finances;
- Mr P Pollard mentioned from a catchment engineering perspective, make hay while the sun shines, prepare for flooding. There will be extra work – the planting that was carried out previously are quite mature trees and are now having a shading effect on the bank, so if budget allows, this is quite a big job;
- Mr B Taylor agreed and in his point of view, there is a budget to work through, and yes, there is the \$69,000, so we can carry on with the work. Continue the work, and if 70k or 80k is left over, there can be a wish list. He stated to keep this meeting moving, he adopts to leave it as it is. Mr P Pollard suggested holding the Fairway spraying to \$150,000.

MOTION

Mr B Taylor proposed to leave the budget as it is from 2022/23.

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Taylor, seconded Mr G Johnston that the budget remains the same as provided for the 2022/23 year, with no increase.

Carried

Break at 11.40am

Resumed at 12.00

9 Catchment Report

Agreed to discuss Mr P Pollards' presentation later in the meeting.

Cr P McDonald talked from the floor about the Regional Services committee, that catchment groups report back to that committee, and mentioned the Infrastructure Strategy, explaining:

- at present there are 140 targeted catchment rates which is very complex;
- explained why the rates review was required and associated work;
- need to reinvest to give the next generation a sense of comfortability;
- proposing flattening the rates off across the region, to reflect how different the region is from 35 years ago;
- referred to being economically connected in this region, i.e. tankers coming from Edendale across the bridges, the catchments have interconnection;
- we all share in the benefits, so we need to spread the cost between everyone.

10	General
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Ms E Lawton on behalf of the Catchment Operations team. Points raised:

- explained current work;
- prioritising work and areas of highest risk getting the focus that is needed;
- requirement for work in flood protection schemes with regards to flood banks and requirement for investment to do this;
- Capital Works programme inclusion – and the need to look at this more into the future;
- science and data;
- talked of looking at the next 100 years, not just the next 30 years;
- Slow the Flow project;
- Need for sharing cost of proposed improvements to stopbank conditions. Primarily those paying are those living alongside rivers currently, but it is also protecting others.

Ms T Hawkins handed out information on the proposed rates review and spoke to this:

- there are multiple consultations going on at the moment with the LTP process;
- LTP explained;
- main infrastructure is the floodbanks system, and further discussed:
 - Revenue and financing policy – rate changes;
 - LTP – Budget changes;
 - fees and charges.
- Statement of proposal to change the rates. Worked through six main points to consider;
- explained one rate will replace the current 140 catchment rates and this will be based on capital value;
- explained the split between land value and capital value for residential, commercial and rural areas;
- referred to the effects of floods on everyone i.e. Makarewa was cut off during floods which affected residential and commercial people also;
- currently 66% of rates are paid by the rural rate payer;
- proposal explained for one rate, still 7 catchments, 7 budgets, 7 committees;
- referred to an “adjustment period”, some rates will go up, some down;
- explained change in total rates paid by ratepayer in each sector by percentage;
- borrowing.

Cr P McDonald explained this is the third catchment meeting, so some familiarity with the content, there will be different reactions from different regions. Interest is related to rating and there will be significant interest in the jobs and the budget. Noted being aware there may be concerns raised from other groups.

Discussions followed around Strengthening Grassroots representation – Cr P McDonald talked about the local voice in place for that representation. Questions raised about owning several plots of lands and properties, so possibly paying more. Ms T Hawkins explained the Statement of Proposal and the website where members are welcome to ask questions.

Committee raised they would have liked this information two or three weeks before the meeting, to have had a better understanding. Chairman N Horrell stated we only adopted this document yesterday – if we need another meeting, this can be arranged. Cr P McDonald mentioned the other groups have expressed an interest in getting a larger meeting together to be held in Winton and invited the committee members to attend if there is an interest there.

Mr B Taylor raised we have one chance of getting this right for the next generation – he suggested everyone goes home to think about it, and even have a meeting just as a committee, or go to the Winton meeting.

With further reference to discussing meetings, the committee raised that other people may have been interested in attending these meetings, but the title may not show that i.e. Contractors can attend.

MOTION

Committee proposed that Environment Southland give consideration to the name change to the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee. Added to the Action sheet for a response.

Resolved:

Moved Mr R McClean and seconded Mr B Taylor that Environment Southland will give consideration that the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee name be changed to include the Environment Southland activities of the Te Anau basin.

Against Mr P Barker, Mr G Johnston, Mr M Slee.

Carried by majority vote

Noted: Mr P Baker spoke against this motion stating it is a major shift to change the name of the committee, when it is more about trying to achieve better advertising and more public consultation.

Noted: Mr M Slee explained he voted against this, as he felt it should have been a public meeting.

A discussion followed around inflation and rising costs. Chairman N Horrell encouraged all attendees to look at the information and give us feedback. He used Hawkes Bay as example. He noted we have dedicated staff, and we are in a better position than in a lot of places, he invited feedback.

Craig Smith introduced himself and on behalf of the land sustainability team spoke of the Environmental Enhancement Funding, covering:

Biodiversity

- winter grazing explained, the 2023 findings and the 2024 plan;
- freshwater farm plans – explained the work and plan;
- Southland Riparian Project;
- Home Creek – a new project on the go, welcomed attendees to come along to this community event, with a BBQ and to plant native plants.

Dave Burgess introduced himself and spoke to:

Biosecurity

- explained Environment Enhancement funding can be for things like fencing, pest control etc. He referred to details available on the website;
- 3 projects granted funding for 2023/24;
- pest mammal control;
- Hollyford Conservations Trust;
- Jobs for nature funding – to tackle some of the weeds in Te Anau/Manapouri area. This also provided funding to businesses for jobs, giving employment during covid times. The money ran out for Jobs for nature but talked of wanting to continue this but working with farmers;
- referred to different plants that are pests currently working on, and updated on progress, including on shelterbelts etc. Shelterbelts Wilding including Larch;
- Check Clean Dry programme;
- Wilding conifer control;
- Buddleia removal;
- J4N Fiordland buffer;
- Wallabies – there are concerns these may spread to the region, asked attendees to please report through pest hub website or MPI website. ES will follow up. Wallabies are spreading their way through Otago at present;
- a question was raised if there is any assistance on shelter belts? Not at present, but ES is available for advice.

11 Termination

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 1.20 pm

Action Plan: Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee meet 28 March 2024

Action	Description	Responsibility
Action sheet	To create an action sheet to accompany minutes of each AGM	Secretary in attendance
Response times	Questions raised at meetings and recorded in minutes to be responded to within a reasonable timeframe	Environment Southland
Letter to MP, DOC leadership at Director General level	Write a letter to the local MP, DOC, Director General and Department Land Information, regarding grazing sheep on riverbanks. Invite MP to visit.	Environment Southland
Agenda, Financials and information	To be provided two or three weeks in advance of meeting in the future, including budget information. Financials also to be presented as per previous year.	Environment Southland
Chair position and co-chairing option	Mr B Taylor will be stepping down as Chair next year. Co-chairing is an option.	Te Anau Committee members to consider the co-chairing option and who will be the next Chairman.
Visit to Mr C Deaker's land	Mr C Deaker offered for Chairman N Horrell to visit his land. Cr P Evans also requested attendance.	Environment Southland and Mr C Deaker to make arrangements.
Follow up meeting	Chairman N Horrell offered (during the proposed rates section) that another meeting can be arranged. Alternatively the Committee was invited to attend a larger meeting in Winton, which may be set up following other groups expressing an interest in a further meeting.	Te Anau Committee decide if they require another meeting or are happy to attend the proposed Winton meeting. Environment Southland to set up an individual meeting if required, and provide details of date, time and venue of the Winton meeting if it goes ahead.
Grazing discussion	Grazing discussion required with farmers. Mr P Pollard agreed the current system is not working in his view and referred to this needing to be talked about.	Environment Southland
Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee name change	For consideration that the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee's name is changed to include the Environment Southland activities of the Te Anau basin.	Environment Southland to give consideration and feedback.