

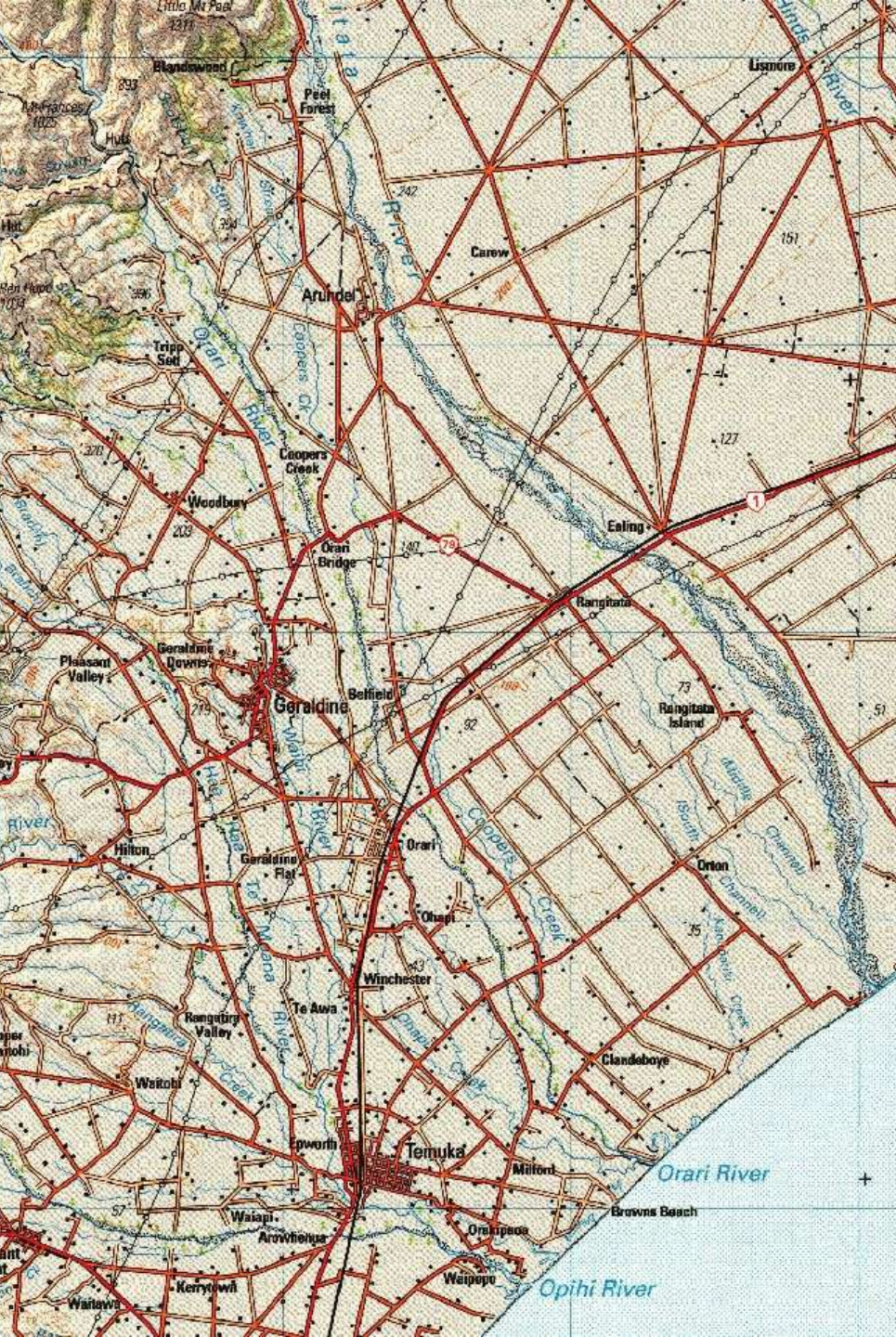
Orari River

Community-based Integrated Catchment Management (ICM)



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Images from the Orari Catchment





Orari Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) Process

- **Environment Canterbury & NZ Landcare Trust requested by community to facilitate an ICM process in 2004, meetings began 2005**
- **Key Drivers:**
 - **submissions to Environment Canterbury's annual plan (e.g. Orari River Protection Group),**
 - **study of the catchment, conducted through a Royal Society fellowship, hosted by NZ Landcare Trust,**
 - **increased interest and awareness in the long-term management of the Orari River Catchment.**

Orari ICM Process

- Purpose of ICM Process:
 - to draw together the diverse range of groups, individuals and organisations with an interest in the catchment, and facilitate the development of a management strategy or plan, that reflects these interests
- Process is **community driven**, with facilitation and support from ECan and NZ Landcare Trust



Ensuring the
resulting
strategy will

accurately reflect the needs and wants of
the entire community

aid in directing statutory agencies like ECAN,
District Councils and other organisations in
their various responsibilities as they relate to
the Orari River

Non statutory strategies

- **Non-statutory plans get their teeth through:**
 - **voluntary cooperation from a supportive community**
 - **linking to existing legislation**
 - **submissions to statutory plans**
 - **bylaws**
- **A number of communities are undertaking non-statutory planning**
 - **i.e. Waimakariri, Waitaki, Waihao-Wainono**

Non statutory strategies (cont)

- **Advantages of non-stat process:**
 - acknowledgement of local knowledge as well as science
 - involved and approving community
 - no surprises
 - strong relationships
 - flexibility
- **The strategy can clearly spell out the issues, outcomes wanted, and how they can be achieved**
 - ➔ **it offers the chance of getting better outcomes**

Step 1 – Find out what the issues are

First meeting – workshop session to find out what was ‘good’ and ‘bad’ about the Orari Catchment

What is GOOD

- Recreation
- Public use/access
- Good quality water
- High ecological value
- High Intrinsic value
- Current management
- Large aquifer system
- Carries significant flood events
- Important irrigation source
- Current/potential economic use
- Valuable water supply

What is BAD

- Intensification of landuse
- Weeds, pests and pollution
- Flood risk
- Shingle management
- River engineering work
- Lack of public facilities and public access
- Lack of information and monitoring
- Hydrology/reliability of flow/groundwater
- Degradation of the environment.
- Potential for loss of the resource
- Loss of habitat
- No overall management

Step 2 – Sharing technical data and community viewpoints

- **Series of public meetings to:**
 - explore the issues
 - identify constraints and conflicts
 - allowed greater understanding of other points of view

- **Presentations of information and viewpoints were sought from all organisations, interest groups & individuals that wished to be heard, e.g.**
 - Orari River Protection Group
 - Upper catchment landowners
 - Forest and Bird Society
 - Dairy farming
 - River Rating District

- **Coupled with presentations of scientific and technical presentations, e.g.**
 - Geomorphology of catchment
 - Hydrology
 - Gravel management
 - Water quality

Step 3 – Draft Mission Statement and Goals

Workshop held to draft the Mission Statement and Goals to guide the Group in their work

Mission Statement:

To sustainably manage the Orari River Catchment, integrating its ecological, social, economic and cultural values – forever.

Step 4 - Workshops

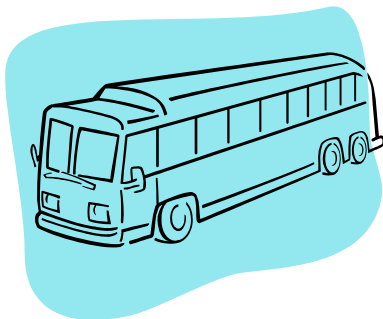
- **The issues identified were grouped together under key headings:**
 - **Pests and Weeds**
 - **Flood and gravel management**
 - **Landscape values and ecological protection**
 - **Recreation, education and access**
 - **Water quality**
 - **Water quantity, flow and allocation**
 - **Economic Use**
- **Workshops were held to determine how the community wanted these issues managed**
- **Outcomes from each workshop were fed into an action plan, which became a chapter of a Draft Management Strategy**

Step 4 – Workshop process

- **Q1: What is wrong with the current situation**
 - What?
 - Where (site specific/catchment wide/upper or lower catchment)?
- **Q2: What is the ideal sought**
 - What is the ideal scenario?
 - How would we like to see the issue managed?
 - What are the opportunities?
- **Q3: What are our options to achieve the ideal**
 - Specific actions or changes
- **Q4: What are our priorities**
 - Prioritise the options/actions

Step 5 – Discuss the issues on the ground

- **Problem:** Piecemeal knowledge of the catchment – people focussed on the issues close to where they lived or worked
- **Solution:** Field tour of the Orari Catchment – Upper and Lower Catchment
- **Aim:** To get a clear understanding of the issues facing the Orari River Catchment, through dialogue with experts, local landowners and river users, and seeing these issues on the ground



Fieldtrip – Lower catchment

- Overview of catchment
- River nesting birds
- Dumping of rubbish
- Flood and gravel management
- Stopbanks and river protection
- Losses to groundwater
- Ohapi Creek enhancement
- Orari Water Resources Investigation
- Ground and surface water interactions
- Spawning and fishery values
- Flood plain management
- Clandeboye environmental/hazard management
- Whitebaiting
- 4WD – recreational use and environmental awareness
- Coastal birds and human interference
- Hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities
- Weed control
- Irrigation demand, reliability of supply



Fieldtrip – Upper catchment

- High country threats and issues
- Ecological protection
- Tenure review
- Access
- TDC stockwater races
- Covenants
- Ecological survey
- Blue duck survey
- Recreation, education
- Landscape values



Step 6: Steering Committee reviews strategy

- **Steering Committee of 10-12 representative members were elected to review the plan**
- **Terms of Reference: The Steering Committee will...**
 - 1) Ensure all information presented and shared is fairly and accurately reflected in the management strategy.
 - 2) Prioritise actions and identify who may carry them out, costs, and timeframes
 - 3) Present the revised draft management strategy to the community
 - 4) Identify appropriate statutory and non-statutory mechanisms through which parts of the strategy will be implemented
 - 5) Identify appropriate funding options



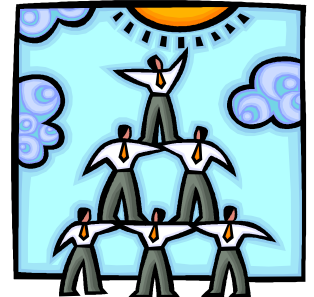
Step 7: Approval from wider community

- Once the management plan was reviewed by the steering committee it went back to the larger group for approval
- A few ‘tweaks’ made and approval obtained



Step 8: Implementation

- **Steering Committee identified High Priority actions**
- **Key projects:**
 - **Development of alder control strategy and applications for funding**
 - **Development of a Code of Conduct for River Users**
 - **Didymo awareness – signage**
 - **Representative voice – e.g. Liaison with landowners re. access; consenting issues**



Other ICM processes involving Environment Canterbury

- Each catchment is different in terms of the issues and community dynamics
- The process is adapted to suit each community
- ICM processes in Canterbury:
 - Lower Waitaki
 - Waimakariri
 - Pegasus Bay
 - Waihao-Wainono
 - Avon Heathcote



Benefits of the ICM approach to planning

- ✓ **Allows individuals and groups to express their views in an open, managed environment**
- ✓ **Participants get a more holistic and realistic view of the catchment**
- ✓ **Increases community confidence that their knowledge is considered in decision making**
- ✓ **The learning and sharing of viewpoints in itself is a valuable result of the ICM process**
- ✓ **While the plan is non-statutory, all the issues are brought to the floor – assists with further statutory planning**

Benefits of the ICM approach to planning

- ✓ **Submissions to Councils generally have more weight if they come from a diverse, but representative, community group**
- ✓ **Agency spinoffs**
e.g. priority given to Orari Water Resources Investigation
- ✓ **Community Group becomes a ‘recognised voice’**
e.g. community unrest/opposition about the damming of the Orari River – proposal now changed to off-river storage
- ✓ **Community members have found it hugely beneficial to gain knowledge of the catchment**
- ✓ **Process has shown there is a huge amount of interest in the river, from people of all different backgrounds**

Challenges of the ICM approach to planning

- ☹️ **Balance between encouraging the group to determine the steps and how fast they move and providing them with enough guidance to feel confident to do this**
- ☹️ **Challenge of actually implementing the plan – the drafting of the plan is the easy bit!!!**
- ☹️ **Maintaining interest and momentum of ALL individuals/interest groups – the process relies on fair representation of all parties**
- ☹️ **Ensuring action on the ground – not just a talk-fest**
- ☹️ **Ensuring that, even though the plan is non-statutory, it can still have “teeth”**
- ☹️ **Making sure everyone has a say – there are always dominating personalities!**