



Communication and connectedness is key

Carly Cushman

INTRODUCTION

One of the key purposes of the Canterbury Regional Council (CRC) is to facilitate sustainable development in the Canterbury Region. Our responsibilities include, but are not limited to; supporting economic growth, ensuring environmental sustainability, providing for cultural values and working with Ngai Tahu and our multiple rūnanga, and also assisting our communities in reaching their aspirations.

CRC, local rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu have a strong collaborative partnership. CRC takes care to ensure that the local rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu are constantly kept informed on projects, applications and decision in their area.

Figure 1. Rūnanga of Canterbury

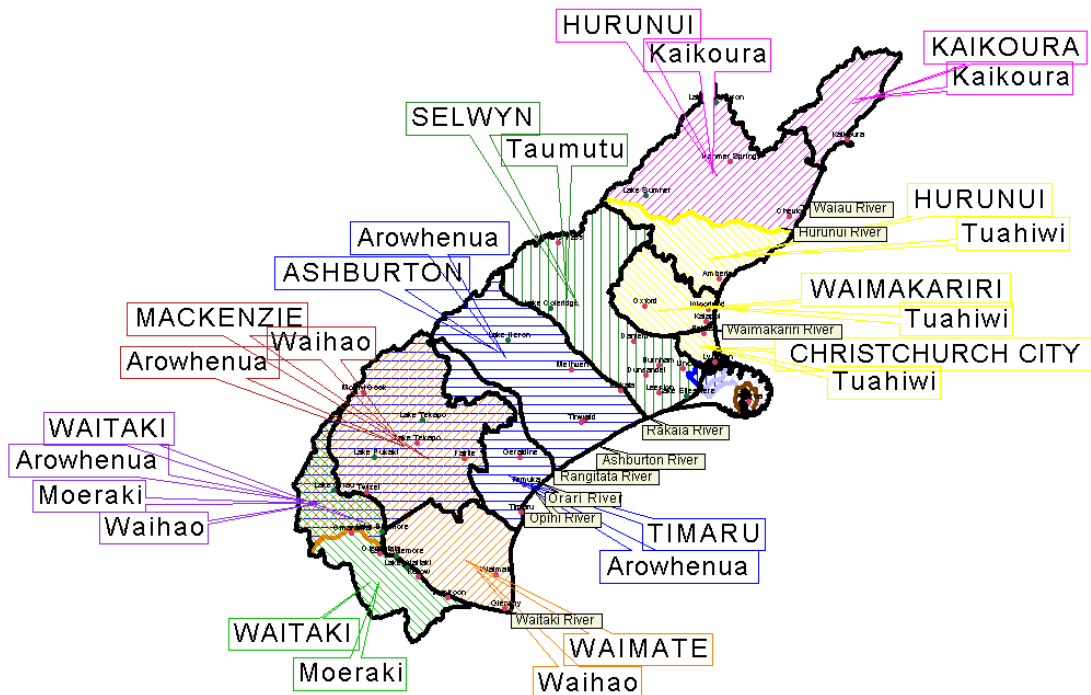
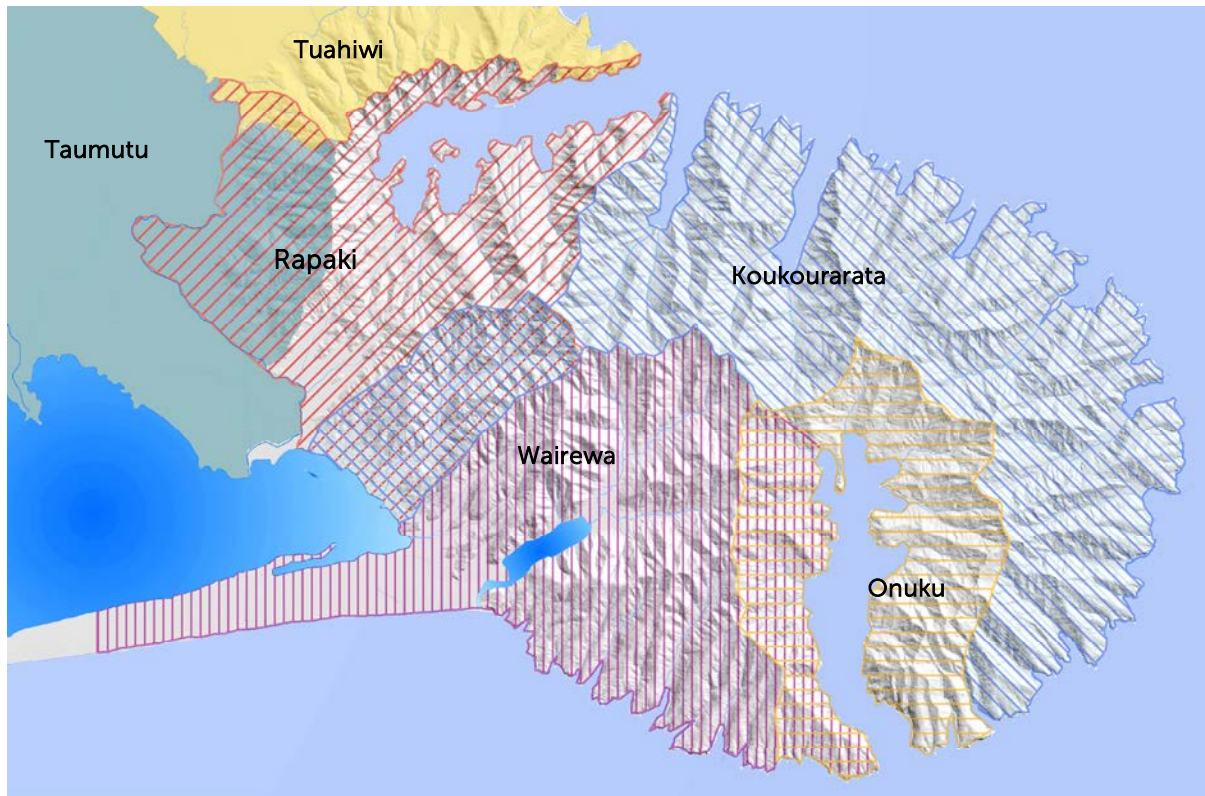
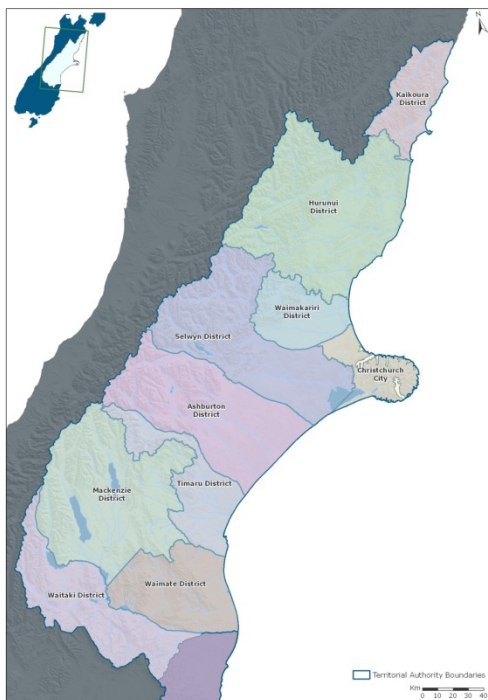


Figure 2. Rūnanga of Banks Peninsula



Geographically, our region covers an extensive area that reaches from the top of the Kaikoura district to the north bank of the Waitaki River and encompasses a range of unique environments such as the Canterbury Plains and a complex groundwater aquifer and surface water system.

Figure 3. Territorial and District Authorities within Canterbury (www.ecan.govt.nz)

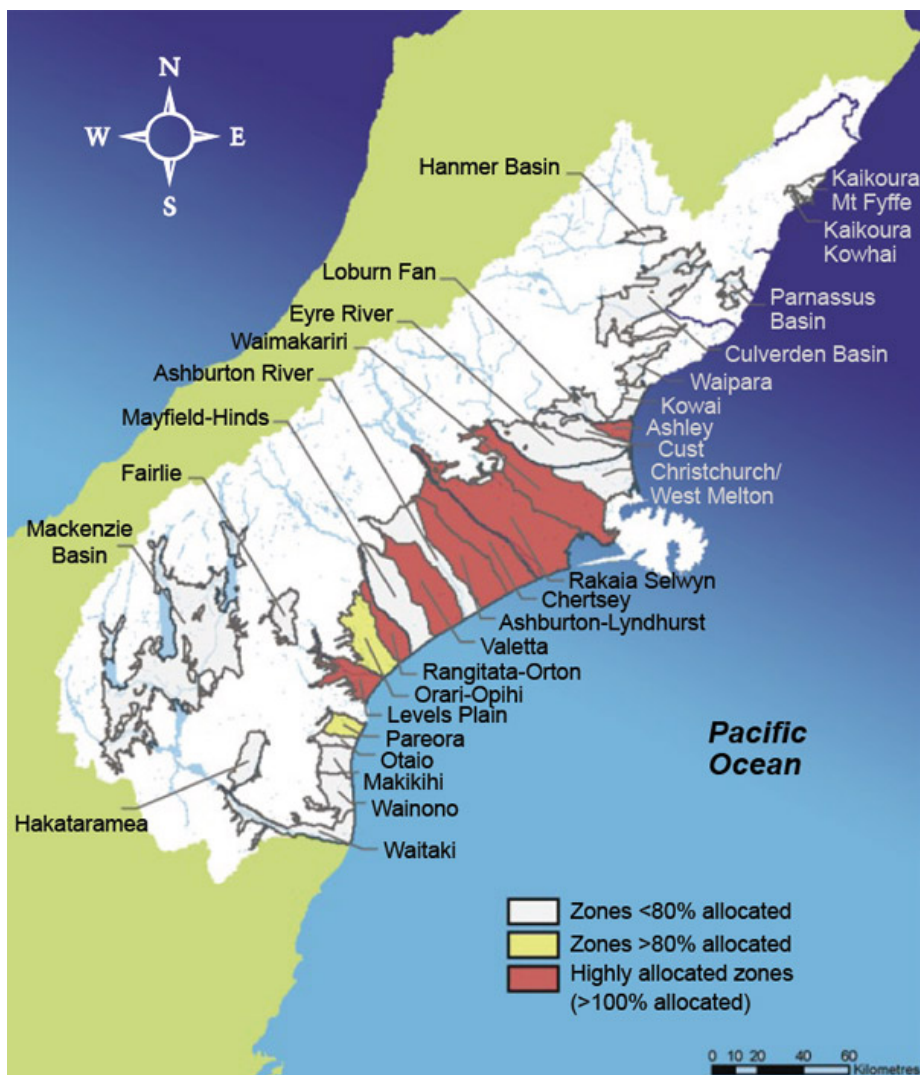


This paper will discuss the importance of communication and collaboration when endeavoring to solve real and challenging issues such as the competing demands for water in the region. It will also discuss the drivers behind the changes CRC has implemented over the last eight years culminating in the internal restructures and processes we now have to deal with these issues.

1. DRIVERS OF CHANGE

In response to the introduction of the Resource Management Act in 1991, the CRC developed the Transitional Regional Plan (TRP). The TRP did not adequately manage the allocation or quality of water as this was the first plan Canterbury had to work with under the new RMA and at this time there was insufficient data to understand how much of the resource could be allocated before adverse environmental effects occurred. This led to over allocation of water in many areas of Canterbury (see Figure 4.). The TRP was replaced in 2011 by the Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP). This plan consisted of eight chapters which were created to manage air, water quality and water quantity.

Figure 4. Groundwater allocation in the Canterbury region



1a THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

In 2009, the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Framework Document (CWMS) was published. This document was the culmination of collaborative work by the CRC, District and Territorial Authorities, Ngai Tahu and Canterbury's communities. The CWMS looked at ways in which water could be effectively managed within Canterbury. Previous poor land practices and over allocation of water meant that the health of many rivers, streams and lakes were in decline.

The CWMS outlined eight key issues: Pressure on river systems, pressure on aquifer systems, cumulative effects on ecosystems, cultural health of waterways, water use efficiency, climate change, water quality impairment issues and infrastructure issues. The purpose of the document was to find solutions to these challenges by engaging with the community.

Also in 2009, a review was conducted into the performance of the CRC and it was at this point that it was questioned whether the NRRP was fit for purpose for delivering the

CWMS. The conclusion was that the NRRP did not adequately manage freshwater over the region and that significant improvements needed to be made.

1b. THE ECAN ACT

In 2010, the Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act (the ECan Act) came into force. The ECan Act made two significant changes to the way plans which come under section 61 of the RMA are processed. One of these changes was under section 63 of the ECan Act where the Council was required to have particular regard to the vision and principles of the CWMS, in addition to the matters relevant under the RMA, in making its decisions. The other change was section 66 of the ECan Act which limited appeals on plans covered by sections 61 and 63 to appeals to the High Court on points of law.

2. COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LWRP

The development of the LWRP was quite different to the development of previous plans. Internal and external workshops and meetings were undertaken with the goal of identifying the main issues that needed to be resolved at the regional, sub-regional and zone level. Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu was also invited to attend these meetings and workshops as a key stakeholder in the process. Other key stakeholders who were invited to identify their key issues and solutions were:

New Zealand Fish and Game	Canterbury District Health Board	Community Public Health	Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism
Christchurch International Airport Limited	Meridian Energy Limited	Lyttelton Port Company	Transpower New Zealand
Federated Farmers	Royal Forest and Bird	PrimePort Timaru	Other governmental departments
Irrigation New Zealand	Orion	Fonterra	TA and District Authorities

Once the LWRP was in draft form, a copy was released to the public for feedback and drop in days were held in North, South and Central Canterbury for people to come and discuss the plan. Whereas previous plans had been created at an internal level with minor consultation with other parties before they were publicly notified, the LWRP process made a concerted effort to understand what the key issues were for the people of Canterbury and aimed to address those issues through the planning process.

The NRRP was subsequently replaced by the Land and Water Regional Plan which was made operative on the 8th December 2016, however numerous policy positions of the NRRP were carried through to the LWRP. The LWRP not only managed land and water at a regional level, but also at sub-regional levels or zones.

3. GETTING CLOSER TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Canterbury is split into ten zones. Each zone has its own committee with the purpose of bringing the local community together to assist in solving issues by making recommendations which are then implemented by councils and other organisations and groups.

In order to support the zone committees the CRC restructured internal sections into zone teams, each with their own Zone Manager, Compliance staff etc. . Other areas within the CRC have also restructured to be more zone focused. The Consents Section is an example of this. Previously the section was grouped into different activities, then large geographic areas and now there are six teams which cover the ten zones within them. Each team works collaboratively with the zone teams ensuring all projects are communicated well.

The zone teams work closely with communities and stakeholders to ensure that the outcomes in the LWRP and CWMS are met. The zone teams are the people on the ground who facilitate community meetings, and organizing project plans for great ideas.

By ensuring that local communities are sufficiently supported by the regional council, district and territorial authorities, they are not only made aware of the exact issues their zone faces, but also encouraged to become part of the solution. We are motivating people to change their environmental practices for the better by encouraging participation.

CONCLUSION

Legal and environmental drivers have resulted in the CRC developing a more collaborative process of working with the community. The challenges Canterbury faces can be extreme and difficult to solve. A significant change was needed in the way the council was structured and within our culture to enable wicked solutions for wicked problems.

Communication and Connectedness

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EIANZ Conference 2017

Our Vision

Facilitating sustainable development in the Canterbury region.

Te huawaere I te kauneke tauwhiro I Waitaha

Definition of sustainability

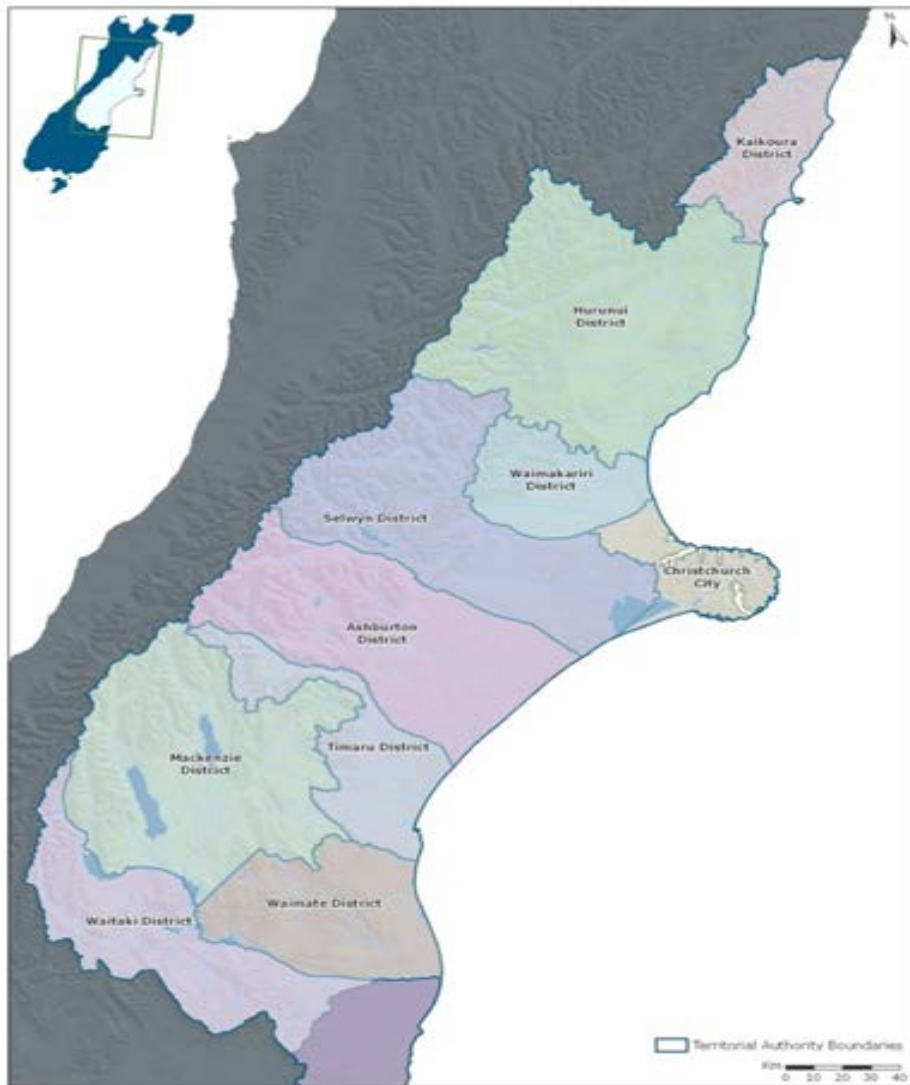
Sustainability is about meeting the needs of today, without adversely impacting on the needs of tomorrow

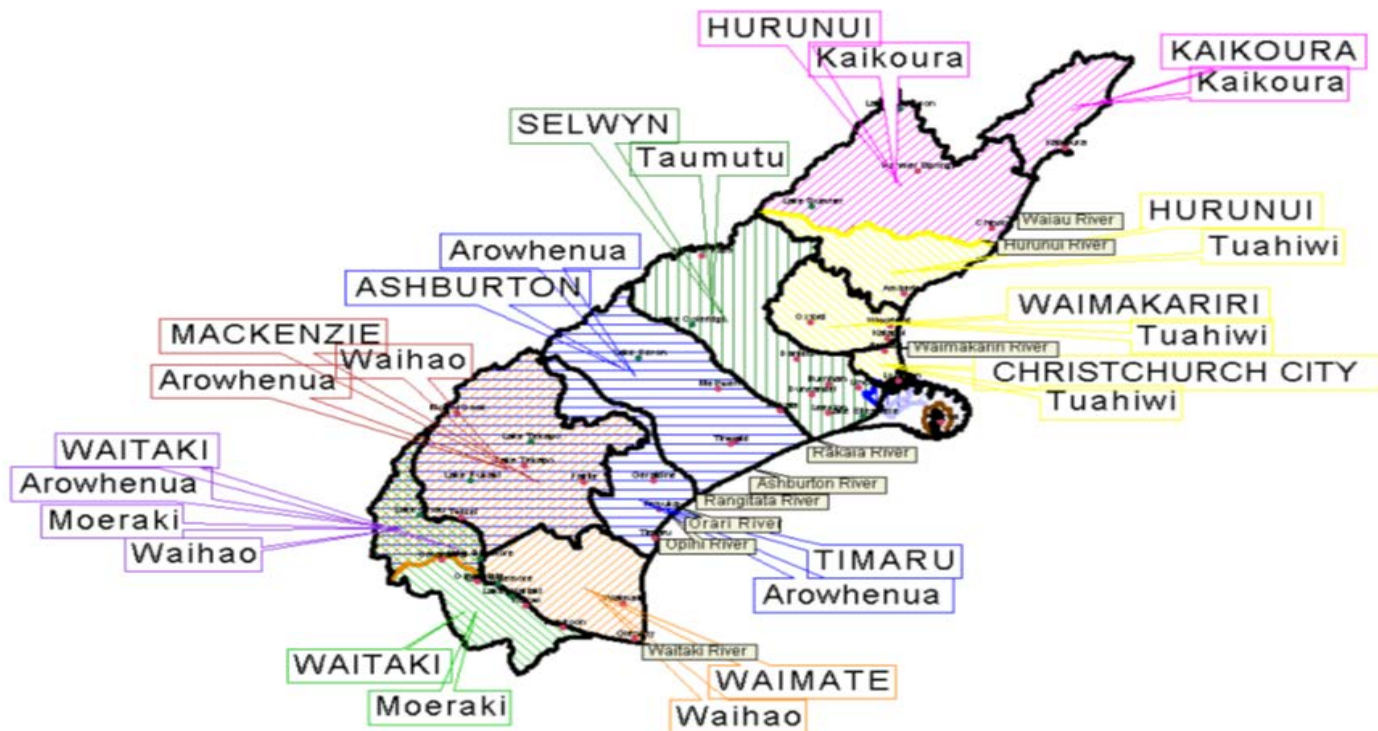
Our Values

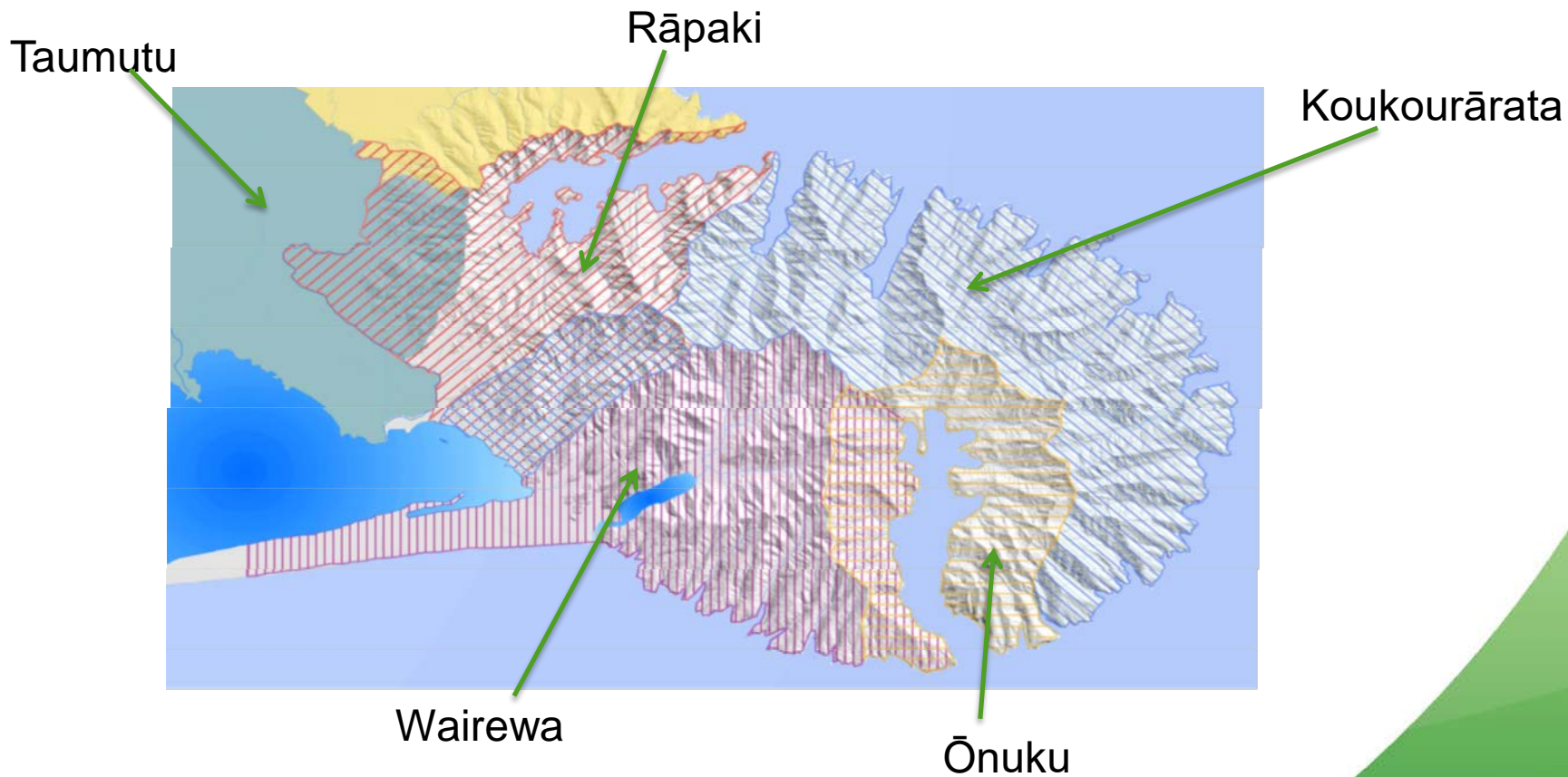
- **People First – Manaakitanga**
 - People, customers and staff come first
- **Integrity – Pononga**
 - Trust in us and our information
- **Can do – Maiatanga**
 - Be brave and make it happen
- **Collaboration – Whanaungatanga**
 - Together works best
- **Stewardship – Kaitiakitanga**
 - Good decisions today for tomorrow

Collaborative Partnerships

- Canterbury Regional Council
- Local Rūnanga
- Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu
- Territorial/District Authorities

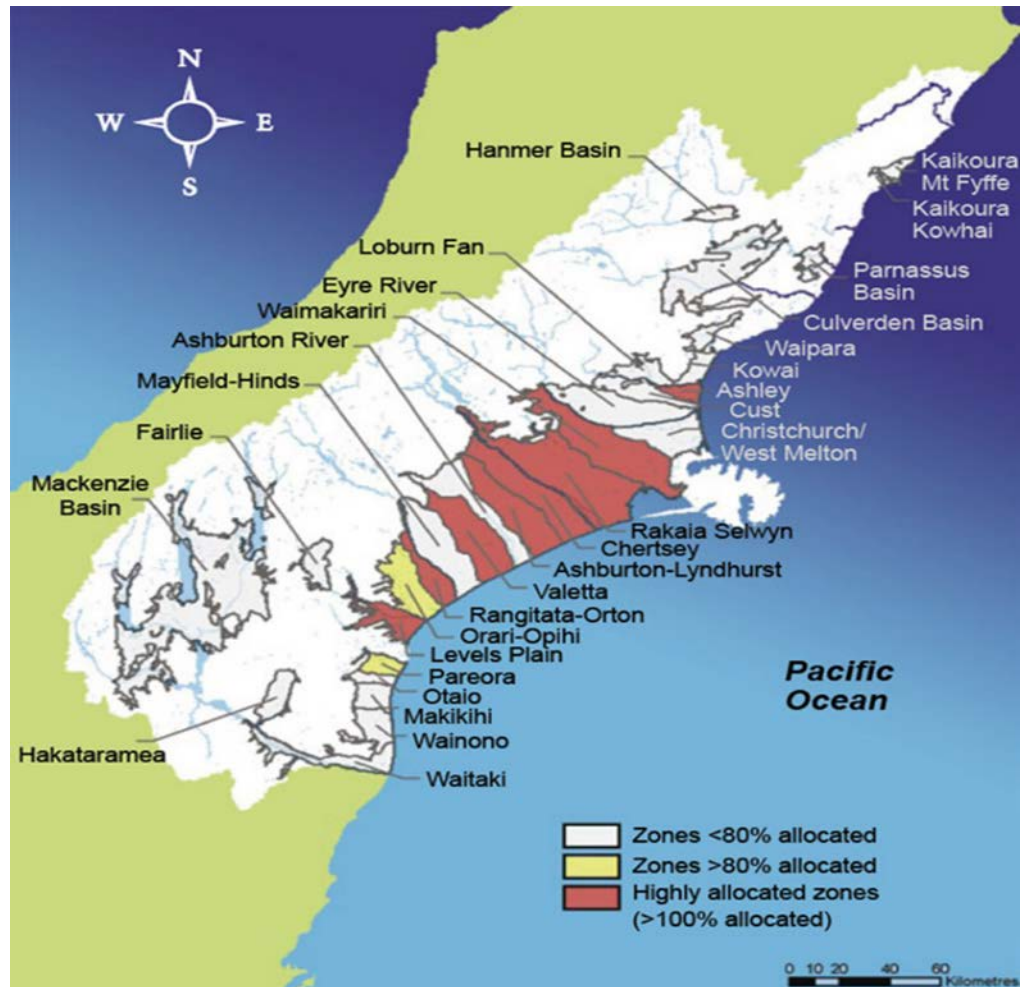






Rūnanga of Banks Peninsula







Reprint as at 14 October 2016



Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act 2010

63 Additional relevant criteria

In considering any proposed regional policy statement or plan, ECan must have particular regard to the vision and principles of the CWMS in addition to the matters relevant under the [RMA](#) to its decisions made under [clause 10\(1\)](#) of Schedule 1 of that Act.

Collaboration



Getting closer to our Communities

- Zone Committees
- Internal restructure
- Zone teams

**“ALONE WE CAN
DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE
CAN DO SO MUCH.”**

- Helen Keller



**Environment
Canterbury**
Regional Council
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha