

University of Canterbury Waterways Action Group

Terms of Reference 2017

Purpose

To act as a strategic advisory group for the planning, management and operation of waterways¹ within the University of Canterbury (UC) campus.

Goal: To achieve continual improvement of water quality and biodiversity of waterways within the UC campus

Objectives: That planning and strategy related to waterscapes with UC:

1. Ensures ongoing kaitiakitanga (guardianship) by mana whenua, Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri of UC waterways, with an emphasis on restoring mahinga kai values.
2. Provides leadership and innovation in urban waterway management.
3. Conceptualises UC waterways as a Living Laboratory, where students have the opportunity to conduct research and develop key graduate attributes;
4. Supports research conducted on campus which is designed to improve storm water quality and fresh water biodiversity.
5. Minimises the adverse environmental impacts of UC operations in general on UC waterways and the Avon-Otākaro catchment.
6. Protects UC's reputation as an institution acting responsibly towards its community and the physical environment, with the recognition of UC's location in a large urban catchment.
7. Promotes UC waterways as a valuable community asset by offering a safe, pleasant environment for pedestrians and their hauora (well-being);

Scope of interests and activities:

Strategic issues of waterways management and planning including:

1. Integrating tangata whenua catchment management concepts into waterways management
2. Maintaining a long term view of UC waterways and their management, within the context of campus landscape planning and the UC campus master plan.
3. Maintaining a long term view of UC waterways within the context the Christchurch West Melton Zone Implementation Plan, the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and other statutory plans.
4. To respond to requests for comment on proposals affecting UC waterways.

Operational issues of waterways planning include:

1. Recognising and providing for restoration of mahinga kai values into UC waterways.
2. Integrating institutional, technological and cultural knowledge about UC waterways into the campus master planning process, plus site specific projects.
3. Identify, investigate and advise on storm water management and technologies, taking a whole-of-campus approach.
4. Overseeing monitoring of water quality and key biodiversity indicators
5. Contribute to UC Design Guidelines where appropriate.
6. Initiate and integrate student-based research projects.
7. Liaise with relevant CCC and ECAN staff where appropriate.

Membership and meetings

A number of the representatives of UC WAG have worked together on an ad hoc basis on campus waterways issues since the late 1990s. The group reconvened in May 2016 and holds considerable institutional knowledge. Membership consists of

- Associate Professor Tom Cochrane (Civil and Natural Resources Engineering) (Chair)
- Professor. Jenny Webster Brown (Director, Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management)

¹ The Ōtākaro-Avon river, the Waiutuutu-Okeover stream, and the Kā Waimaero– Ilam stream

- Katie Collins, PhD student (School of Biological Sciences)
- Darryl Cone (Grounds Supervisor, Engineering Services)
- Professor Jon Harding (School of Biological Sciences)
- Nigel Harris (Te Ngāi Tūāhuiriri)
- Professor Angus McIntosh (School of Biological Sciences)
- Dr Matt Morris, UC Sustainability Projects Facilitator (Engineering Services)
- Dr Frances Charters (Civil and Natural Resources Engineering)
- Dr. Aisling O'Sullivan, (Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Civil and Natural Resources Engineering)

The UC WAG meets four times a year, but more often when there are active projects requiring input.

Reporting and relationships

The UC WAG reports to the UC Senior Management Team through Brian Phillips: Program Director: of Capital Works, and Rob Oudshoorn: Manager of Engineering Services.

Secretarial Support: Dr Matt Morris, UC Sustainability Advisor, Sustainability Office

For more information about UC waterways, visit

http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/documents/Waterways_on_UC_Campus_V7_December_2015.pdf