



IAIA 21

VIRTUAL EVENT

#iaia21

Community and Indigenous Involvement using Discursive Democracy Principles

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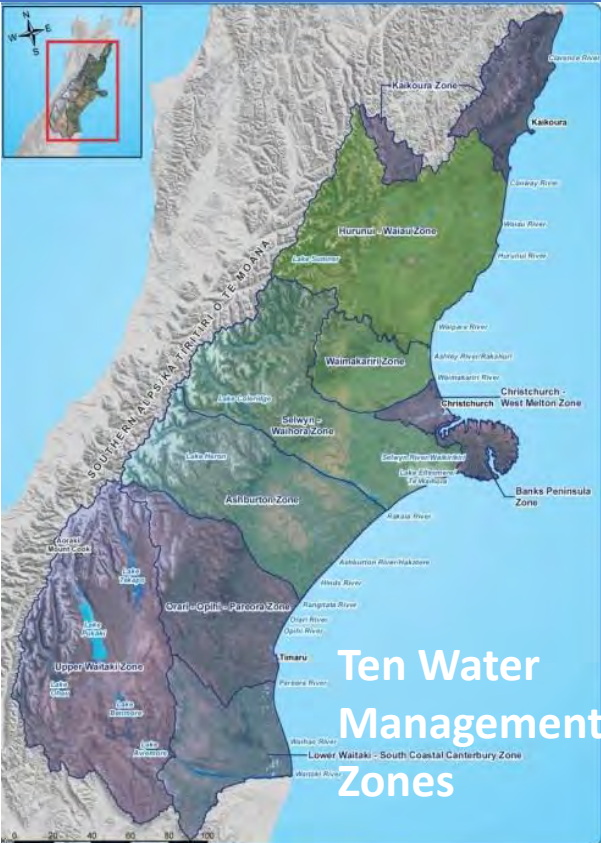
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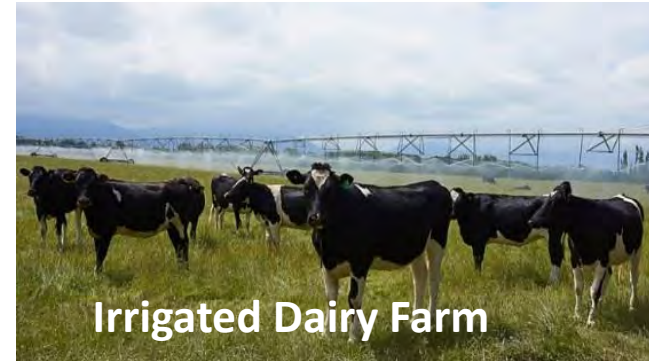
COMMUNITY AND INDIGENOUS INVOLVEMENT USING DISCURSIVE DEMOCRACY PRINCIPLES

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Canterbury Plains



Irrigated Dairy Farm



Ashburton Zone Committee



Tuia Agreement with Ngāi Tahu



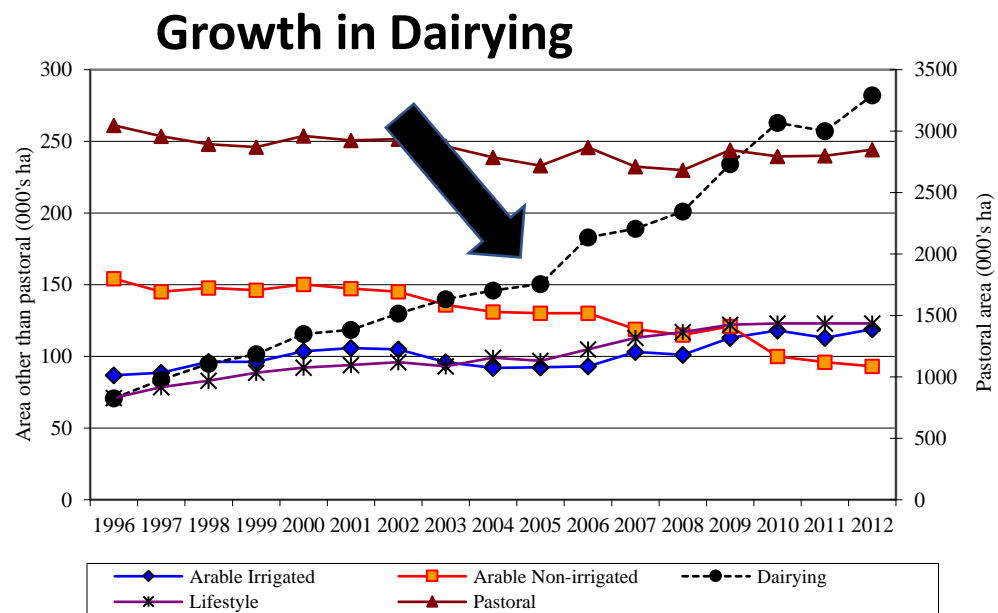
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PRESENTATION

- Development of a collaborative governance approach to implementation of a water strategy
- Use of discursive democracy principles to integrate community and indigenous views
- Problem of representative democracy and formal regulatory processes to make decisions
- New paradigm of collaborative governance with Zone Committees
- Representation of “discourses” for deliberative democracy
- Constellation of discourses for Canterbury water management
- Zone Committee appointment process
- Operation and outcomes of Zone Committees
- Existing and future development needs to be compatible with strategy

CANTERBURY WATER ISSUES

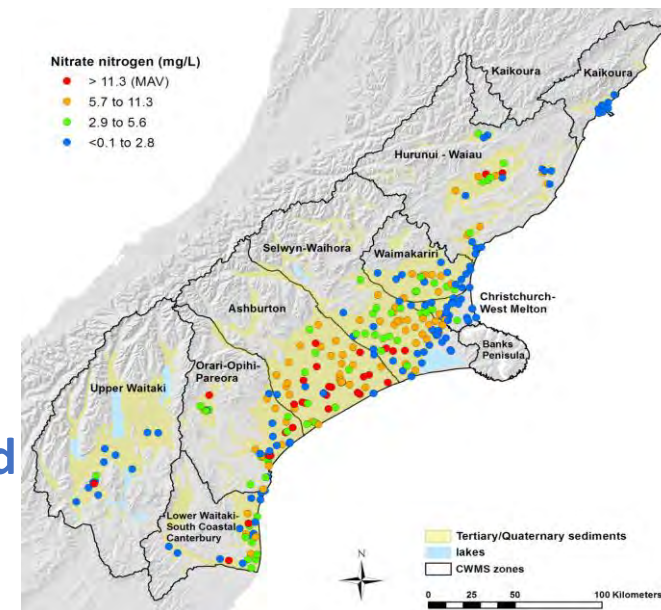
- Significant increase in irrigation
- Beneficial to the economy
- Sustainability limits of water availability reached
- Cumulative effects of land use intensification on water quality
- Water management highly contentious



Nitrate Nitrogen

Red: exceeds drinking water standard

Blue: background levels



DECISION MAKING DIFFICULTIES

- Regional council evenly divided into pro-development and pro-environment camps
 - decision making based on representative democracy was problematic
- Impact assessment was litigious and adversarial
 - most significant decisions were appealed to the Environment Court
 - community was divided on further water resource development



Canterbury Regional Council meeting



Formal Hearing

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- Initial investigations focused on water storage to meet irrigation demand
- Community opposition to storage and further land use intensification
- Shift to strategy development based on nested adaptive systems and collaborative governance
- New governance structure established for preparation of implementation programmes based on principles of deliberative democracy
- Ten Zones identified for the preparation of Zone Implementation Programmes



DISCURSIVE REPRESENTATION IN DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

- For decision making all relevant “discourses” should be represented
 - discourses relate to different perspectives on an issue
- Different from Representative Democracy
 - elected officials representing people from a defined territory, making decisions on their behalf
 - election processes do not ensure all discourses are represented
 - affected parties in water management can be difficult to define spatially
- Achieving Deliberative Democracy
 - map the constellation of discourses relevant to the issue
 - determine which individuals best represent the discourse
 - design deliberative institution as part of the architecture of government

DISCOURSES FOR WATER MANAGEMENT IN CANTERBURY

- Initial focus on increasing water availability to meet future irrigation demand
- Stakeholder engagement and community consultation in collaborative strategy development also identified:
 - drinking water
 - energy security and efficiency (for hydro power)
 - water use efficiency
 - contribution to regional and national economies
 - ecosystem health and biodiversity
 - natural character of braided rivers
 - recreational and amenity opportunities
 - environmental limits
 - kaitiakitanga (Māori stewardship)

ZONE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT PROCESS

- Selection Panels of council representatives
- Applicants not only required to provide background and experience but also:
 - personal philosophy in relation to water
 - self assessment of perceived acceptability to other stakeholders
 - interview included presentation on how they would work collaboratively
- Selection Panels had to have regard for the collective experience, skills and interests of proposed members
 - skills and experience to develop quality implementation programmes
 - reflect the various interests of the Zone
 - have leadership and governance experience for collaborative decision making
- Proposed committee membership circulated to stakeholder groups for comment

OPERATION OF ZONE COMMITTEES

- Purpose:
 - facilitate community involvement in Zone Implementation Programme
 - monitor progress of ZIP implementation
- Operating philosophy:
 - give effect to principles and targets of the Water Strategy
 - be culturally sensitive
 - apply *Ki uta ki tai* (from the mountains to the sea)
 - work to support the region
 - consider and balance different interests
 - contribute perspective but not promote a particular interest group
 - promote philosophy of integrated water management
 - seek consensus in decision making

OUTCOME OF ZONE COMMITTEE PROCESSES

- Implementation Programmes prepared for the ten Zones
 - non-statutory but have guided statutory plans and water initiatives
 - work in progress: much still to be done
- Instrumental in resolving contentious issues
 - example of proposed storage on Hurunui River
 - Committee proposed alternative of tributary storage with diversion from Hurunui River
 - maintained fish habitat and whitewater rafting values
- Increased involvement of Māori in water governance and management
 - example of *Whakaora Te Waihora*
 - restoration programme for lake with high cultural significance

CONCLUSION

- Change in water management paradigm
 - from representative democracy to deliberative democracy
 - from reliance on formal regulatory processes to informal collaborative processes
- Change in Outcomes
 - progress towards sustainable water management
 - reduction in community conflict
 - greater involvement of indigenous people
 - but still significant work to be done



Zone Committee inspecting wetland rehabilitation

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments via chat in the IAIA21 platform.



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