

Wendonside Catchment Group

The proactive farming community of Wendonside formed a Catchment Group in 2019 to better understand and manage water quality challenges in the area.

The catchment spans 27,000 hectares between Dome Burn Creek and the Mataura River, with the southern boundary at the confluence of the Waikaia and Mataura rivers.

Farming is a mix of dairy, sheep, beef and arable, the land being mainly flat to moderately rolling with several hill country properties along the catchment's boundary.

Wendonside Catchment Group is an Incorporated Society that has established a model to collect funds from members to finance approved private initiatives and undertake public projects in partnership with funding partners. The Society has a management committee with seven members.



UNDERSTANDING LAND & WATER TO EFFECT CHANGE

To better understand the physiography – the science of geography – of the area, the Wendonside Catchment Group has engaged Land & Water Science. With the findings of macroinvertebrate community index testing (MCI), they are putting in place long-term mitigation strategies at both the catchment and farm level.

The project is designed to provide findings across the catchment and at paddock scale to guide farmers when making environmental decisions on their property. Using radiometric and satellite layers, the variability in nutrient losses can be identified, including surface and groundwater quality, and the timing of aquifer recharge.

A FEW EVENTS WE ARE PROUD OF:

» Winter Grazing field day

Wendonside Catchment Group held a winter grazing field day to understand issues, share knowledge and discuss best practice.

» Planting and Waterways field day

The Wendonside Catchment Group held a successful Planting and Waterways field day visiting local Dyer Native Plant Nursery to learn about growing high quality native plants. Following this, the Group visited the Dingle family property to talk about sediment traps, assessing stream health, and increasing biodiversity.

PURPOSE:

Wendonside Catchment Group's purpose is to promote the role farmers can play in managing local water quality.

The Group promotes good environmental farm management practices, demonstrating, supporting and encouraging sound environmental stewardship amongst members.

The focus is on initiatives providing members with sound technical information about water quality and the environment in general in the catchment.

Ultimately, the aim is to ensure farmers can farm sustainably in a thriving community.

