



Charter

The **Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management** (hereafter referred to as the “Centre”) was established in 2009 as a joint partnership between Canterbury and Lincoln Universities. It is the first such centre to be established in any New Zealand university. This Charter will guide the work of the Centre.

An Advisory Board has been established to provide advice to the Director. The Advisory Board has an independent Chair and consists of representatives of the two Universities and **principal agencies involved in water research and resource management**.

Vision

In New Zealand, as overseas, fresh water is a valuable resource which is coming under increasing pressure from a wide range of users. Water needs to be sustainably managed for the benefit of everyone in New Zealand and it is essential that such an important part of our existence is valued and used wisely. Understanding the quality and quantity of our water resources, and how they are used, is of paramount importance for sustainable management. This understanding cannot be realised without a well-educated and informed workforce and public. The Centre will act as focal point for improving knowledge-driven water resource management in New Zealand and will be the critical link in providing improved teaching, and associated research, in water resources.

The Centre will serve the unique and ever increasing demands in New Zealand for improved water resource management and will act as a national centre of educational excellence. It will facilitate the education sector’s key role, alongside existing water organisations, in improving skills, knowledge, and awareness in the water sector. The Centre will also encourage strong co-operation between the two universities to effect institutional change leading to better education outcomes for the country.

Guiding Principles

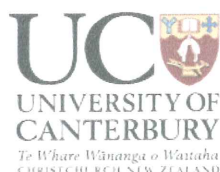
1. The Centre will recognise that sustainable management of water resources must ensure that the needs of the whole community are addressed, the life supporting capacity of the water is maintained, and cultural, aesthetic and recreational values are protected.
2. The Centre will strive for excellence in the teaching of water resource management and in associated knowledge-driven research using the resources of both Universities.
3. The Centre will adhere to the mandate of academic integrity, act as the critic and conscience of society and be visibly independent of any vested interests.

Goals of the Centre

1. To serve as a catalyst for water-related debate, education and research amongst regulatory, public interest, teaching, research and water-user and provider organizations.
2. To provide integrated leadership and coordination of existing university resources as well as identifying and addressing current teaching and research gaps.
3. To work within the sector to identify specific skills needed in developing capability.
4. To engage in community education, through regular news releases and media commentary, workshops and public seminars.
5. To inform local and national water policy development through engagement with relevant officials and by making submissions to policy proposals.
6. To develop undergraduate career pathways, professional training and viable postgraduate education in water management studies.
7. To enhance and coordinate educational opportunities in this field.
8. To develop into an internationally-regarded Centre of Excellence in water research and resource management.



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