

Land Drainage Recovery Programme

Reducing the risk of flooding throughout Christchurch City

Weed busting lowers Styx River water levels

The Council's floating weed harvester has proved its worth in lowering water levels in the Styx River.

This summer's particularly warm weather has seen unusually high aquatic weed growth in the Styx River. Weed growth tends to slow the river's flow and raises water levels. So Christchurch City Council has CityCare deploy its floating weed harvester on a rotational basis between the Styx, Avon and Heathcote Rivers for nine months a year from spring to autumn.



This year, the harvester has been operating in the Styx in January and February, and again since early May. It will still be there for the next couple of weeks, working in the lower reaches. And the harvester's use has clearly made a difference to water levels, as you can see in the graph on the next page.



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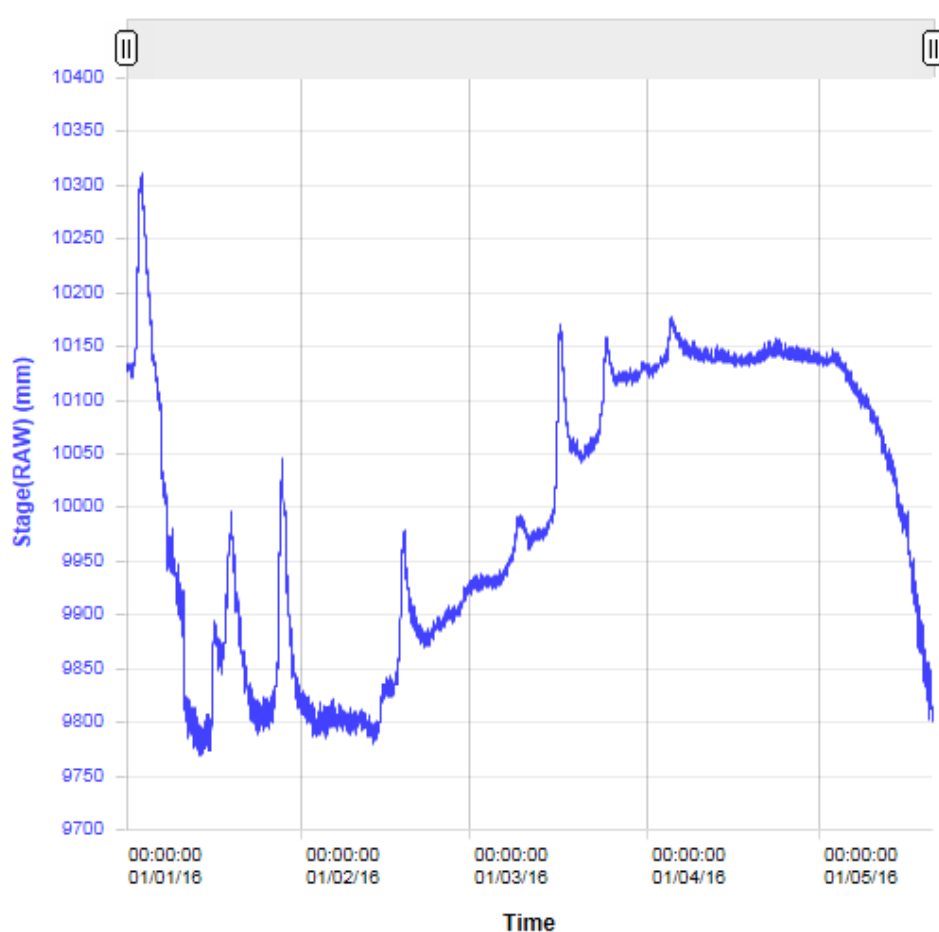
Christchurch
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The graph below shows lower water levels in the Styx River in January and February, which coincides with the harvester use in the River at this time, while the dramatic drop in May clearly shows the benefit of the harvester in lowering water levels there last month.

Water levels in the Styx River January – May 2016



Council staff are currently reviewing the scheduling for next year's season to optimise the use of the harvester between Christchurch's three main rivers.

Staff will also be using the winter period to investigate other options for managing the Styx River. We will continue to keep you updated.

In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact the Council on the details below.



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