

The Economic Work Programme for Otago's Land and Water Regional Plan



What is the Economic Work Programme and why do we need it?

Our regional economy is built on the use of Otago's assets: its natural resources and people, as well as financial resources and built infrastructure. It has a 'market' component for all the goods and services we buy and sell using money, and a 'non-market' component where goods and services are exchanged without money (like rain for instance). Otago Regional Council has the job of managing how we use the region's natural resources, like water and soil, which it does primarily through regional plans. A Land and Water Regional Plan is being developed to improve our use of fresh water in the future and, as part of this process, an Economic Work Programme has been designed to improve our understanding of what this change may mean for local communities. Longer-term, it will give the Council a strong foundation for building economic capability around water and land, which is going to be essential with a rapidly changing climate.

What's being done?

To better understand the economics around land and water, there are four projects in the Economic Work Programme that connect to each other and fit together as a whole.

- 1. Farmers and Growers** – Otago Regional Council is actively working with the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and industry-good groups from across agriculture, horticulture and viticulture to develop robust information for this region. This work draws on the existing MPI National Farm Monitoring Programme, where each industry is surveying real businesses across Otago to collect information to describe their current situation. Technical experts will then use this information to test the impacts of actions on different types of rural businesses in terms of profitability, production, and employment.
- 2. Catchment Stories** – This project gives people in Otago a voice in the economics and for some it will make a start on the 'story' of their catchment. It will help show what local communities are already doing to manage land and water across Otago and their specific issues and challenges, which vary across the region. There is an opportunity for catchment and other community groups to take part through the development of Catchment Stories.

The information will help shape the Farmer / Grower Project and will be used in the final economic analysis. In essence, it is a chance for people to tell the Council a thing or two about the situation in their catchment.
- 3. Te Ōhanga ki Kāi Tahu** – To balance the Economic Work Programme, Aukaha and Te Ao Marama will be considering their Ohanga (both historical and present day) as part of their mahi on the implications of the Land and Water Regional Plan for Kai Tahu. They will also look to highlight the kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga of mana whenua in catchments ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea).
- 4. Regional Economic Profile for Fresh Water** – This project is about exploring the economy's use of water as inputs and outputs, the value of that use (as income and employment), and connections between industries. This knowledge will point towards the broader flow-on impacts of the new Land and Water Regional Plan.

When is it happening?

The projects will be happening in parallel and, in some cases, they are staged so information from one can be used in another. The outputs (datasets and technical papers) will be done by early 2023, in time to assess the efficiency of the Land and Water Regional Plan (a key part of the 'section 32' report, which is a requirement in the Resource Management Act 1991). The Economic Work Programme will then be further developed to support the Council's future decision-making around natural resource use.

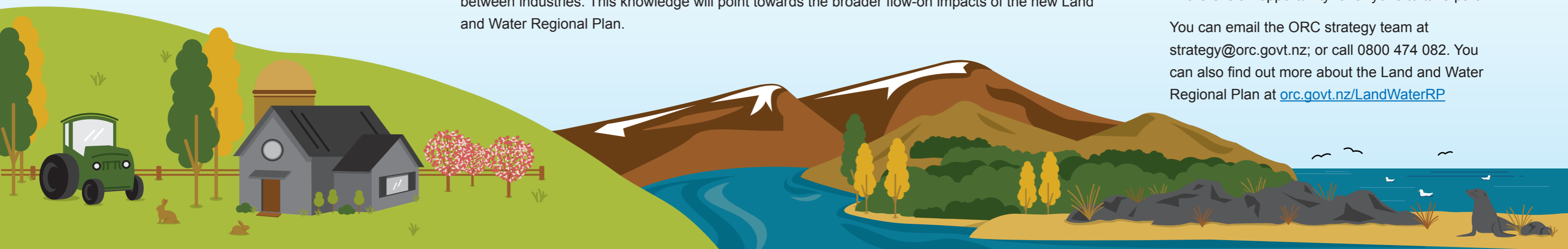


How can I get involved?

If you want Otago Regional Council to really understand what the new Land and Water Plan may mean for you then there are two main ways to get involved in the Economic Work Programme.

- 1.** If you have a horticulture or viticulture business then this could still be included in the Farmer and Grower Project.
- 2.** Through the development of Catchment Stories there is an opportunity for anyone to take part.

You can email the ORC strategy team at strategy@orc.govt.nz; or call 0800 474 082. You can also find out more about the Land and Water Regional Plan at orc.govt.nz/LandWaterRP



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