

What happens next?

20 December 2008	Public notification of proposed plan changes.
February 2009	Public meetings held to provide information on the proposed plan changes. Meeting details advertised in early 2009.
9 March 2009	Close of submissions.
End March 2009	Notification of the summary of submissions for both plan changes and call for further submissions.
End April 2009	Closing date for further submissions.
Mid 2009	Hearings.
Mid-late 2009	Council decisions on plan changes released.
Late 2009	Opportunity to appeal Council's decisions.

For more information

You can view copies of both proposed plan changes at:

- www.orc.govt.nz
- Regional House, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin
- ORC service centres in Alexandra and Queenstown
- District and city council offices
- Local libraries.

Or to request a copy:

- Phone: 0800 474 082
- Fax: 03 479 0015
- Email: policy@orc.govt.nz

Have your say

Anyone may make a submission. A separate form is provided for each plan change. Please fill in both sides of the submission form, fold then seal with a single piece of tape. Return by post, no stamp required.

Post to: Otago Regional Council, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin

Fax to: 03 479 0015

Email to: policy@orc.govt.nz

Deliver to: Otago Regional Council Offices, 70 Stafford St, Dunedin

William Fraser Building, Dunorling St, Alexandra

The Station, First Floor, Cnr Shotover and Camp St, Queenstown

Online:

1B: <http://www.orc.govt.nz/portal.asp?categoryid=1435>

1C: <http://www.orc.govt.nz/portal.asp?categoryid=1389>

If you need help writing your submission, the Ministry for the Environment has prepared a guide, 'Making a Submission on a Proposed Plan or Plan Change' which may be viewed on their website www.mfe.govt.nz

Submissions must be received by 5pm on Monday 9 March 2009.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Changes to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago

1B Minimum Flows 1C Water Allocation and Use

Clause 5 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

The Otago Regional Council is notifying two changes to the regional water plan, being:

Proposed Plan Change 1B Minimum Flows

This change proposes minimum flows and primary allocation limits for the Waianakarua, Trotters and Luggate catchments, and describes how these flows are set.

Proposed Plan Change 1C Water Allocation and Use

This change proposes provisions to manage water taking, including:

- Encouraging collaborative approaches by water users;
- Managing water as a connected resource;
- Giving preference to local water sources for local uses of water;
- Amending provisions relating to Welcome Creek; and
- Provisions recognising when groundwater is closely connected to surface water.

The proposals may be inspected at:

- ORC offices at:
 - 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin
 - William Fraser Building, Dunorling Street, Alexandra
 - The Station, First Floor, Cnr Shotover and Camp Streets, Queenstown
 - Hasborough Place, Balclutha
- All public libraries and city and district council offices throughout the Otago Region
- www.orc.govt.nz

Any person may make a submission on the proposed plan changes.

You may do so by sending a written submission to the Otago Regional Council. The submission must be in Form 5 and must state whether you wish to be heard in support of your submission. Copies of Form 5 are available by phoning the Council on 0800 474 082, or can be found on our website www.orc.govt.nz

Post to Otago Regional Council, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054

Fax to (03) 479 0015

Email to policy@orc.govt.nz

Deliver to Otago Regional Council offices at:

- 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin
- William Fraser Building, Dunorling Street, Alexandra
- The Station, First Floor, Cnr Shotover and Camp Streets, Queenstown

Online at www.orc.govt.nz

Submissions for both plan changes close at 5.00pm on Monday 9 March 2009.

The process for public participation in consideration of the proposed plan change under the Resource Management Act 1991 is:

- After the submission closing date, the Council prepares a summary of all decisions requested by persons making submissions, and this summary is publicly notified;
- You may make a further submission in support of, or in opposition to, the submissions already made;
- You may speak in support of your submission at a hearing;
- The Council gives notice of its decision on the proposal, including its reasons for accepting or rejecting any submissions; and
- Every person making a submission has the right of appeal to the Environment Court.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy and Resource Planning

Signed on behalf of the Otago Regional Council



Changes to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago:

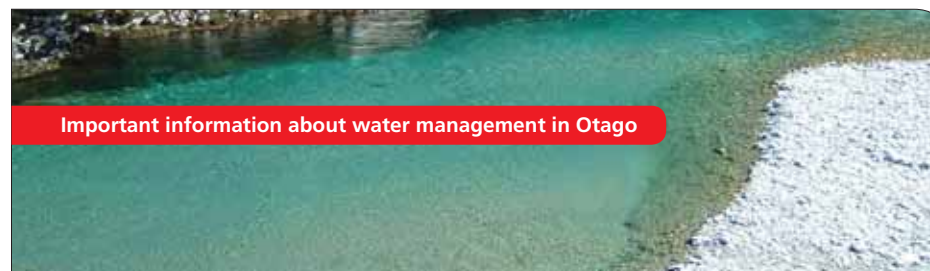


- Proposed Plan Change 1B Minimum Flows
- Proposed Plan Change 1C Water Allocation and Use

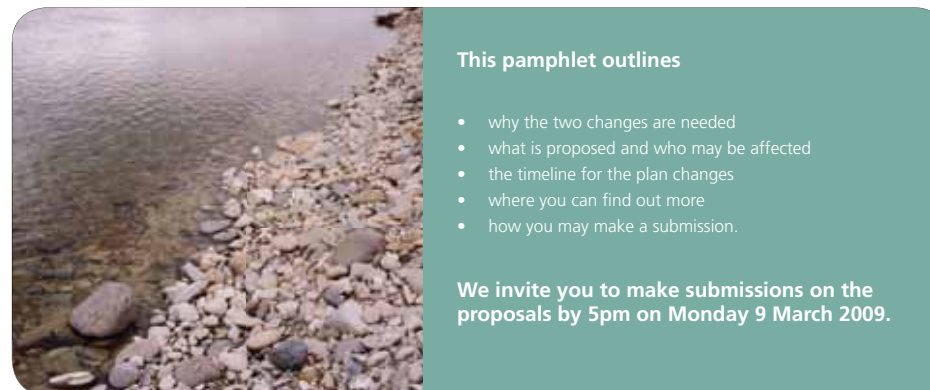
The Otago Regional Council is proposing to make two changes to the Water Plan.

The first change, 1B Minimum Flows, proposes minimum flows for the Waianakarua River, Trotters Creek and Luggate Creek, and describes how these and other minimum flows are set.

The second change, 1C Water Allocation and Use, proposes new policies to guide how water is allocated.



Important information about water management in Otago



This pamphlet outlines

- why the two changes are needed
- what is proposed and who may be affected
- the timeline for the plan changes
- where you can find out more
- how you may make a submission.

We invite you to make submissions on the proposals by 5pm on Monday 9 March 2009.

Proposed Plan Change 1B Minimum Flows

Waianakarua River
Trotters Creek
Luggate Creek
Schedule 2D

Why is the change needed?

In the Water Plan, minimum flows are already provided for on some rivers. Minimum flows are intended to limit when people can take water from rivers under low flow conditions, and thereby protect the river's aquatic ecosystems and natural character.

The primary allocation limit restricts the total amount of water that users may take when the river is above the minimum flow.

When the Water Plan was made operative in 2004, it was intended to set minimum flows for more river catchments. For these three catchments, survey work has defined the aquatic values of each river, and workshops have been held with local communities to identify their values for each river, including the possible effects of the proposed minimum flow regime. This plan change is the next step in setting the minimum flow regime for these catchments.

What change is proposed?

Three new catchments are added to Schedule 2A, the schedule of rivers that are managed by primary allocation minimum flows and allocation limits.

The following minimum flow regimes are proposed:

Catchment	Minimum flow (litres per second)		Primary Allocation Limit
Luggate catchment	180 (November to April)	500 (May to October)	500 litres/sec
Trotters catchment	8 (October to April)	35 (May to September)	30 litres/sec
Waianakarua catchment	200 (October to April)	400 (May to September)	190 litres/sec

When the minimum flow is breached, 'primary allocation' permit holders must stop taking water (noting that most other consented takes will already have stopped).

Further, when an application is made for a water permit, consent will only be granted from within primary allocation if there is water available. If all primary allocation is already allocated, consent may be granted from supplementary allocation, and a higher, supplementary minimum flow will apply.

In addition, a new schedule, Schedule 2D, identifies the matters that are considered in setting minimum flows and primary allocation limits. For each catchment, economic, community, ecological, tangata whenua, cultural, heritage, amenity, recreational and other values associated with the water are all considered.

The minimum flows proposed recognise the community values for each river, and protect these values from damage resulting from taking water.

Who may be affected?

Those who hold water permits with primary allocation will become subject to the minimum flow in these three catchments.

Individual households and community water supplies, stock drinking water and water for fire fighting purposes are not subject to the minimum flows. However, people will be encouraged to use water as efficiently as possible when water is in short supply.



Proposed Plan Change 1C Water Allocation and Use

Why is the change needed?

Much of the water taken for irrigation is taken under deemed permits (originally issued by the Mining Wardens Court over 100 years ago). These permits cease to exist in 2021. The water plan needs to change to assist with this transition and to meet the challenges of future water demands.

Over the past two years, the Council has considered the best way to manage Otago's water resources into the future. The initial Water Forum, held in Cromwell in 2006, identified a strong desire for local management of local water resources.

This plan change proposes water management opportunities for Otago, based on the current system of allocation and flow limits.

What change is proposed?

There are six main aspects to the proposed plan change:

- New provisions that encourage collaborative approaches to water management by water users, including:
 - Encouraging people to work together, in recognition that they are best placed to understand and meet local demands for water.
 - Providing for water management groups who may co-ordinate the take and use of water, direct rationing and reporting to Council.
 - Encouraging group consents that provide for flexibility by making use of a number of take points and sources.
 - Promoting improvements to water infrastructure, including water take, storage and supply facilities.
- New provisions that manage surface and ground water as a connected resource, while recognising their different characteristics.
- New provisions that give preference to local sources and local uses.
- Amendment of provisions to limit water wastage.
- Amendment of provisions relating to Welcome Creek, adding primary and supplementary allocation blocks and minimum flows.
- New provisions for groundwater, including:
 - Managing takes that have a significant effect on surface water, subject to surface water allocation limits and minimum flows (i.e. takes within 100m of a lake, river or wetland, or as listed in Schedule 2C).
 - Managing takes that have some effect on surface water as part surface water allocation, and otherwise as groundwater.
 - Allocating groundwater takes against maximum allocation volumes that reflect recharge for that aquifer.

Who may be affected?

The most direct effects are on those people who need a water permit to take surface water, or who take groundwater that has an effect on surface water.

Water permit applicants will now need to consider:

- Alternative water sources and the effects of taking from different sources.
- If and how they propose to work with other water users.
- Whether there is a local water supply scheme.

Those who take water some distance from where it is used may need to change their source if there is a closer suitable alternative.

Those who take groundwater from aquifers listed in Schedule 2C or within 100m of perennial surface water, will have their takes managed as if they are surface water. That means a change to permitted activities, and where a permit is required the water take will be managed within surface water primary allocation and the minimum flow for the related surface water body.

Ultimately, everyone taking water will be affected by this change.

