

This is a true and correct copy of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago which was approved by the resolution of the Otago Regional Council on Wednesday, 27 June 2018.

This copy of the Regional Plan: Water is deemed to be operative on Sunday, 1 July 2018.

The Common Seal of the Otago Regional Council was hereto affixed pursuant to the resolution of the Council passed on Wednesday, 27 June 2018 in the presence of:



Stephen Woodhead
Chairperson



Sarah Gardner
Chief Executive

Regional Plan: Water for Otago

**Otago Regional Council
Updated to 1 July 2018**

ISBN 978-0-908324-45-3

Please note that there is an accompanying volume of maps (ISBN 978-0-908324-08-8) which identifies features and areas referred to in this Plan.

All grid references used in this Plan are based on the NZMS 260 Series.

The Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan added new definitions to the Glossary of this Plan. The new definitions only apply where the terms are underlined in this Plan.

Chronicle of Key Events

Key event	Date notified	Date decisions released	Date operative
Regional Plan: Water	28 February 1998	7 July 2000	1 January 2004
Variation No. 1 to the Regional Plan: Water	3 October 1998	7 July 2000	1 January 2004
Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan	19 February 2005	30 September 2005	3 July 2006
Plan Change 1A to the Regional Plan: Water	17 August 2005	1 April 2006	1 August 2006
Plan Change 1B (Minimum Flows) to the Regional Plan: Water	20 December 2008	31 October 2009	1 March 2010
Plan Change 3A (Minimum Flow for Taieri River at Tiroiti) to the Regional Plan: Water	26 June 2010	8 December 2010	1 May 2011
Amendment 1 (NPS Freshwater Management) to the Regional Plan: Water	24 June 2011	24 June 2011	1 July 2011
Plan Change 1C (Water Allocation and Use) to the Regional Plan: Water	20 December 2008	10 April 2010	1 March 2012
Plan Change 4A (Groundwater and North Otago Volcanic Aquifer) to the Regional Plan: Water	18 September 2010	24 September 2011	1 March 2012
Plan Change 2 (Regionally Significant Wetlands) to the Regional Plan: Water	2 July 2011	12 May 2012	1 October 2013
Plan Change 6A (Water Quality) to the Regional Plan: Water	31 March 2012	20 April 2013	1 May 2014
Plan Change 3B (Pomahaka catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water	16 August 2014	14 February 2015	1 June 2015
Plan Change 4B (Groundwater allocation) to the Regional Plan: Water	17 May 2014	13 December 2014	1 September 2015
Plan Change 4C (Groundwater management: Cromwell Terrace Aquifer) to the Regional Plan: Water	16 August 2014	13 December 2014	1 September 2015
Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water	13 December 2014	8 August 2015	1 March 2016

Amendment 2 (NES Plantation Forestry) to the Regional Plan: Water	30 June 2018	30 June 2018	1 July 2018
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Chairperson's Foreword

The future development and prosperity of Otago depends on ensuring Otago's waterways remain healthy and that economic use of productive land can be sustained. Because much of Otago has long been recognised as a water-short area, we have always been at the forefront of water management practice and law in New Zealand.

Although it has New Zealand's largest river, the Clutha River/Mata-Au with a mean flow of 580 cubic metres per second, Otago also has the most arid areas of New Zealand, Alexandra having a mean annual rainfall of 358 mm.

Otago's economy and pattern of European development is largely a history of how water resources were harnessed and utilised. In pre-European times Otago's waterways and water quality were treasured assets of Maori, and were fundamental to their beliefs, values, customs, travel, settlement and sustenance of life.

How efficiently we use water, how clean we keep our natural water resources, how well we manage water to meet habitat and environmental needs, and how sustainably we manage our water resources, will determine how Otago can develop into the future.

The Regional Plan: Water for Otago was made operative on 1 January 2004. This Plan sets the framework for the management of water in Otago. It provides for better utilisation and protection of water so that the values, opportunities and needs of Otago's communities can be reasonably met. It is a plan that continues to reflect the aspirations of Otago people for the future of the Otago region.

Since becoming operative, several improvements have been made to the Plan, including recognition of the connection between groundwater and surface water, encouragement of collaborative approaches to water management, facilitation of the transition from deemed permits to resource consents and the introduction of an effects-based approach to managing water quality, with a focus on controlling contaminant and sediment discharges, rather than regulating the land use activities that create them.

On behalf of the Otago Regional Council I thank the many individuals and community groups who contributed ideas and aspirations into the development of this Plan. You clearly have the future of the region's precious water resources at heart. Your input has made the Plan a better document to shape a good future for Otago.

The Otago Regional Council brings this Plan into full operative effect on 1 July 2018.



Stephen Woodhead
Chairperson
Otago Regional Council



How to Use the Regional Plan: Water

This Regional Plan: Water considers the use, development and protection of the fresh water resources of the Otago region, the beds and margins of water bodies, and the issues associated with that use, development and protection. This Plan provides objectives, policies, rules and other methods of implementation to address those issues. The rules of the Plan determine the status of any particular activity and determine whether a resource consent will be required before that activity can be carried out.

Subject to Sections 86A to 86G of the Resource Management Act, a resource consent is required for any activity which this Regional Plan: Water specifies as being:

- (a) A controlled activity;
- (b) A restricted discretionary activity;
- (c) A discretionary activity; or
- (d) A non-complying activity.

In some cases, the Plan specifies certain activities as being prohibited activities. These are activities which cannot occur and are activities for which no resource consent will be issued.