

**27 November 2020**

## **FRESHWATER VISIONS FOR OTAGO – KĀI TAHU KI OTAGO**

ORC is seeking input on the long term visions for freshwater in Otago. These visions will provide direction for developing policies and rules for managing freshwater.

This document identifies:

- Principles that Kāi Tahu ki Otago consider are important in setting freshwater visions
- The visions of Kāi Tahu ki Otago for freshwater management in all catchments
- Additional priorities for specific catchments
- The timeframes in which Kāi Tahu ki Otago want to see the visions achieved
- Management changes that Kāi Tahu ki Otago consider are needed to achieve the vision

### **Underlying principles**

The following key principles should be recognised, and should underlie development of freshwater visions:

1. The whakapapa of mana whenua and water are integrally connected. There is a close kinship relationship, and mana whenua and the wai cannot be separated. The mana of the wai is shared with mana whenua through this relationship, and the mana is impacted on if the human connection is not there. Freshwater visions need to ensure that the connection of mana whenua with the water bodies is sustained, including through:
  - Recognition of rakatirataka
  - Enabling exercise of kaitiakitaka
  - Upholding the mauri of the water bodies
  - Providing for practice of mahika kai and other mana whenua aspirations as land and water users.
2. Freshwater visions must recognise interconnectedness across a catchment. The mauri of different parts of the water body system cannot be separated. The water body must be treated as a whole system, with all tributaries and riparian areas, including their natural characteristics and indigenous biodiversity, contributing to the vision.
3. Kawa and tikanga have been developed over the generations, based on customs and values associated with the Māori world view that span the generations. These values are inherent in the kaitiakitaka responsibility of mana whenua and need to be reflected in decision-making, management and monitoring. Recognising and honouring te mana o te wai and upholding the mauri of the wai are consistent with this value base and are the responsibility of both treaty partners.
4. Freshwater management must enable mātauraka regarding freshwater and the resources it supports to be retained, kept alive and transferred to future generations.

## Vision

The Kāi Tahu ki Otago vision for all catchments in Otago is that the following outcomes are achieved:

1. The wai is health-giving:
  - The quality where the waterway enters another receiving environment should be as good as at the source
  - We can drink the water and eat the kai.
2. The waterways are restored to the way they were when tūpuna knew them:
  - Water flow is continuous through the whole system
  - There is no further modification of river shape or braided stretches
  - Existing wetlands are restored and the area of wetlands is increased.
3. Mahika kai is flourishing, native fish can migrate easily and as naturally as possible, and taoka species and their habitats are protected from negative water quality and quantity impacts.
4. Over-allocation is reversed, and water is available and allocated to meet mana whenua aspirations.
5. The interconnection of freshwater and coastal waters is recognised:
  - Sea level rise is accommodated in planning for infrastructure and other activities near river mouths, estuaries and hāpua systems
  - Inaka habitats at the salt-water wedge are protected.
6. The quality and quantity of groundwater is protected, and the interconnections with waterways are recognised.
7. Mana whenua are integrally involved in freshwater planning, implementation and monitoring, and mātauraka is alive and being passed on.
8. Land users work together to restore catchments.

## Priorities/ additional focus for particular catchments or Freshwater Management Units (FMU)

Mata-au	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mata-au is one catchment and needs to be managed as such.</li> <li>● Management recognises and reflects that the wai comes directly from Tawhirimatea (the sky) to the top of the mauka and into the awa so is pure at source – the quality along the full length of the waterway should reflect this.</li> <li>● There is no further degradation of lakes.</li> <li>● There are no sedimentation effects on the ocean.</li> </ul>
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Taieri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy wetlands are restored in the upper catchment wetland complex and tussock areas.</li> <li>• Waipori/ Waihola wetlands are restored.</li> <li>• There is no sewage discharge to Lake Waihola.</li> <li>• In the long term, the gravel bed of the lower Taieri is restored and sedimentation of the Waipori/ Waihola complex is reversed.</li> </ul>
Dunedin Coast FMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waikouaiti River catchment should be included in this FMU rather than North Otago.</li> <li>• Pollution of the harbour is reduced.</li> <li>• Hidden waterways are recognised – in the long term, waterways are naturalised as much as possible, and potentially some piped areas are opened up.</li> </ul>
North Otago FMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution of the Waihemo (Shag), Waianakarua and Kakaunui Rivers and Trotters Gorge Creek, and their tributaries, is reduced.</li> <li>• Wetlands are restored throughout the North Otago catchments.</li> <li>• Riparian margins are healthy and are protected from the effects of stock grazing and pests.</li> </ul>

#### Timeframes for achievement of vision

- From now:
  - No further loss
  - Consents are granted for a maximum of 10 years
  - Systems and resources are developed to facilitate restoration measures.
- Within 10 years:
  - Management practices have been changed and positive restoration measures are underway.
- By 20 years: Outcomes are being achieved.

#### Management changes needed to achieve the vision

Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved management of stormwater runoff, including runoff from land development and from roads</li> <li>• Land-based sewage and animal effluent disposal – no disposal to water</li> <li>• No sedimentation effects on ocean, harbour and estuaries</li> <li>• Reduce nutrients and effluent entering groundwater</li> <li>• Shorter consent terms – no more than 10 years</li> <li>• Consultation with mana whenua</li> </ul>
Water quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levels and flows support flourishing mahika kai, not minimum requirements</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Augmentation by off-stream storage in appropriate locations and circumstances</li> <li>• Shorter consent terms – no more than 10 years</li> <li>• Consultation with mana whenua</li> </ul>
River works and structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No modification of headwaters</li> <li>• Retain existing braided stretches</li> <li>• No further modification of the shape of rivers</li> <li>• No new instream dams</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of gravel extractions to provide for natural habitat and mahika kai</li> <li>• Removal or modification of flood gates in lower reaches to allow easy fish passage</li> <li>• Dams, headgates, floodgates and culverts are designed and managed to enable easy upstream and downstream migration of fish – this must be a priority in design</li> <li>• Shorter consent terms – no more than 10 years</li> <li>• Consultation with mana whenua</li> </ul>
Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further drainage, and reverse the effects of existing drainage</li> <li>• Consultation with mana whenua</li> </ul>
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring back diversity of riparian areas and set aside adequate buffers</li> <li>• Reverse loss of wetlands - restoration and increase in area</li> <li>• Removal of aquatic weeds</li> <li>• Consultation with mana whenua</li> </ul>
Land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No negative land use impacts on wetlands – including their hydraulic connection, taoka species and mahika kai values</li> <li>• Improvement of physical access to mahika kai (including across land to the waterways)</li> <li>• Look at moving to dryland farming systems</li> <li>• Consider implications of sea level rise in 3 Waters infrastructure renewals</li> <li>• Provide for inward migration of estuary and hāpua systems with rising sea level – give them room to move</li> <li>• Consultation with mana whenua</li> </ul>