

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee to be held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 8 February 2017, following the Technical Committee**

Membership:

- Cr Gretchen Robertson** (Chairperson)
- Cr Michael Laws** (Deputy Chairperson)
- Cr Graeme Bell**
- Cr Doug Brown**
- Cr Michael Deaker**
- Cr Carmen Hope**
- Cr Trevor Kempton**
- Cr Maggie Lawton**
- Cr Sam Neill**
- Cr Andrew Noone**
- Cr Bryan Scott**
- Cr Stephen Woodhead**

Apologies: **Cr Sam Neill**

In attendance:

**Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8.30 am on Friday,
3 February 2017.**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016, having been circulated for adoption.

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Page Nos.

- Item 1
2017/0627 **Wilding Conifers – Amendment to Pest Plan.** DPPRM, 02/02/17 6-13
- The report details the recommended amendments to the Pest Plan in regard to Wilding Conifers.

PART B - FOR NOTING

- Item 2
2017/0580 **Compliance of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014.** DPPRM, 20/01/17 14-31
- The report sets out how the Regional Plan: Water for Otago (Water Plan) complies with the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) 2014. It also describes actions Otago Regional Council (ORC) has taken since the NPSFM was revised in 2014, and further actions to give effect to the NPSFM.
- Item 3
2017/0621 **Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for Water Takes.** DPPRM, 01/02/17 32-33
- The Annual Plan sets out ORC’s work programme for developing plan provisions managing water quantity including setting minimum flows and other flows that give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPSFM).
- This report discusses the project addressing setting other flows, referred to as residual flows.
- Item 4
2017/0575 **Director’s Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 20/01/17 34-40
- The report gives an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section for the period 5 November 2016 to 20 January 2017.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the
Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on
Wednesday 23 November 2016, commencing at 12:13pm**

Membership: Cr Gretchen Robertson (Chairperson)
Cr Michael Laws (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Doug Brown
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Carmen Hope
Cr Trevor Kempton
Cr Maggie Lawton
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr Stephen Woodhead

A correction to the membership list was noted for the Committee Chair and Deputy Chair than that listed in the agenda.

Cr Laws absent from the room.

Apologies: No apologies noted.

Leave of absence: No leave of absence advised.

In attendance: Peter Bodeker
Nick Donnelly
Gavin Palmer
Caroline Rowe
Fraser McRae
Scott MacLean
Lauren McDonald (minute taker)

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda as circulated was confirmed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

PUBLIC FORUM

No Public Forum was held.

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2016/1139 **Terms of Reference for the Policy Committee.** DPPRM, 8/11/16

The report provided the Terms of Reference for consideration and recommendation to Council.

Cr Robertson advised that she was satisfied that no changes were required to the existing Terms of Reference for the Policy Committee as tabled.

Crs Woodhead left the room at 12:15pm and returned at 12:17pm

Cr Laws entered the room at 12:17pm

Moved Cr Deaker
Seconded Cr Lawton

That the Terms of Reference for the Policy Committee be presented to Council on 7 December 2016 for adoption.

Motion carried

PART B - FOR NOTING

Item 2

2016/1120 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 4/11/16

The report provided an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section for the period 20 August to 4 November 2016

A question was raised on the staffing resource needed to meet the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UDC) requirements which takes effect on 1 December 2016.

Mr McRae advised that the NPS-UDC was very specific in its requirements of both regional and district councils, particularly for high growth areas such as Queenstown. He commented that it would rely on QLDC and ORC liaising to address how to meet the new requirements efficiently and effectively. He confirmed that preliminary discussions with QLDC staff had taken place and that something like spatial planning, or similar was required and a mechanism for both councils to comply with the provisions of the NPS, RPS and District Plans.

A suggestion was made for information to be sought from other regional councils on their approach and practise for urban development in high growth areas.

Mr McRae advised that the strategic intent for urban development would occur through the RPS and would be implemented through the Queenstown Lakes District Plan. He commented that Council may need to amend the RPS, which lead the District Plan, and may have do some extra work around specificity and

projections of where urban development is preferred and this will need to be undertaken in concert with QLDC.

A question was asked in regard to the Wanaka and Cromwell areas being considered as high growth areas.

Mr McRae advised that no discussions have been held specifically with CODC as yet as these areas were deemed as medium growth areas, although Cromwell does act as a service centre to Queenstown.

The mediation date for the Proposed Plan Change 5A Lindis: Integrated water management appeal has been confirmed as 8 and 9 December 2016.

Moved Cr Brown
Seconded Cr Scott

That the report be noted

The meeting was declared closed at 12:31pm.

Chairperson

REPORT

Document ID: A977345

Report Number: 2017/0627

Prepared For: Policy Committee

Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

Date: 2 February 2017

Subject: **Wilding Conifers – Amendment to Pest Plan**

1. Précis

Under section 100G of the Biosecurity Act 1993, a regional pest management plan may be amended by Council by resolution (without a review under section 100D) if the Council is satisfied that the amendment:

- Does not have a significant effect on any person's rights and obligations; and
- Is not inconsistent with the national policy direction.

Amendments to the Pest Plan to enable the wilding conifer eradication project are contained in Attachment 1.

Landowners and occupiers within the Management Units, where works will take place, have agreed to eradicate wilding conifers on their properties. Participation in a wilding conifer eradication project is voluntary. Accordingly, the proposed amendment to the Pest Management Plan will not have a significant effect on their rights and obligations.

2. Recommendation

That the changes to the Pest Plan identified in Attachment 1 be approved.

Fraser McRae
Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

Attachments

1. Amendment to Pest Plan

Attachment 1: Amendment to Pest Plan

4.12 Wilding Conifers

4.12.1 Description and adverse effects

This section applies to the following conifer species, listed below:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
Lodgepole or contorta pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Dwarf mountain pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i>
Mountain pine	<i>Pinus uncinata</i>
Bishops pine	<i>Pinus muricata</i>
Maritime pine	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>
Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Corsican pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>
Radiata pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>

Wilding conifers are invasive, particularly in tussock grassland ecosystems and have negative effects on the environment, the enjoyment of the natural environment and the economic wellbeing.

4.12.2 Objective

- (i) To eradicate wilding conifers within the Management Units shown in Appendix 5. Maps 5.1 – 5.5.

4.12.3 Immediate outcomes

- (i) To eradicate the infestation level of wilding conifers to zero in the Management Units.

4.12.4 Eradication Programme

- (i) Facilitating community groups, landowners and occupiers to carry out wilding conifer eradication within the Management Units.

4.12.5 The extent and timeframe to which the eradication is expected to be achieved

- (i) Dunstan Management Units – eradication by May 2020;
- (ii) St Mary Ida Management Units – eradication by May 2020;
- (iii) Lammerlaw Management Units – eradication by May 2020;
- (iv) Kawarau Management Units – eradication by May 2020 for majority of the unit. Progress towards eradication by 2030 for the remainder;
- (v) Remarkables Management Units – eradication by May 2020 for majority of the unit. Progress towards eradication by 2030 for the remainder;

- (vi) Northern Eyre Management Units– eradication by May 2020 for majority of the unit. Progress towards eradication by 2030 for the remainder;
- (vii) Glenorchy Management Units – eradication by May 2020 for majority of the unit. Progress towards eradication of shelter belts and other seed sources by 2030.

4.12.6 Methods for monitoring achievement of objective

- (i) The council will monitor the effect of the eradication programme every three years.

Appendix 5

Map 5.1 Central Otago Management Units

Map 5.2 Remarkables Management Units

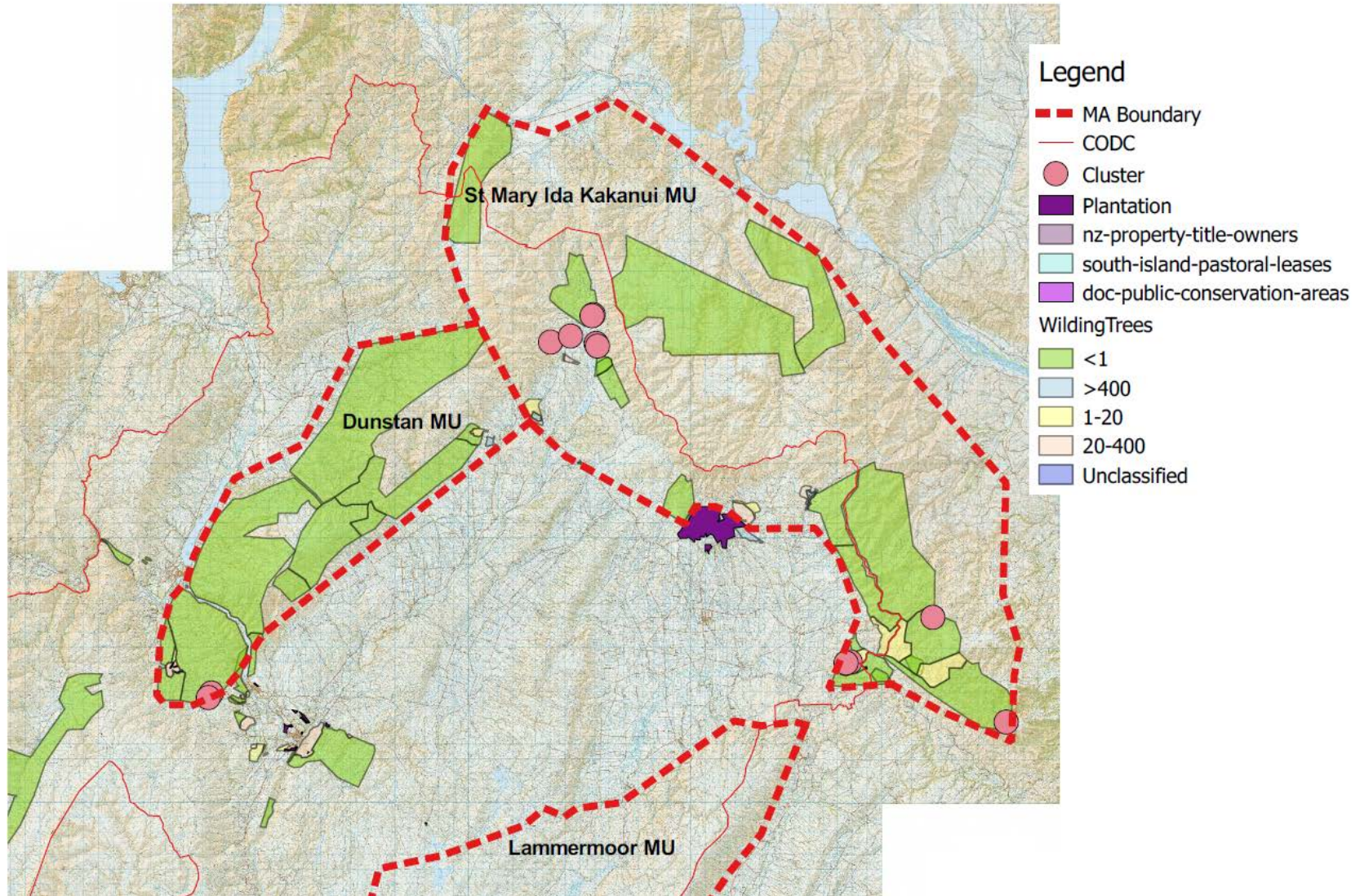
Map 5.3 Northern Eyre Management Units

Map 5.4 Kawarau Management Units

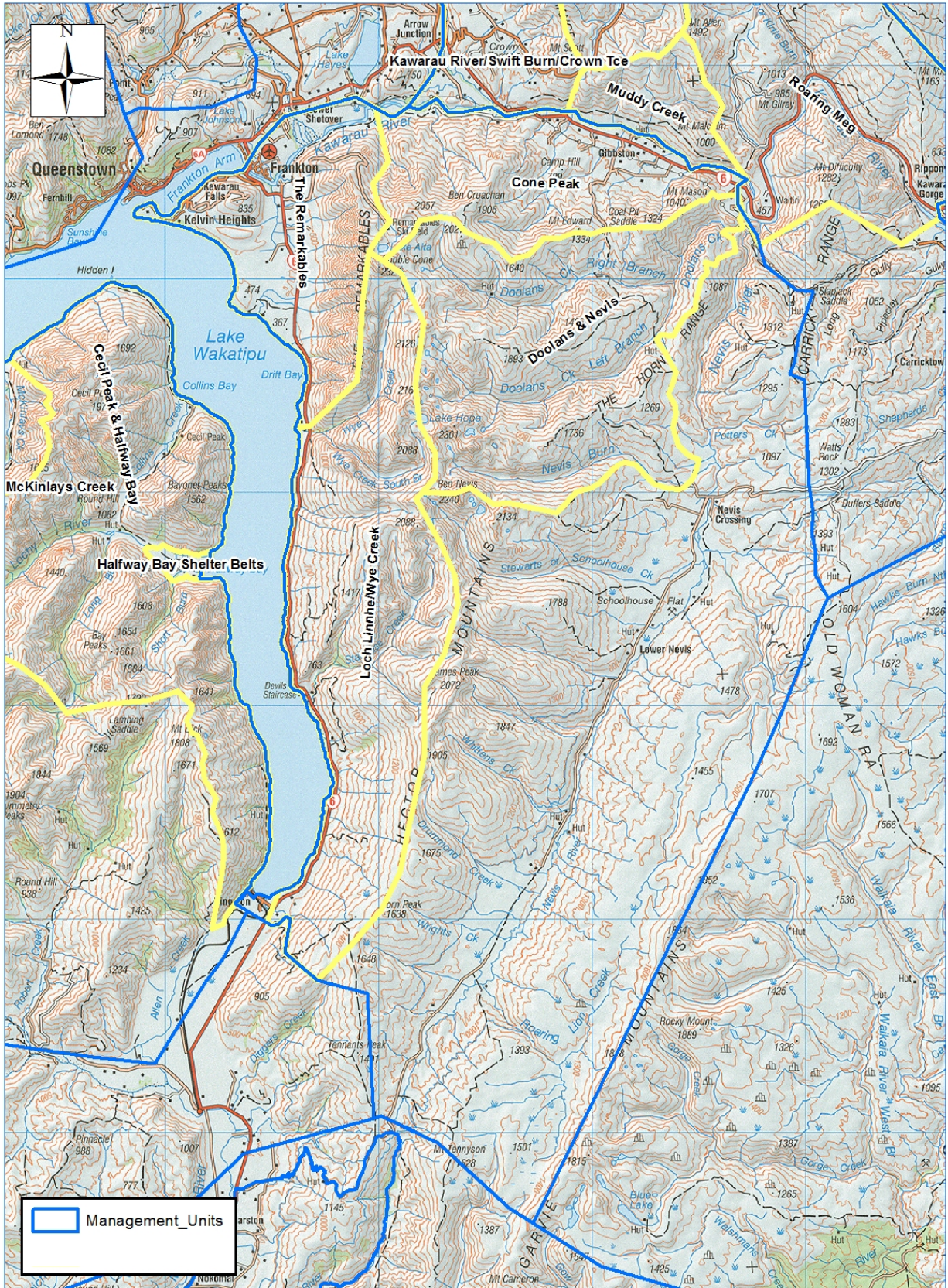
Map 5.5 Glenorchy Management Units

Map 5.1

Central Otago Management Units

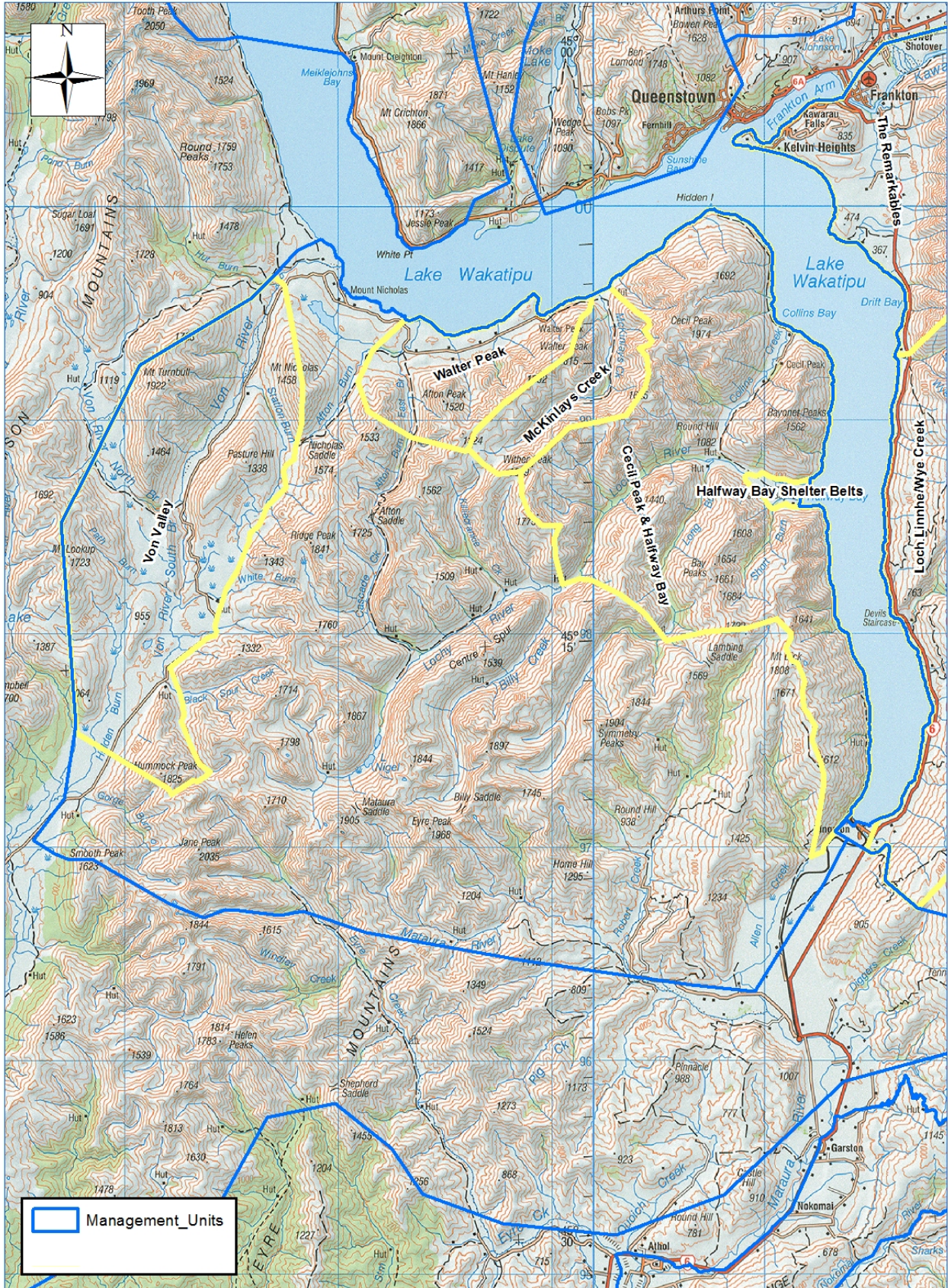


Map 5.2 Remarkables Management Units



Area 101,780 Ha

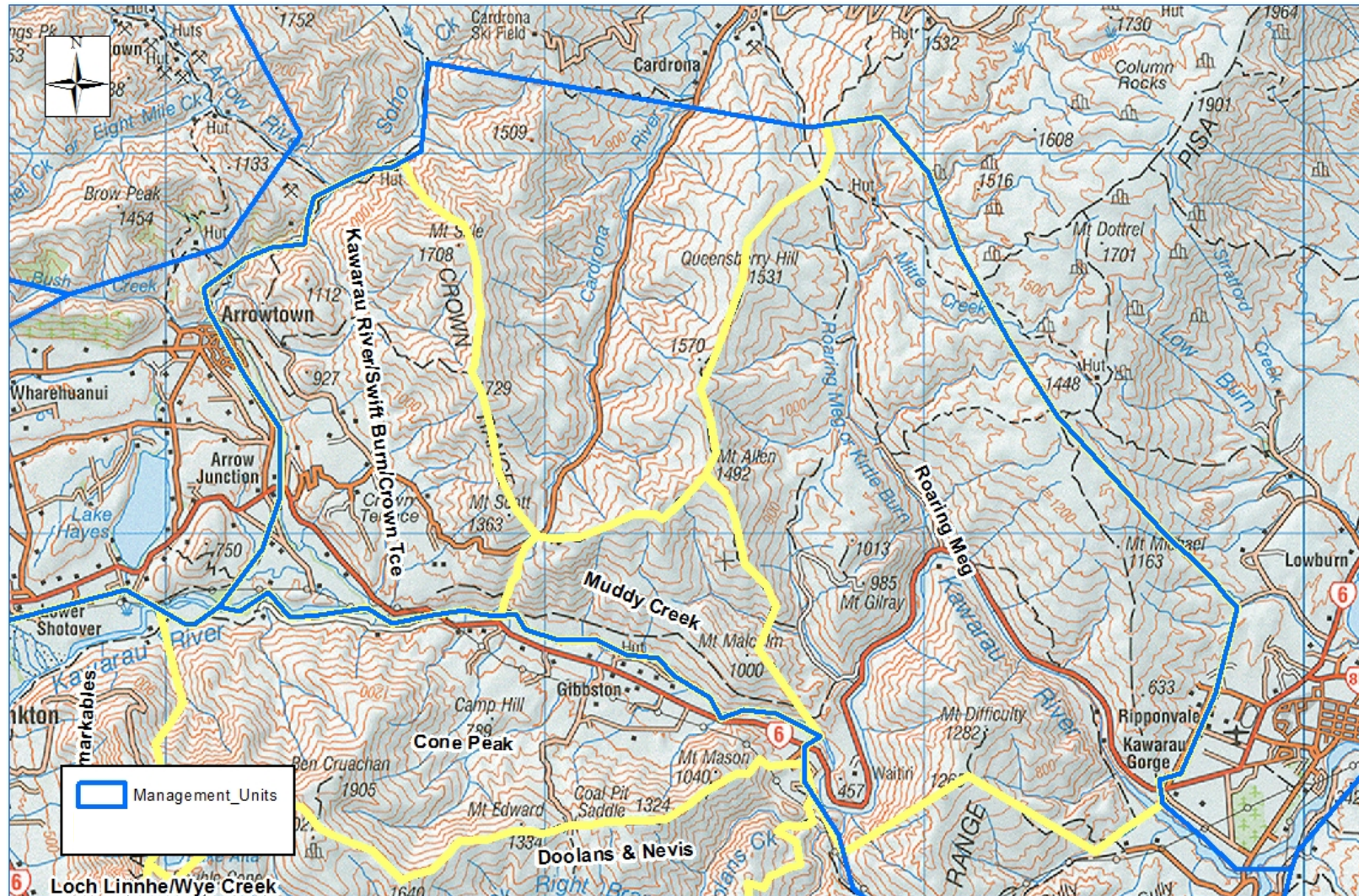
Map 5.3 Northern Eyre Management Units



Area 106,822 Ha

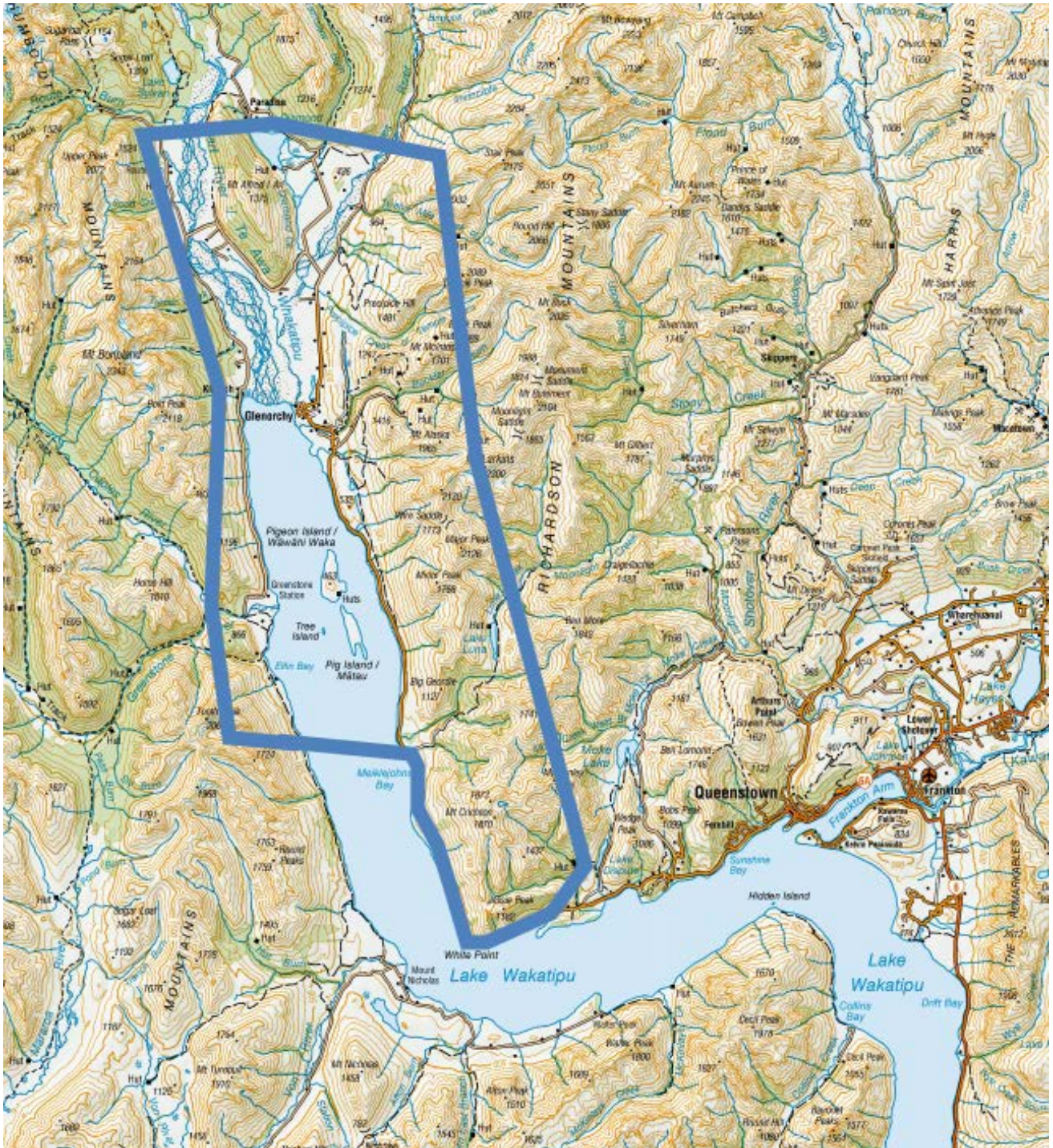
Map 5.4

Kawarau Management Units



Area 47,273 ha

Map 5.5 Glenorchy Management Units



REPORT

Document ID: A970054
Report Number: 2017/0580
Prepared For: Policy Committee
Prepared By: Dale Meredith, Manager Policy;
 Dean Olsen, Manager Resource Science
Date: 20/01/2017

Subject: **Compliance of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014**

1. Précis

This report sets out how the Regional Plan: Water for Otago (Water Plan) complies with the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) 2014. It also describes actions Otago Regional Council (ORC) has taken since the NPSFM was revised in 2014, and further actions to give effect to the NPSFM.

2. Strategic outcome

This report contributes towards:

Strategic Goal: Active resource stewardship
 Annual Plan: W1 Regional Plan: Water
 W2 Water Quality and Quantity State of the Environment
 W6 Minimum Flows and Allocation Limits

3. Background

The NPSFM 2011 set out the first national directives under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) relating to management of water quantity and quality.

Previous ORC reports (2011/0836, 2012/1036 and 2014/1037) have described how the Water Plan gives effect to the NPSFM. Amendment 1 (NPS Freshwater Management) was made to the Water Plan in July 2011 to address water quality, and was superseded when Plan Change 6A (Water Quality) was made operative.

In 2012, as required by the NPSFM 2011, ORC resolved:

- a) *That Council determine that there is no need to notify a programme of time limited stages to change the Regional Plan: Water for Otago, as the Plan, with current notified proposed changes, is consistent with the NPSFWM.*
- b) *That plan provisions will ensure implementing the policy of the NPSFWM is fully completed before 31 December 2030.*

Most other regional council's regional plans for managing water were not as advanced as Otago's Water Plan: they assessed their plans as not being sufficiently consistent with the NPSFM 2011. Consequently, they adopted the 'staged path to compliance using a programme of time limited stages' as required by the NPSFM. The Ministry for the Environment is supporting the staged implementation programme to ensure that these councils give full effect to the NPSFM.

The subsequent 2014 revision, which came into effect from 4 July 2014, provided further direction with the introduction of the National Objectives Framework (NOF). The NOF sets out a national system for key water attributes and measures, including bottom-lines. It also specifies the process to change plans to the extent needed to ensure the plan gives effect to the objectives in the NPSFM.

It is noted that when the revised draft of the NPSFM was released, mediation was in process on appeals to Plan Change 6A (Water Quality). Consequently, these draft provisions informed the mediated outcome, and appellants were satisfied that this plan change gave effect to the new national directions. Plan Change 6A was made operative on 1 May 2014, two months before the revised NPSFM came into effect.

Regional councils have until 31 December 2025, or 31 December 2030 by publicly notified council resolution made by the end of 2015, to complete implementation of this revised NPSFM.

4. Current situation

4.1 Meaning of ‘giving effect to’

The Ministry for the Environment states, on their website, that:

Giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPS-FM) means:

- *regional councils need to set freshwater objectives, and the limits and methods to achieve them, in their regional plans and/or policy statements by 2025*
- *the NPSFM provisions set by regional councils in their regional plans and policy statements may direct the provisions that territorial authorities put in their district plans*
- *any consent authorities (both regional councils and territorial authorities) need to have regard to the NPSFM when making decisions about resource consent applications.*

The analysis that follows briefly describes how the NPSFM is given effect in Otago.

4.2 Water Plan

The operative Water Plan gives effect to the objectives in the NPSFM. However, some of the underpinning NPSFM policies prescribe specific terms and processes. Although the Water Plan covers the general concept and process, it does not articulate these in the required way.

For example, the Water Plan does not use the term ‘fresh water management unit’. Instead, plan provisions use a range of spatial areas to manage fresh water to achieve plan objectives, from those applying to activities across the whole region to those applying at the property or specific location levels. Further, the Water Plan uses neither the compulsory national value phrase ‘Te Hauora o te Wai/ the health and mauri of water’ nor ‘Te Hauora o te Tangata/ the health and mauri of the people’. Rather, the Water Plan speaks of ‘natural and human use values’ and places emphasis on the life supporting capacity of water.

Appendix A provides more detail of the effect the Water Plan gives to the NPSFM 2014.

4.3 Proposed Regional Policy Statement

The Proposed Regional Policy Statement (RPS) was prepared with regard to the NPSFM 2014, being notified on 8 May 2015. Provisions address the management of land use impacts on water quality and quantity. Some of the provisions giving effect to the NPSFM are currently under appeal, including those for managing water bodies of outstanding water quality.

4.4 Freshwater accounting

The NOF includes a number of compulsory attributes for the two compulsory national values of Ecosystem Health and Human Health for Recreation: Phytoplankton biomass (Chlorophyll *a*) (lakes), total P (lakes), total N (lakes), periphyton (rivers), nitrate-nitrogen, ammoniacal nitrogen, dissolved oxygen (downstream of discharges), *E. Coli*, and cyanobacteria biovolume (planktonic).

Most of these attributes are currently included in Council's State of the Environment (SoE) monitoring (Appendix B), however historically, others have not been. There has been a lack of specific guidance from MfE on how the NPSFM is to be applied, so there is some discretion in how it is interpreted and applied to meet those national values in a particular context. For example, ORC has historically monitored phytoplankton biomass, TP and TN at the outlets or shoreline of the lakes we monitor. There is an absence of guidance on whether this was an appropriate approach. In addition, guidance from MfE is that monitoring reflects specific decisions on the appropriateness of the compulsory attributes.

ORC has changed how it monitors periphyton biomass (rivers) and planktonic cyanobacteria biovolume (lakes) to ensure that monitoring is consistent with the NOF. ORC has started monitoring both of these attributes, but in the case of periphyton, it requires monthly monitoring throughout the year (the monitoring undertaken to date has been October-April). Cyanobacteria biomass is monitored at Waihola, Tomahawk and Falls Dam during the contact recreation season as that is consistent with the values associated with those water bodies.

For the large lakes, Lake Onslow and Lake Hayes, the compulsory attributes (chlorophyll *a*, TN, TP) are currently being monitored as part of the trophic lake monitoring and this will continue until at least 2019. This will give sufficient cover of these attributes in these lakes until the SoE review is completed.

One purpose of the SoE review [Annual Plan W2 Water Quality & Quantity SoE project] is to ensure that ORC's SoE monitoring fully (and defensibly) complies with the NPSFM, particularly for lake attributes (TN, TP, phytoplankton biomass (chlorophyll *a*), cyanobacteria biomass) and periphyton.

5. Next steps

In order to complete implementation of the NPSFM 2014 by 2025, the following actions are being undertaken to more transparently align the Water Plan with new policies, and deliver on freshwater accounting requirements.

Matter	Action	Time
a) Policy CA1 Freshwater management units (FMUs)	Plan change to align terminology used in managing water [Annual Plan W1: Regional Plan Water project].	2017-18 year
b) Policy CA2 Freshwater objectives for all FMUs	Re-present current Water Plan to more transparently show how the national values and uses for fresh water apply in Otago [as part of above Policy CA1 plan change].	Ongoing
	Assess national values transparently, as part of each new relevant plan change. Alter operative plan provisions as necessary using the plan change and review process [Annual Plan W1 and W6: Minimum Flows and Allocation Limits projects].	
c) Policy CA3 Bottom lines for FMUs	Re-present operative Water Plan to more transparently show how the national value bottom lines for fresh water apply in Otago [as part of above Policy CA1 plan change].	2017-18 year
d) Policy CB1 Monitoring plan	Review SoE monitoring activity to include required attribute analysis. Some monitoring practices have already been changed to become more compliant [Annual Plan W2 Water Quality & Quantity SoE project].	2016-17 year
e) Policy CC1 Freshwater accounting systems for quality and quantity management	Review monitoring and reporting systems to ensure that national reporting requirements are met and best use can be made of data collected to inform decision making regionally. [Annual Plan Z4 Information Systems project].	2016-2018 years

6. Recommendation

- 1) That the report is received.
- 2) That ORC's compliance with the objectives of the NPSFM 2014 is noted.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management

Gavin Palmer

Director Engineering, Hazards, and Science

Appendix A: Water Plan provisions giving effect to the NPSFM 2014

NPSFM Reference	Water Plan Reference	Comment Water Plan requirements and implementation
A. Water Quality		
Objective A1 <i>[Safeguards in managing use & development of land, & discharges of contaminants]</i>	Objective 7.A.2	Enables discharges in a way that maintains water quality and supports natural and human use values, including Kai Tahu values
	Objective 5.3.1	Maintain or enhance natural and human use values in Schedule 1A-1C
	Objective 9.3.3	Maintain groundwater quality
	Objective 10.3.1	Maintain or enhance wetlands and their individual and collective values
Objective A2 <i>[Overall quality maintained or improved]</i>	Chapter 4	Kai Tahu ki Otago: water perspective sets out their approach to resource management and identifies issues of significance to Kai Tahu in managing water resources.
	Objective 5.3.1	Maintain or enhance natural and human use values in Schedule 1A-1C
	Objective 5.3.2	Maintain or enhance the spiritual and cultural beliefs, values and uses of significance to Kai Tahu, in Schedule 1D
	Objective 5.3.3	Protect the natural character of lakes and rivers and their margins
	Objective 5.3.4	Maintain or enhance amenity values associated with lakes, rivers and their margins
	Objective 5.3.5	Maintain or enhance public access to or along the margins of lakes and rivers
	Objective 5.3.7	Maintain heritage values associated with lakes, rivers and their margins
	Objective 6.3.5	Minimise adverse effects on the quality of receiving water, including its ecology and mauri, where such water is subject to any new inter catchment transfer.
	Objective 7.A.1	Maintain water quality and enhance where quality is degraded.
	Objective 8.3.2	Minimise reduction in water clarity caused by bed disturbance.
	Objective 9.3.3	Maintain the quality of Otago's ground water.
	Objective 10.3.1	Maintain or enhance wetlands and their individual and collective values
Policy 10.4.1	Identifies Otago's regionally significant wetland values	
Policy A1 <i>[Establish freshwater quality objectives]</i>	Policy 7.B.1	Management of water quality on lakes, rivers, wetlands and groundwater
	Policy 7.B.2	Avoid objectionable discharges of contaminants to maintain natural and human

<i>and over allocation]</i>		use values, including Kai Tahu values
	Policy 7.B.4	When considering any discharge have regard to ... any potential adverse effects on use of any proximate coastal marine area for contact recreation and seafood gathering.
	Policy 7.B.5	When considering any discharge of water from one catchment to another, have regard to Kai Tahu values.
	Policy 7.B.6	When assessing any consent to discharge contaminants to water, consider the need for and extent of any zone for physical mixing, within which water will not meet the characteristics and limits described in Schedule 15, by taking account of, amongst other matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sensitivity of the receiving environment • natural and human use values, including Kai Tahu values • natural character of the water body.
	Rules 12.A	Discharge of human sewage. Discharges are either permitted or discretionary, and consent conditions may address any relevant matter.
	Rules 12.B	Discharge of hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, specified contaminants; and discharges from industrial or trade premises and consented dams. For restricted discretionary consents, discretions listed under Rule 12.B.3 address the particular matters listed in NPSFM Policy A1, including through control over the nature, volume, rate, method, and location of contaminant discharge.
	Rules 12.C	Other discharges – includes rules relating to Schedule 16 Discharge Thresholds and the use of OVERSEER. For restricted discretionary consents, discretions listed under Rule 12.C.2.4 address the particular matters listed in NPSFM Policy A1, including through control over the nature, type, volume, frequency, location, concentration and loading of contaminant discharge.
	Schedule 15	Good water quality is defined by qualitative description and in metrics within Schedule 15, which apply across water bodies in Otago. The metrics set relate to a contact recreation water standard, and include regard for the compulsory national values of the health and

		<p>mauri of water and of people. These are well above the national bottom lines set in Appendix 2 of the NPSFM. The timeframes relate to matters listed under Policy CA2(f).</p> <p>In practical effect, Schedule 15 sets out Otago specifications for meeting the NPSFM by fresh water management unit. These terms are not used, but the outcome has the same effect.</p> <p>Over-allocation occurs when a catchment exceeds the numerical limits and targets specified in Table 15.2 (lakes and rivers) and Table 15.3 (aquifers).</p> <p>Table 15.2 is derived from median samples collected over a rolling 5-year period, so has the potential to recognise reasonably foreseeable impacts of climate change. Further, discharge consents are of maximum 35 years duration. ORC has determined that climate change impacts over the next 50 years are likely to be within the already known extremes of climate events.</p> <p>This schedule, which was introduced through Plan Change 6A (Water Quality), was made operative on 1 May 2014 [prior to the revised NPSFM 2014 coming into effect on 4 July 2014].</p>
Policy A2 <i>[targets and methods to achieve compliance]</i>	Policy 5.4.2	Prefer avoidance of adverse effects on natural and human use values
	Policy 7.B.1	Management of water quality on lakes, rivers, wetlands and groundwater
	Policy 7.B.5	When considering any discharge of water from one catchment to another, have regard to Kai Tahu values.
	Rules 12.A	Rules for discharge of human sewage, including permitted and discretionary activities.
	Rules 12.B	Rules for discharge of hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, specified contaminants, and stormwater; discharges from industrial or trade premises and consented dams, including permitted, controlled, restricted discretionary and discretionary activities.
	Rules 12.C	Rules for other discharges, including prohibited, permitted, restricted discretionary or discretionary activities.

Rules 13.5	Rules for alteration of the bed of a lake or river, or of a regionally significant wetland.
Method 15.2.3	Liaison with water users
Method 15.3.2	Provision of information relating to the results of monitoring water bodies
Method 15.4.2	Advocacy and promotion to landholders and industry groups
Method 15.5.1	Development and implementation of codes of practice and environmental management systems
Schedule 1	<p>Schedule of natural and human use values covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1A: Natural values [by water body] • 1AA: Otago resident native fish – threat status • 1B: Water supply values • 1C: Registered historic places • 1D: Spiritual and cultural beliefs, values and uses of significance to Kai Tahu
Schedule 2D.1	<p>Schedule of matters to be considered when setting minimum flows in Schedule 2A, including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ecological values and the need for flow variability • existing water uses • environmental, social, cultural, recreational and economic costs and benefits of taking and using water
Schedule 3	<p>Schedule of human uses of Otago’s aquifers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3A: Human uses of particular aquifers • 3B: Ground water takes for the purpose of community water supply
Schedule 4C.1	<p>Schedule of matters to be considered when setting maximum allocation limits for aquifers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with surface water bodies and their values
Schedule 4C.2	<p>Schedule of matters to be considered when setting restriction levels for aquifers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with surface water and their values.
Schedule 6	Water bodies where damming is prohibited
Schedule 7	Water bodies sensitive to suction dredge mining
Schedule 9	Regionally significant wetlands and wetland management areas

	Schedule 15: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 15.2 • Table 15.3 	Table 15.2 specifies receiving water numerical limits and targets for surface water bodies, and Table 15.3 will specify aquifer contaminant concentration limits
Policy A3 <i>[consents and rules]</i>	Policies 7.B – 7.D	Policies that set up the discharge rule framework and guide consent decision making
	Rules 12.A – 12.C	All discharge rules, including for permitted and consented discharge activities. Rule 12.B.3.1 reserves discretion on treatment options, which enables best practicable options to be considered.
	Method 15.5	Codes of practice and environmental management systems.
Policy A4 <i>[interim direction]</i>	Not applicable.	This interim direction was added by Amendment 1 in 2011, and deleted when Plan Change 6A (Water Quality) became operative on 1 May 2014.
B. Water Quantity		
Objective B1 <i>[Safeguards in managing taking, using, damming or diverting water]</i>	Chapter 4	Kai Tahu ki Otago: water perspective sets out their approach to resource management and identifies issues of significance to Kai Tahu in managing water resources.
	Objective 5.3.1	Maintain or enhance natural and human use values of lakes and rivers
	Objective 6.3.1	River flows to maintain life supporting capacity and natural character for rivers
	Objective 6.3.2A	Maintain long term groundwater levels and storage for aquifers
	Objective 6.3.6	Minimise any adverse downstream effects of managed flows.
	Objective 6.3.7	Minimise adverse effects from fluctuations in levels of controlled lakes
	Objective 10.3.1	Maintain or enhance wetlands and their individual and collective values
Objective B2 <i>[Avoiding over allocation]</i>	Objective 6.3.3	Minimise conflict among those taking water. Also addressed through Policies for NPSFM Policies B4, B5 and B6, below
Objective B3 <i>[efficient allocation and use]</i>	Objective 6.3.4	Maximise opportunity for diverse consumptive uses of water which is available for taking.
Objective B4 <i>[significant wetland values and outstanding freshwater bodies]</i>	Objective 5.3.1	Maintain or enhance natural and human use values of lakes and rivers
	Objective 10.3.1	Maintain or enhance wetlands and their individual and collective values
	Objective 10.3.2	Recognise and sustain regionally significant wetlands

	Policy 10.4.1	Identifies Otago's regionally significant wetland values
	Schedule 9	Identified regionally significant wetlands and wetland management areas
Policy B1 <i>[freshwater quantity objectives]</i>	Policy 5.4.2	Prefer avoidance of adverse effects on natural and human use values
	Policy 6.4.0	Integrated resource management: understanding hydrological characteristics when managing water taking, including interrelationships between adjoining bodies of water.
	Policy 6.4.0A	Ensure the quantity of water granted is no more than that required for the purpose of use, taking into account matters including local climate and efficiencies.
	Rules 12.1	Rules for take and use of surface water.
	Rules 12.2	Rules for take and use of ground water
	Rules 12.3	Rules for damming and diversion
	Schedule 2	The schedules identify that 'any other relevant matter' to give effect to Part 2 of the Resource Management Act will be considered. This includes detail provided in the NPSFM under CA. National Objectives Framework.
	Schedule 4	The schedules identify that 'any other relevant matter' to give effect to Part 2 of the Resource Management Act will be considered. This includes detail provided in the NPSFM under CA. National Objectives Framework.
Policy B2 <i>[efficient allocation and limits]</i>	Policy 6.4.1A	Management of groundwater connected to surface water
	Policy 6.4.2	Primary allocation and primary allocation limits
	Policy 6.4.3	Primary allocation minimum flow
	Policy 6.4.4	Minimum flows
	Policy 6.4.5	When minimum flows will apply
	Policy 6.4.6	Exceptions for primary allocation and minimum flows
	Policy 6.4.7	Residual flow
	Policy 6.4.8	Specified community water supplies exempt from minimum flow requirements.
	Policy 6.4.9	Supplementary allocation and supplementary minimum flow
	Policy 6.4.10	Further supplementary taking
	Policy 6.4.10A1	Groundwater allocation system
	Policy 6.4.10A2	Maximum allocation limit
	Policy 6.4.10A3	Avoiding allocation beyond limit
Policy 6.4.10A4	When a ground water take will be no more	

		than under an existing consent
	Rules 12.0	Applications for taking water - prohibited activity
	Rules 12.1	Taking and use of surface water
	Rules 12.2	Taking and use of ground water
	Rules 12.3	Damming or diversion of water
	Methods 15.8	Calculating allocation and applying minimum flows
	Methods 15.9	Resource investigations, including for determining minimum flows.
	Schedule 2	This schedule covers specified restrictions on the exercise of permits to take surface water, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2A Primary allocation minimum flows and primary allocation • 2B Supplementary allocation and flows • 2C Aquifers where groundwater takes are considered as primary allocation • 2D Matters considered when setting minimum flows and allocation limits
	Schedule 4	This schedule covers the allocation and restriction regime for groundwater
Policy B3 <i>[transfer of take criteria, including efficiency]</i>	RMA S136	Transfer of takes are addressed initially through RMA Sections 136 and 413 [for deemed permits]. Where the terms of Section 136(2) are not met, a consent application is required, at which efficiency criteria will be applied, as for any consent application. Note allocation status is retained on transfer.
	Policy 6.4.17	Consent transfers retaining allocation status
Policy B4 <i>[efficient use methods]</i>	Policy 6.4.0A	Allocation for the purpose of use
	Policy 6.4.0B	Promotion of shared use and management of water
	Policy 6.4.0C	Nearest practicable source
	Policy 6.4.2A	When a primary allocation take will be no more than under an existing consent
	Policy 6.4.2AA	When actual taking reflects supplementary taking
	Policy 6.4.10A4	When a ground water take will be no more than under an existing consent
	Policy 6.4.11	Suspension of takes – by allocation type or aquifer level
	Policy 6.4.12	Water allocation committees
	Policy 6.4.12A	Water management groups
	Policy 6.4.13	Restriction of takes by Council-approved rationing regime

	Policy 6.6.0	Promotion of shared water infrastructure
	Policy 6.6.1	Promotion of water conservation practices
	Policy 6.6.2	Promotion of water storage
	Policy 6.6.3	Promotion of co-operation
	Rules 12.1	Taking and use of surface water
	Rules 12.2	Taking and use of ground water
	Method 15.2.1-3	Liaison
	Method 15.3.1	Information about effective water utilisation
	Method 15.3.2	Information about results of monitoring water bodies
	Method 15.4.2	Advocacy and promotion to landholders and industry groups
	Method 15.5.1	Codes of practice and environmental management systems
	Methods 15.7	Deemed permits
Policy B5 <i>[no over allocation]</i>	Policy 6.4.1	Surface water allocation system
	Policy 6.4.2	<p>The limit set for surface water primary allocation includes surface and connected ground water takes. It was set to ensure that ‘no-one is left dry’ [i.e. existing consented water takes are within primary allocation, regardless of any more stringent measure set in Schedule 2A] and that water users have security regarding the allocation status of water taken, important for both economic and community wellbeing.</p> <p>The allocation clawback provisions in this policy enable a better alignment between allocated water and water actually taken, with limit being reduced over time to the Schedule 2A or 50% default figure, as consents are surrendered, expire, replaced, cancelled or lapsed.</p> <p>Catchments are therefore fully allocated.</p> <p>Method 15.8.1.1 sets out how the assessment is undertaken to better align paper allocation with actual taking.</p>
	Policy 6.4.2A	When a primary allocation take will be no more than under an existing consent
	Policy 6.4.2AA	When actual taking reflects supplementary taking
	Policy 6.4.10A2	Maximum allocation limit
	Policy 6.4.10A3	Avoiding allocation beyond limit
	Policy 6.4.10A4	When a groundwater take will be no more than under an existing consent
	Rules 12.0	Applications for taking water - prohibited

		activity
	Rules 12.1	Taking and use of surface water
	Rules 12.2	Taking and use of ground water
	Method 15.8.1	These methods set out how allocation is calculated, for surface and ground water.
Policy B6 <i>[Phasing out over allocation]</i>	Policy 6.4.4	Determining minimum flows.
	Policy 6.4.5	When minimum flows are applied. ‘Over allocation’ in Otago relates to the second concept of the NPSFM definition: a point where a freshwater objective is no longer being met. With respect to surface water, when all deemed permits (mining privileges) are replaced by RMA resource consents, by 1 October 2021 or as soon thereafter as any decision is made or appeal resolved for consent applications lodged at least 6 months prior, then the current situation where consented water taking can continue until a river dries, or a water shortage direction is issued, will cease. At that time, the Objective B1 freshwater objectives should be achieved.
	Method 15.8	These methods set out how allocation is calculated, for surface and ground water.
	Appendix 2	Mining privileges in respect of water (deemed permits)
Policy B7 <i>[interim direction]</i>	Not applicable	This appendix shows how the operative plan provisions achieve NPSFM 2014 objectives, so interim policy direction is not needed.
C. Integrated management		
Objective C1 <i>[Integrated management]</i>	Proposed RPS Objective 1.1	Recognise and provide for the integrated management of natural and physical resources to support the wellbeing of people and communities in Otago
Policy C1 <i>[integrated management]</i>	Proposed RPS Policy 1.1.1	Integrated resource management
	Proposed RPS Objective 3.1 policy suite	Recognise, maintain and enhance the values of Otago’s natural resources.
	Proposed RPS Objective 3.2 policy suite	Identify, protect or enhance Otago’s significant and highly valued resources.
	Proposed RPS Objective 5.4 and Policy 5.4.5	Adverse effects of use and enjoyment of Otago’s natural and physical resources are minimised.
	Proposed RPS Methods	Various methods give effect to the above proposed objectives and policies.

Policy C2 <i>[RPS and integrated management]</i>	Proposed RPS: Objective 1.1	Recognise and provide for the integrated management of natural and physical resources to support the wellbeing of people and communities in Otago
	Policy 1.1.1	Integrated resource management
	Objective 4.5	Urban growth and development
	Policy 4.5.1	Managing for urban growth and development, including with respect to demand for natural resources and maintenance or enhancement of significant biological diversity
	Policy 4.5.7	Integrating infrastructure with land use, including with respect to effects on the values of natural and physical resources.
	Policy 5.3.2	Plantation forestry in dry catchments
	Policy 5.4.1	Avoiding objectionable discharges
	Schedule 5	Good urban design principles, including with respect to
CA. National Objectives Framework		
Objective CA1 <i>[National and other values]</i>		The NOF specified approach to establish freshwater objectives for Otago will be incorporated as part of any relevant plan change.
Policy CA1 <i>[Freshwater management units]</i>		Plan change required [Annual Plan W1 Regional Plan Water project].
Policy CA2 <i>[Fmu process]</i>		Undertaken through plan changes, including Annual Plan W1 Regional Plan Water project.
Policy CA3 <i>[Compulsory values]</i>		Plan change required [Annual Plan W1 Regional Plan Water project].
Policy CA4 <i>[Bottom line transition]</i>		Likely to not apply, as Otago freshwater objectives do not fall into this category.
CB. Monitoring plans		
Objective CB1 <i>[Monitoring]</i>	Annual Plan W2	SoE monitoring projects.
Policy CB1 <i>[Monitoring plan]</i>	Annual Plan W2	SoE monitoring projects.
CC. Accounting for freshwater takes and contaminants		
Objective CC1 <i>[Information]</i>	Chapter 19	Monitoring and review.
	Method 15.3	Information channels
Policy CC1 <i>[Accounting system]</i>	Annual Plan W2	SoE related projects.

Policy CC2 <i>[Publicising information]</i>	Method 15.3.2	Council's Water Info website provides links to a range of monitoring data. NOF monitoring data collected by Council is shared with LAWA (Land and Water Aotearoa). State of the Environment reports are also prepared for water users and the wider public.
D. Tangata whenua roles & interests		
Objective D1 <i>[Tangata whenua roles and interests]</i>	Chapter 4	Kai Tahu ki Otago: water perspective sets out their approach to resource management and identifies issues of significance to Kai Tahu in managing water resources.
	Objective 5.3.1	Maintain or enhance natural and human use values, identified in Schedule 1D, supported by lakes and rivers.
	Objective 5.3.2	Maintain or enhance spiritual and cultural beliefs, values and uses of significance to Kai Tahu, identified in Schedule 1D, supported by lakes and rivers
	Objective 6.3.5	Minimise adverse effects on the quality of receiving water, including its ecology and mauri, where such water is subject to any new inter catchment transfer.
	Objective 7.A.2	Enables discharges in a way that maintains water quality and supports natural and human use values, including Kai Tahu values
Policy D1 <i>[Working with iwi and hapu]</i>	Policy 5.4.4	Promotes opportunities for involvement by Kai Tahu in resource consent processing . Ongoing involvement in fresh water management is addressed through the leaders level forum Te Roopu Taiao, and at the plan development and consenting levels through Memoranda, contracts and ongoing liaison.
	Policy 7.B.2	Avoid objectionable discharges of contaminants to maintain natural and human use values, including Kai Tahu values
	Policy 7.B.4	When considering any discharge have regard to ... any potential adverse effects on use of any proximate coastal marine area for contact recreation and seafood gathering.
	Policy 7.B.5	When considering any discharge of water from one catchment to another, have regard to Kai Tahu values.
	Policy 7.B.6	When assessing any consent to discharge contaminants to water, consider the need for and extent of any zone for physical mixing, within which water will not meet the characteristics and limits described in Schedule

		15, by taking account of, amongst other matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sensitivity of the receiving environment • natural and human use values, including Kai Tahu values • natural character of the water body.
	Rules in Chapters 12 and 13 Restricted discretionary activity discretions	Throughout the rules, discretions are typically phrased as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Any adverse effects of the activity on any natural and human use value identified in Schedule 1 for any affected water body; or</i> • <i>Any adverse effect of the discharge on any natural or human use value, including Kai Tahu values and use of the coastal marine area for contact recreation and seafood gathering</i>
	Method 15.2.9	Liaison: Consultation with Kai Tahu
	Schedule 1D	Schedule of natural and human use values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1D: Spiritual and cultural beliefs, values and uses of significance to Kai Tahu
E. Progressive implementation programme		
Policy E1 <i>[progressive implementation plan]</i>	Not applicable	Council will fully implement the NPSFM before 31 December 2025, based on its current annual plan work programme.

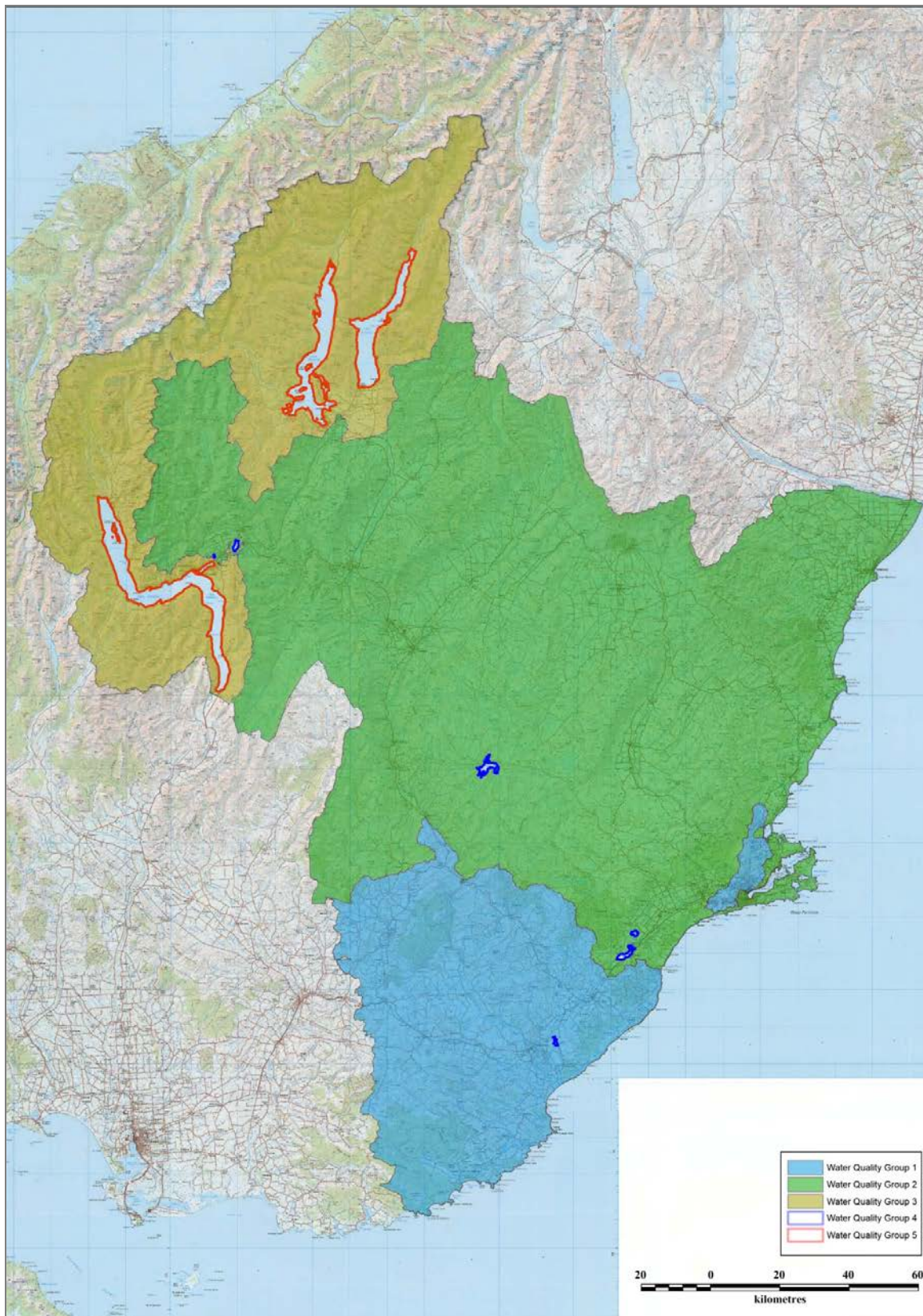
Appendix B: Number of monitoring sites for State of the Environment Monitoring of compulsory attributes in the National Objectives Framework

Compulsory national value	Compulsory attribute	Measure	Freshwater body type	Freshwater Management Unit (receiving water group) ¹				
				Receiving Water Group 1 (Rivers)	Receiving Water Group 2 (Rivers)	Receiving Water Group 3 (Rivers)	Receiving Water Group 4 (Lakes)	Receiving Water Group 5 (Lakes)
Ecosystem health	Phytoplankton	Biomass (chlorophyll <i>a</i>)	Lakes	-	-	-	8	8
Ecosystem health	Total nitrogen	Concentration	Lakes	-	-	-	8	8
Ecosystem health	Total phosphorus	Concentration	Lakes	-	-	-	8	8
Ecosystem health	Periphyton	Biomass (chlorophyll <i>a</i>)	Rivers	2	5	1	-	-
Ecosystem health	Nitrate (toxicity)	Concentration	Rivers	20 (1 NIWA) ²	47 (5 NIWA)	4 (2 NIWA)	-	-
Ecosystem health	Ammonia (toxicity)	Concentration	Lakes & rivers	20 (1 NIWA)	47 (5 NIWA)	4 (2 NIWA)	8	8
Ecosystem health	Dissolved oxygen	Concentration	Rivers (below point sources)	0	0	0	-	-
Human health for recreation	<i>E. coli</i>	Concentration	Lakes & rivers	20 (1 NIWA)	47 (5 NIWA)	4 (2 NIWA)	8	8
Human health for recreation	Cyanobacteria - planktonic	Biovolume	Lakes and lake-fed rivers	-	-	-	3	0

¹ Schedule 15 Table 15.2 Regional Plan: Water for Otago, refer to Map 1, following page

² Site monitored by NIWA

Map 1: Receiving Water Groups [Map 15.1 Water Plan]



REPORT

Document ID: A976978

Report Number: 2017/0621

Prepared For: Policy Committee

Prepared By: Fraser McRae

Date: 1 February 2017

Subject: **Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for Water Takes**

1. Précis

The Annual Plan sets out ORC's work programme for developing plan provisions managing water quantity including setting minimum flows and other flows that give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPSFM). This report discusses the project addressing setting other flows, referred to as residual flows.

2. Requirement to manage water quantity

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management requires ORC to set environmental flows and/or levels for all freshwater management units. This includes an allocation limit and a minimum flow (or other flow) for rivers.

The Regional Plan: Water for Otago (Water Plan) has included provisions relating to default and catchment specific minimum flows, water levels and allocation limits, and provisions for consent specific residual flows, since it became operative on 1 January 2004.

Updating the water management regime involves the plan change process, being:

1. Initial consultation with the community to exchange knowledge and define values, including issues and opportunities.
2. Development of options with assessment of effects.
3. Assessment of costs and benefits of options as part of final decision for preferred option.
4. Further consultation with community on preferred option.
5. Undertake plan change process, RMA First Schedule.

3. Water Plan work programme

The purpose of the various projects in this program is to undertake a series of plan changes to ensure that the Water Plan continues to meet community expectations and statutory requirements for water management.

The use of minimum flows within the water plan is necessary for those rivers where a tailored water quantity management regime is more appropriate than any default provisions in the Water Plan. In other rivers and tributaries consent specific residual flow limits to manage those takes are more appropriate.

These are most often needed when water is taken from a tributary. The water take may still meet the minimum flow for the wider catchment, but without a condition of consent requiring a flow of water to remain in the tributary downstream, the tributary could run dry. This can adversely affect other water users, and can have adverse environmental, cultural, and social effects.

The Water Plan currently includes residual flows to protect in stream ecological values and natural character, and can also require other flows to take into account downstream permitted and consented water users.

The purpose of the plan change is to improve the parts of the plan relating to these flow requirements. In particular, how flow requirements are assessed in water permit applications and when flow requirements may be needed.

The priority is to have the full water quantity management regime for all rivers and tributaries affected by deemed permits operative by 2018. This will provide certainty regarding the relevant regime for those needing to replace deemed water permits with resource consents, before October 2021, will know what information is required.

3.1 Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for Water Takes

This plan change was discussed in an earlier workshop, along with other changes setting minimum flows in the Manuherikia, Cardrona, Arrow and Upper Clutha/Mata-Au. The conclusion of this discussion sought the acceleration of this change as part of ensuring those seeking to replace deemed permits were well informed prior to 2021.

Consequently, the work program was adjusted with Plan Change 1D being proceeded with. As noted, elsewhere [Item 3.3 Director's report on Policy Progress January 2017] the schedule for public consultation has been notified to all holders of consents to take water and other interested parties.

4. Recommendation

That the report is received.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management

REPORT

Document ID: A969844
Report Number: 2017/0575
Prepared For: Policy
Prepared By: Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management
Date: 20 January 2017

Subject: **Director's report on Policy Progress January 2017**

This directorate report contributes towards:

Strategic Plan Goals:

1. Active resource stewardship
2. Active regional partnerships
3. Realisation of new opportunities

Annual Plan Projects

- G: Governance & Community
- L: Land
- P: Policy Development
- T: Transport
- W: Water

Proposed Regional Policy Statement:

1. Resource management is integrated
2. Kai Tahu values and interests are recognised and kaitiakitaka is expressed
3. The values of Otago's natural resources are recognised, maintained and enhanced
4. Communities in Otago are resilient, safe and healthy
5. People are able to use and enjoy Otago's natural and built environment

1. POLICY RESPONSES

1.1 National Policies, Strategies and Plans

The following were received over the eleven week period to 20 January 2017:

Agency	Number	Document
Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment	1	MBIE - Draft New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy 2017-2022

The following responses were made over the eleven week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
How Climate Change Affects Local Government document (Local Government New Zealand)	Feedback	ORC's feedback noted incorporating climate change implication in to urban design and land use decisions, and the need for better regulatory alignment and flexibility for responding to natural hazards risk and climate change, particularly between key tools such as the RMA and the Building Act.
Proposed Marine Protected Areas for New Zealand's South Island South-East Coast – public consultation document 2016 (Department of Conservation)	Submission	ORC supports the appropriate protection of the coastal marine area. The submission outlined the three ORC documents which relate to the use and protection of the coastal marine area, that being the operative and proposed regional policy statements and the Regional Plan: Coast for Otago. The submission also provided information of current ORC authorised activities within the coastal marine area which may be located within the proposed marine protected areas. ORC submitted the strategy must differentiate between acceptable and authorised activities that may occur within they proposed marine protected areas.
Consultation for Revised Policy for managing the commercial use of <i>Undaria pinnatifida</i> (exotic Asian seaweed – classified an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993). (Ministry for Primary Industries)	Feedback	ORC's feedback supported the draft generic permission. It noted that with the proposed marine protected areas for the Otago coast, it will be important to ensure the draft generic permission and the proposed marine protected areas, should they become operative, do not created any inconsistencies in how they are administered.
Block Offer for Petroleum Exploration (Ministry Business, Innovation and Employment)	Feedback	ORC's feedback outlined the policies of the proposed Regional Policy Statement for enabling petroleum exploration as well as managing adverse effects. It also noted the proposed marine protected areas strategy being considered for coastal Otago and that any permits should be mindful of this.

1.2 Territorial Authority and Regional Authority Plan Changes and Resource Consent Applications

The following were received over the eleven week period to 20 January 2017:

Agency	Number Received	Document
CODC	1	Resource Consent
QLDC	8	Resource Consent
DCC	2	Resource Consent
QLDC	1	Resource Consent - Special Housing Area

The following responses were made over the eleven week period:

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
Nil.		

1.3 Other Proposals

Proposal	Response Type	Issues
DCC Park and Recreation Strategy 2016-2026	Submission	ORC supports the strategy and expressed where the aims of the strategy are reflected in the proposed Regional Policy Statement. ORC endorsed the integrated strategy approach between this strategy and 7 other DCC strategies, noting overlaps and opportunities presented. In this case, it is that non-motorised transport corridors can achieve not only transport needs but also economic and health outcomes.

1.4 National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity

The National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPS - UDC) came into effect on 1 December 2016. It provides direction on planning for urban environments, and addresses the issue of land supply for urban growth.

As a consequence of Queenstown being a high growth area, Council must, for Queenstown:

- Monitor specified indicators for housing and business development capacity within 6 months (June 2017)
- Monitor indicators of price inefficiency by the end of December 2017
- Assess housing and business development capacity by the end of December 2017
- Produce a future development strategy by the end of December 2018
- Set minimum targets for sufficient, feasible development capacity and incorporate these into the regional policy statement, to be reviewed every 3 years
- Amend the proposed and operative regional policy statements without using the process in Schedule 1 of the RMA accordingly by the end of December 2018.

In December 2016, a paper was prepared for the region's Chief Executives, setting out four high level possible roles, ranging from doing the bare minimum to comply with the NPS - UDC to developing a region-wide response involving this Council. Queenstown Lakes, Central Otago and Dunedin indicated an interest in Council assuming a greater role, while Clutha and Waitaki did not see need for their participation.

Accordingly, Council will investigate and report back on how we can meet these new requirements efficiently and effectively, while adding value to the regional economy through greater involvement in urban growth management.

2. ORC: POLICY, PLANS AND STRATEGIES

2.1 Review of Regional Policy Statement

Twenty six appeals have been received on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement (RPS). In addition to most of these parties lodging an interest in becoming party to another appellant's appeal, a further 17 new parties have joined in, as provided for under Section 274 of the RMA.

The Environment Court has issued a timeline for managing appeals. The court envisages a parallel process for mediation and the sequential service of evidence. Initial mediation is to be completed by the end of February 2017. Remaining issues will continue to be mediated, as possible, while working towards commencing court proceedings in the week commencing 12 June 2017. This is a tight timeline and will require resourcing beyond that provided for in the Annual Plan.

Appeals have been lodged against almost all provisions of the Proposed RPS. These relate to the direction, content and level of detail of provisions, rather than the overall outcomes-based structure or ease of use of the document. Where possible, Council will look to resolve appeals through mediation.

Any amendment to the Proposed RPS, required to meet the new NPS-UDC, will be made without using the consultation requirements of Schedule 1 RMA. It is envisaged this will occur through mediation, or made at the time the RPS becomes operative following resolution of all appeals.

2.2 Comprehensive Water Quality Strategy

The two reports Council has commissioned (a literature review on the effects and risks from urban discharges; and a community survey on resident's interactions and expectations on water). The literature review is in its final stage of development, and will be delivered by the end of the month. The final report on the community survey has been completed, and should be received by Council and made available on Council's website:

'Waterways Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Findings', a report prepared by Versus Research for the Otago Regional Council, December 2016.

A preliminary strategic framework is being prepared, for discussion with Council and a wide range of stakeholders.

In that context, a councillor workshop on urban water quality is proposed for February 2017. It will be followed by meetings with city and district councils (councillors and staff) and with Kai Tahu, in Feb-March 2017, and an Urban Water Quality Forum, bringing together councillors, key stakeholders and technical experts, on 26 and 27 April 2017.

2.3 Biodiversity Strategy

Council is currently tendering for work to develop a Biodiversity Strategy (under Annual Plan Project L1 Biodiversity). It is envisaged that the consultant undertaking the project will assess what activities and organisations are working in the ecosystem and biological diversity field within Otago, present options for the Biodiversity Reference Group and Council to consider and then draft the strategy. Any work programme proposed will then be included with Council's review of the Long Term Plan and consulted with the community in early 2018.

2.4 Coastal Strategy

As part of Annual Plan Project W5 Coastal Strategy, an inventory of coastal information held by Council has now been completed. Some relevant background reports on coastal values, prepared as input to the review of the RPS and coastal local authority district plans, should be received by Council before being made publicly available on Council's website:

- *Coastal Environment of Otago Natural Character and Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes Assessments for:*
 - Clutha District
 - Dunedin City
 - Waitaki District

2015 reports prepared for Otago Regional Council and each council by Mike Moore, Ryder Consulting and Read Landscapes

The background assessments to these reports also warrant placement on the website as they assess all coastal areas, from which the above reports were derived:

- *Natural Features and Natural Landscapes Assessments* for Otago Regional Council and:
 - Clutha District Council
 - Dunedin City Council
 - Waitaki District Council
- *Natural Character Assessment Sheets* for Otago Regional Council and:
 - Clutha District Council
 - Dunedin City Council
 - Waitaki District Council

2015 reports prepared by Mike Moore, Ryder Consulting and Read Landscapes

Copies of these reports may be made available to councillors, on request.

A review of legal responsibilities relating to coastal resource management is now being undertaken.

3 WATER QUANTITY PLANNING

3.1 Proposed Plan Change 5A Lindis: Integrated water management

Council received 1 appeal on Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: integrated water management), while a further 15 Section 274 party to the proceedings notices have been lodged.

Environment Court-assisted mediation was held on 8 and 9 December 2016, with some 25 people attending. Further hydrological, cultural and ecological investigations are being undertaken as a result of this mediation:

The parties have agreed to report back to the Court by 28 April 2017 on progress and potential dates for a reconvened mediation.

3.2 Proposed Plan Change 5C: Manuherikia Catchment: Integrated water management

The science report Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek has been finalised. The summary of feedback from consultation number 1 has been completed. Consultation number 2 will take place from the 21st-23rd of March in Oturehua, Omakau and Alexandra. Option identification is being progressed. Preparation for consultation number 2 is underway. This includes background work required for option generation. KTKO has been supplied with an information package to inform their report on cultural values.

3.3 Proposed Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for Water Takes

The first stage of consultation for Plan Change 1D will commence at the end of February. Letters to invite permit holders of surface and connected groundwater takes and other stakeholders have just gone out.

The purpose of the plan change is to review the provisions in the Water Plan that relate to the setting of flow conditions on water takes. At the moment, conditions of consent can be placed on a water permit to ensure a flow of water remains for natural character or ecological purposes (known as a residual flow) or to ensure there is enough water for downstream permitted and consented takes.

In addition to the public drop-ins in February, the public will have the opportunity to have their say again in April and June as the plan change is developed. The plan change is anticipated to be notified July/August.

4 REGIONAL TRANSPORT

Regional Transport Committees

The Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees undertook an intervention logic workshop on 20 January, to help set investment priorities for the regional land transport plans.

The next meeting of the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs is scheduled for 20 March.

The Government has delayed the release of its draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport. The decision (made after the Kaikoura Earthquake) has the potential to cause extra churn and costs because the Committees need to keep to their timeline for reviewing their Regional Land Transport Plans, to meet the NZ Transport Agency's deadlines.

Queenstown Transport business case planning

Development of the integrated transport programme business case continues. This transport planning work will need to be integrated with planning aiming to give effect to the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- a) That the reports on the waterways research and coastal values assessments are received.
- b) That this report is noted.

Fraser McRae

Director Policy Planning and Resource Management