

FROM THE LAKES TO THE SEA

Developing a water quantity plan change for the Clutha River/Mata-au, Kawarau and Hawea Rivers & Lakes Wakatipu, Wanaka, Hawea, Dunstan and Roxburgh

About

This presentation will explain:

- Why we are doing a plan change
- The focus of the plan change
- How the Regional Water Plan will change
- The process
- The first stage of consultation (feedback options)
- How you can help us develop the plan change

Why we are doing this plan change?

Why we are doing this plan change

- The Resource Management Act 1991 makes ORC responsible for managing the taking and use of water.
- The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2017) requires ORC to avoid over-allocation and to set minimum flows/levels and allocation limits for all freshwater bodies.
- ORC has committed to the above in its Regional Water Plan & (Proposed) Regional Policy Statement.

Why we are doing the plan change

Growing demand for water in the region due to:

- Urban expansion in Central Otago and the Southern Lakes area;
- Agricultural expansion and intensification;
- Innovative irrigation technology requires high reliability of water supply sources; and
- Interest in alternative water sources due to minimum flow setting processes in “water-short” catchments.

Why we are doing the plan change

Growing awareness of the importance of water for our social, economic and cultural wellbeing

Growing risk of competition between:

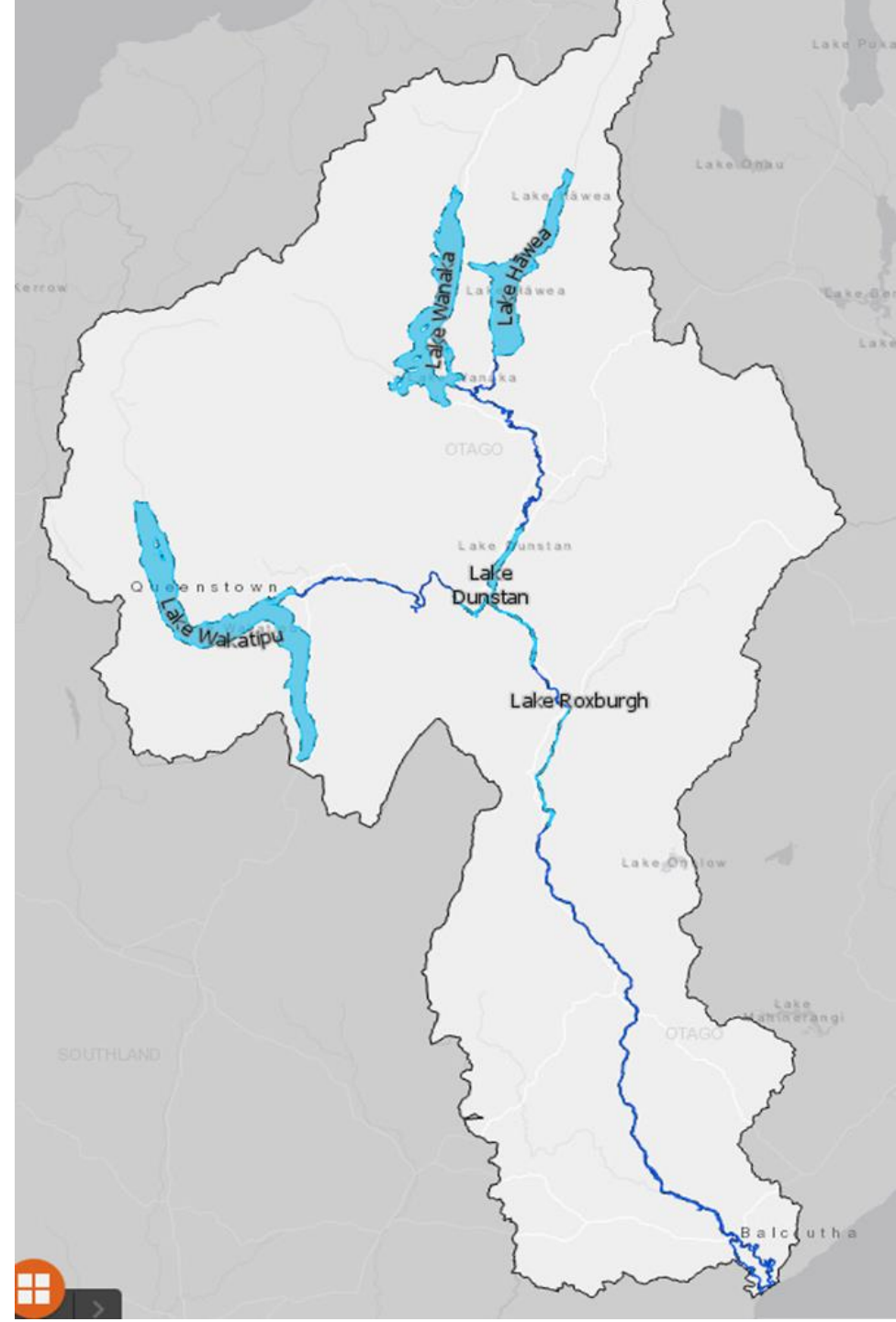
- New and existing water users;
- Diverse uses, values and activities; and
- Local interests vs. regional or national interests.

What is the focus of this plan change?

Focus of the plan change

To manage the amount of water in:

- The Clutha River/Mata-au, Kawarau and Hawea Rivers;
- The Lakes Wakatipu, Wanaka and Hawea (source lakes); and
- The Lakes Dunstan and Roxburgh (hydro lakes)



What changes will be made to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago?

Changes to the Water Plan

The Water Plan manages the amount of water by setting minimum flows/levels and allocation limits for rivers. These are set in Schedule 2 of the Water Plan.

This plan change will schedule:

- Minimum flows for the Clutha River/Mata-au, Kawarau and Hawea Rivers;
- Lake levels for the Lakes Wakatipu, Wanaka, Hawea, Dunstan and Roxburgh; and
- Allocation limits for each of the above water bodies.

What are minimum flows and allocation limits?

Minimum Flows

What: Restrict taking of water from river (or connected groundwater) under low flow conditions.

Why: Maintain aquatic ecosystems & natural character.

Who's affected: Consent holders & some permitted activity takes (public notice will suspend the taking of water).

Who's not affected: Scheduled community water supplies, some permitted activity takes, RMA s14 takes (domestic needs, animal drinking water and firefighting purposes), and deemed permits (but replacement resource consents will be captured).

Primary allocation limit (PAL)

What: Total volume that can be taken (or connected groundwater) by consent holders. Set as 50% MALF, or set in Plan through plan change process.

In over-allocated catchment sum of consented takes reduced to PAL through “sinking lid” policies.

Why: Maintain environmental values & provide certainty around water availability for existing consent holders.

Who’s affected: Applicants with proposed new takes.

Supplementary allocation

What: Volume of water that can be taken (or connected groundwater) at higher flows.


Allocated in supplementary allocation blocks.

Subject to a higher minimum flow.

Why: To allow for water taking during river high flows for storage, etc.

What are the different steps in the plan change process?

The process

- 
- Consultation on values
 - Technical investigations and specialist value assessments (e.g. ecosystem, economic, landscape, recreation, cultural)
 - Identify potential management options
 - Evaluate the impacts of options on identified values
Consultation on options
 - Identify a preferred management option
 - Consultation on the draft plan change
 - Notify plan change (call for submissions/further submissions)
 - Hearing of submissions
 - Decisions on the plan change
 - Appeals/mediation

What is this consultation on values about?

The first stage of consultation

Purpose: For us to hear what is important to you and others in the community.

For you to hear about the plan change development.

Format of today: Presentation followed by informal style consultation sessions where you can:

- Review the available information;
- Talk to ORC staff;
- Share your local knowledge & experiences; and
- Provide your opinion in the feedback form and at each activity table.

What we know so far

The Clutha River/Mata-Au: from the lakes to the sea

The Clutha River/Mata-au is the longest river in the South Island (338 km).

The Clutha River/Mata-Au: from the lakes to the sea

The Clutha River/Mata-au is the biggest river by volume in New Zealand.

The Clutha River/Mata-Au: from the lakes to the sea

Every 4 seconds the river discharges the equivalent of 1 Olympic swimming pool into the Pacific Ocean.

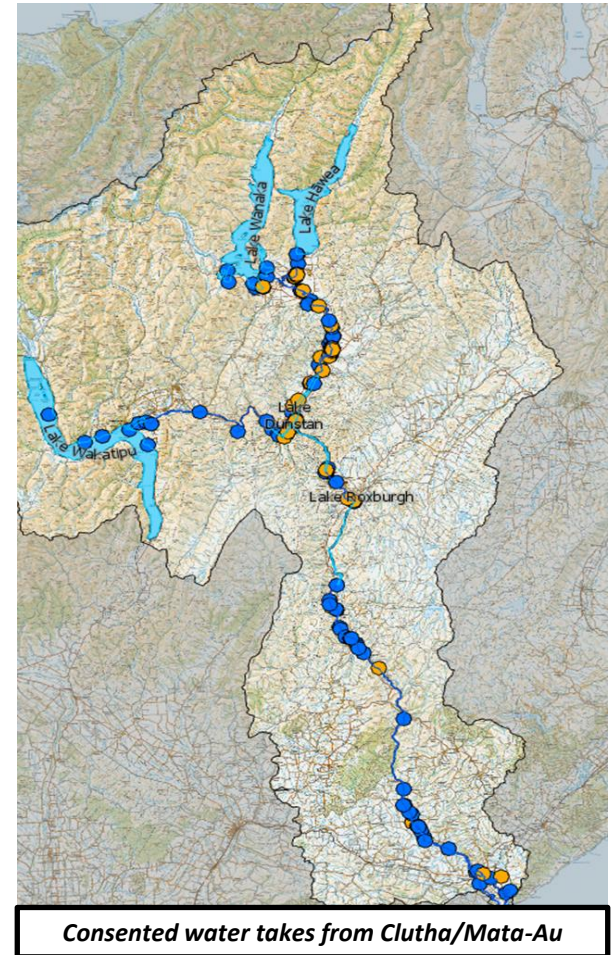
The Clutha River/Mata-Au: from the lakes to the sea

The mean flow of the Clutha River/Mata-au at Balclutha is more than 600,000 l/s.

Approximately two thirds of this water comes from the Lakes Wakatipu, Wanaka and Hawea.

Known values

- Kai Tahu values and traditions (e.g. Maori used the Clutha River/Mata-au as a passageway to the Southern Lakes, Fiordland and the West Coast)
- Landscape & scenic values
- Recreational values (e.g. boating, fishing)
- Significant habitat for native and exotic fish
- Heritage values (e.g. goldmining on the Clutha River/Mata-au & Kawarau)
- Hydro electricity generation, irrigation, commercial, communal and domestic uses



What would we like to know from you?

Tell us...

What are your values?

How important are these water bodies?

Do you have any concerns about the current state?

Do you have information about these rivers and lakes that you want to share with us?

How can you share your knowledge?

You can share your opinion in many ways

- On the day
 - Talk to staff on the day
 - Fill in a feedback form
- On-line (www.orc.govt.nz)
 - Fill in online feedback form
 - Provide comments on the interactive map
- Via email (clutha@orc.govt.nz)
 - Send us your comments
 - Email electronic feedback form

Feedback closes on Friday 19 Jan '18

The screenshot shows the 'Clutha River / Mata-Au Community Values Form' interface. It is divided into three main sections:

- 1. Select Form:** A dropdown menu with 'Natural Environment' selected.
- 2. Enter Information:** A form with fields for 'What issues?' (a dropdown menu), 'Comment' (a text area), 'Name' (a text field), and 'Email address' (a text field).
- 3. Select Location:** A section with a search bar and a map. The map shows the Clutha River catchment area with a red pin indicating a selected location.