

# Key themes of the small group session, Lindis Minimum Flows Workshop 1 (19 February 2009)

## 1. What is special about the Lindis River?

<b>Aesthetic:</b>	Attractive; catchment a largely unmodified natural feature.
<b>Commercial:</b>	Irrigation abstraction
<b>Ecological:</b>	Lindis' strategic spawning value; threatened galaxiids in headwaters.
<b>Recreation:</b>	Camping, swimming (shaded by willow trees), fishing and visiting
<b>Social:</b>	Dependence of community on farming, which is dependent on irrigation abstraction; community's only water supply

## 2. What is historical about the river and its use?

<b>General:</b>	Irrigation; its role in the formation of the community; farming infrastructure (gravity flow) and pastoral development; washing of sheep; dredging; different flow history; gold; Kai Tahu values in upper catchment; development of mining privileges (irrigation to water wheels to hydroelectric stations).
<b>Specific:</b>	Lindis Hotel, hut and tailings; Hut and tailings near hotel

## 3. How do you use the river for recreation?

Picnicking, swimming, walking, fishing and eeling, hunting (ducks, quail, rabbits), camping, limited water sports.

## 4. In what way is the river important for farms and businesses?

<b>Accessible:</b>	River water readily accessible: irrigation alternatives costly or limit production, and groundwater very limited.
<b>Commercial:</b>	Water takes are a major asset and are on titles.
<b>Irrigation:</b>	Irrigation: 10,000–20,000 extra stock units in catchment supported due to irrigation; in some areas increases stocking rate from 1 unit/ha without irrigation to 15 units/ha with irrigation.
<b>Social:</b>	Integral to community and employment;
<b>Tourism:</b>	Tourism and the river's aesthetics
<b>Uses:</b>	Pasture/irrigation, domestic use, stock water, viticulture, horticulture, flowers, vegetables, winter feed, tourism, as a boundary fence.

## 5. What is important about the river environment?

No comments.

## 6. What would you say is a characteristic flow pattern for the Lindis River?

- Nothing characteristic; changeable.
- Winter peaks and summer lows.
- Several floods observed in recent years.
- Snow-melt a prominent feature. Highest flow in Aug–Oct and most reliable if snow present.

- Water yield from river has dropped over last 10 years, with the bottom end of Lindis Peak getting drier.

**7. What are the tangata whenua values of the river?**

Little evidence in the mid- and lower reaches; perhaps in upper catchment.

**8. Any other stories of the river?**

Wattie Thompson lived up beyond Faithful Bridge. Saved all his gold to pay for a flight to Antarctica, and was on the fateful Erebus flight
A challenge for jet boaters to see how far they can get up (confluence to Dip Creek)
The schoolhouse was up by the old hotel, and the boys would pull the lever to stop the water ram from drawing water from the river

**9. How would you describe the river when, in your opinion, there is not enough water in the river? Give details.**

<b>Aesthetic:</b>	Aesthetic value reduced, and people crossing SH 8 bridge see a dried-up river.
<b>Commercial:</b>	Restriction on irrigation and farming (incl. loss of a boundary fence)
<b>Ecological:</b>	Missed opportunity for maintenance of fishery.
<b>Recreational:</b>	Recreation value reduced (incl. can't swim in areas)

**10. What effect do low river flows have on your activities?**

<b>Commercial:</b>	Rationing; drop out paddocks; de-stocking and sale at lower prices; supplementing stock feed; pastoral and irrigation investment choices work best with long-term certainty
<b>Ecological:</b>	Limits fish populations; low flow kills didymo
<b>Recreational:</b>	Reduction in swimming areas, but some areas warmer.

**11. What adaptations do you make when there is not enough water?**

<b>Commercial:</b>	Alter irrigation; priority rationing; fence stock off (from river); accommodate river changes through farm management response and ~65% water reliability factor.
<b>Recreation:</b>	Have to travel for swimming
<b>Storage:</b>	Not feasible: no hydroelectric potential, high cost, small supply areas, best land for storage also best land for irrigation, and best dam in river still has to pump.