

# Plan Change 5A: Lindis Environment Court Decision

## Lessons learned

# Overview of key dates

19 February 2009: First community workshop in Tarras

1 April 2014: ORC releases Consultation draft of Plan Change 5A.

8 August 2015: ORC notifies Plan Change 5A

13 August 2016: ORC releases decision on PC5A

# Overview of key dates

7 October 2019: EC releases decision on PC5A.

- 550L/s minimum flow & 1,640 L/s primary allocation limit
- 550 L/s min. flow + downstream galleries:
  - achieves purpose RMA, NPS-FM & Plan objectives
  - provides for efficient use of water / community wellbeing

29 October 2019: Fish & Game appeals EC decision on PC5A

8 November 2019: EC releases decision on LCG applications.

- Resource consents provisionally granted.
- Appeal parties to confer on proposed consent conditions

# Key lessons learned

- Achieving ecological outcomes is dependent on interplay between plan provisions (limits) and consent regimes (take locations, intake infrastructure and take patterns)
- Process can be streamlined and costs reduced by early agreement on:
  - Information gaps and needs
  - Technical data (ecology, hydrology)
  - Modeling and assessment methodologies
- Ongoing stakeholder involvement from start to finish (developing scenarios, identifying planning instruments and other non-regulatory management tools)

# Lindis EC Decision

## Lessons learned

Need to consider the EC decision against future context:

- NPSFM process for setting limits
- Upcoming Water Plan review
- Likely future changes to the statutory environment:
  - Draft for proposed new NPSFM
  - Draft for proposed new National Environmental Standard
  - RMA reforms

# Going forward...

- Critical stages in the Manuherekia FM process
  - Agreement on modelling
  - Development of/agreement on scenarios
  - Development of/agreement on Freshwater Objectives and attribute states
- Avoid complexity where possible (limit number of competing models & scenarios)
- Move at a consistent pace