

From: [Trudy Richards](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Trustpower submission on Proposed Plan Change 5
Date: Friday, 11 March 2016 3:33:38 p.m.
Attachments: [Trustpower submission PC5.pdf](#)

Kia ora

Please find attached a submission from Trustpower Limited on Proposed Plan Change 5 to the Land and Water Regional Plan.

Many thanks,

Trudy Richards

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**Submission by Trustpower Limited
on Proposed Plan Change 5 to the
Canterbury Land and Water
Regional Plan**

11 March 2016

Trustpower Limited ("Trustpower") makes the following submission on Proposed Plan Change 5 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan ("Plan Change 5").

Trustpower could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

Trustpower would like to be heard in support of its submission.

If other persons make a similar submission, then Trustpower would consider presenting joint evidence at the time of the hearing.

Trustpower Limited

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "TR" followed by a stylized flourish.

Trudy Richards

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Introduction and Overview

Trustpower is one of the nation's largest electricity retailers/generators. Trustpower's New Zealand based generation portfolio is derived primarily from renewable energy sources across 20 hydroelectric power schemes ("HEPS") and two wind farms spread throughout the country.

Within the Canterbury Region, Trustpower owns and operates the Coleridge HEPS and the Montalto and Highbank Power Stations. The Montalto and Highbank Power Stations also form part of the water conveyance infrastructure that comprises the Rangitata Diversion Race ("RDR"). Trustpower is a shareholder in the company that owns and operates the RDR; being Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited ("RDRML").

Trustpower has also developed the Lake Coleridge Project. In this regard, Trustpower successfully varied the National Water Conservation (Rakaia River) Order 1988 ("Rakaia WCO") in 2013 to enable the project which involves augmenting the use of the Coleridge HEPS in a staged manner so that water stored in Lake Coleridge is able to be utilised for enhancing irrigation reliability on the Canterbury Plains. The project enables water stored in Lake Coleridge during defined flow conditions to be exempt from the minimum flow and flow sharing restrictions in the Rakaia WCO upon its subsequent release and use for irrigation.

Trustpower discharges the stored water from Lake Coleridge on request from Central Plains Water Limited ("CPWL") and Barhill Chertsey Irrigation Limited ("BCI"), both who hold resource consent to then abstract that water and distribute it to irrigators in their command areas. Trustpower also provides stored water to one individual irrigator, and the collective of individual irrigators known as the Rakaia River Irrigators Associations ("RRIA"). These private entities hold individual resource consents to abstract water for their own purposes.

The Lake Coleridge Project is expected to support up to 90,000 ha of irrigation at high levels of reliability once it is integrated into the wider irrigation infrastructure on the true-left and true-right banks of the Rakaia River.

Against this background, Trustpower has a particular interest in the amendments to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan that are proposed via Plan Change 5.

Trustpower's Submission

Trustpower has some concerns around the interpretation of the definition of 'principal water supplier'. Plan Change 5 proposes the following definition:

a publicly or privately owned supplier ~~that is the sole abstractor~~ of water which is subsequently conveyed and distributed to constituent irrigation schemes, community and/or stockwater schemes, hydro-electricity generators and/or other users of the water.

This definition could potentially capture the Coleridge HEPS and the Lake Coleridge Project in light of Trustpower storing and releasing water, via the Rakaia River, for subsequent abstraction and use by CPW and BCI.

Trustpower releases water to CPW and BCI, who subsequently abstract and distribute this water to their shareholders for irrigation and other uses. Trustpower does not hold the relevant resource consents for the use of this water on-farm. In this regard, CPW and BCI control the conveyance and distribution of the water over their command areas.

As such, Trustpower seeks that the definition of 'principal water supplier' is amended to ensure it is explicitly clear that the Lake Coleridge Project is not inadvertently included. If it were included, Trustpower would effectively have to hold consents for the management of land uses. It is unnecessary for Trustpower, BCI and CPW to all hold the same consents relating to the use of land.

Trustpower seeks the following relief from the Canterbury Regional Council.

Amend the definition of 'principal water supplier' as follows:

A publicly or privately owned ~~supplier~~ entity who holds resource consents or other authorisations to supply and distribute water ~~that is the sole abstractor of water which is subsequently conveyed and distributed~~ to constituent irrigation schemes, community and/or stockwater schemes, hydro-electricity generators and/or other users of the water.

As an alternative, Trustpower seeks that the definition of 'principal water supplier' is amended so as to ensure that by Trustpower releasing water from Lake Coleridge, it is not responsible for holding resource consents or producing farm management plans for subsequent use of that water by irrigation schemes or individual farmers.

