History

- TWUG formalised in 2000
- Five existing AA consents, held by 4 shareholders
- Shares held in Opuha Water, therefore augmenting Opihi River catchment.
- Takes total 252l/s, approx 614ha irrigated
- Consents called in and reviewed in 2002
- Outcome new minimum flow regime with higher minimum flows and 50% restrictions
- Three now have off-stream storage ponds to improve reliability
Current flow regime for AA permits:

- 600L/s May to Aug
- 500L/s Sept
- 400L/s Oct to Apr
- Oct to Apr, between 400 and 500 allocation cannot exceed 50%
Key Concerns

- TWUG has been actively involved with the sub-catchment group over the past 3 years.
- A year ago TWUG decided with the lack of robust information, the group needed to engage expert support.
- Key to understand potential plan implications, including NPS and proposed NES for the TWUG.
- TWUG has been reviewing the potential effect on reliability of supply.
Key Concerns

- Increases in minimum flows will affect reliability of supply and reductions in allocation, farmers business viability
- Concerns with Ecan hydrology report, including lag times and naturalizing of the flows at the minimum flow site at Cave.
- Report prepared by Richard de Joux has not been accepted by Ecan, hindering progress
- The catchment allocation must be correct
- Must ensure the we agree on all flow stats, to then determine any new flow regime
Key Concerns

- Lack of information, expert reports and direction from Ecan

- Reliability of supply analysis is key for irrigators and cannot be determined until flow stats are agreed and suitable flow regimes then modelled.

- Unsure of catchment nutrient allocation. Whether GMP is appropriate considering water quality is ‘good’
General Outcomes Sought

- To recognize the TWUG hold Opuha Water shares, and the contribution of augmentation to the Opihi catchment
- Any changes in the minimum flow regime and allocation, must be based on robust evidence including economic impacts associated with change in reliability of supply, working with TWUG
- The cost of investment must be considered
- To understand the Tengawai River goes dry regularly, when irrigators are on restriction
General Outcomes Sought

- Water alternatives must be available and time to make any changes
- Harsh restrictions to apply to those not part of the TWUG who actively share water.
- For high flow ‘B’ takes, investigate removing the 15 cumecs at SH1 and replace with an increased Tengawai River flow
- Winters flows may be able to increase
- TWUG generally accept GMP but must ensure the proxies as per Irrigation NZ concerns are addressed first.
Proposed Solutions

- TWUG wish to be actively part of determining the catchments solutions.
- Expert technical meetings with ECAn and stakeholders to agree on the catchment hydrology and stats.
- ECAn to provide the reviewed catchment allocation and methodology.
- ECAn to provide all required expert reports, to base solutions on robust facts.
Proposed Solutions

• TWUG review this information, and then work through with ECan and stakeholders suitable solutions, prior to the plan being drafted.

• This will provide the best opportunity to determine solutions for the environment and irrigators reliability of supply.

Unless changes are made now to this process, all parties will be fighting it out at a hearing, which goes against collaborative processes and ensuring the best outcome.
Questions?

• We welcome questions 😊