

From: [Ron Smith](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Plan Change 7 to the LWRP Submission
Date: Thursday, 12 September 2019 3:33:42 PM

Please see submission attached and please send confirmation receipt.

Thankyou



Submission on Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

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Submitter ID:

File No:

Form 5: Submissions on a Publicly Notified Proposed Policy Statement or Regional Plan under Clause 5 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Return your signed submission by 5.00pm Friday 13 September 2019 to:

Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Land and Water Regional Plan
Environment Canterbury
P O Box 345
Christchurch 8140

Full Name: Ronald David Smith Phone (Hm): _____

Organisation*: Cascade Creek Ltd Phone (Wk): _____
* the organisation that this submission is made on behalf of

Postal Address: PO BOX 12263 Phone (Cell): 0213291199
Beckenham Christchurch Postcode: 8242

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Contact name and postal address for service of person making submission (if different from above):
RON SMITH

Trade Competition

Pursuant to Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission may make a submission only if directly affected by an effect of the proposed policy statement or plan that:

- a) adversely affects the environment; and
- b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

Please tick the sentence that applies to you:

- I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission; or
- I could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

If you have ticked this box please select one of the following:

- I am directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission
- I am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission

Signature: R D Smith Date: 11 September 2019

(Signature of person making submission or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making the submission)

Please note:

(1) all information contained in a submission under the Resource Management Act 1991, including names and addresses for service, becomes public information.

- I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission; or
- I do wish to be heard in support of my submission; and if so,
- I would be prepared to consider presenting my submission in a joint case with others making a similar submission at any hearing

SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 7 TO THE CANTERBURY LAND AND WATER REGIONAL PLAN

Clause 5 First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991

TO: Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

By email: mailroom@ecan.govt.nz

Name of submitter:

- 1 Name: **CASCADE CREEK LIMITED**
 Address: PO Box 12263, Beckenham, Christchurch
 Contact: Ron Smith
 Email: ronsmith@xtra.co.nz

Trade competition statement:

- 2 Cascade Creek Limited could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

Proposal this submission relates to is:

- 3 This submission is on proposed Plan Change 7 (PC7) to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (PC7).

Wish to be Heard:

- 4 We wish to be heard in support of this submission.
5 We would be prepared to consider presenting a joint case with others making similar submissions at the hearing.

Ronald David Smith
Director
Cascade Creek Limited

Date: 13 September 2019

Submission

Our submission in opposition to PC7 is that changes recommended in the PC7 will be detrimental to existing farming systems, the commercial activity derived from those farming systems and the community and individual wellbeing of the Fairlie Basin and its people

Background & summary

I have been involved in the farming operations in Ashwick Flat, Fairlie Basin, since early 1994. Two years following, my direct involvement in the farming enterprise commenced. I have also, over the years, fished the area extensively.

I recall the low flows in the Opuha and Opihi rivers during dry periods, where there was often almost no water at all and, in some stretches, completely dry.

I became involved with the early promoters of the Opuha Dam and began discussing the various aspects of the proposed construction, including the multitude of advantages the Dam's construction would bring to the community. Following those discussions, I became a shareholder in the late 1990's as I passionately believed that it was through this project that I could contribute to the benefit to the area's farming enterprise, alongside the opportunity to enhance the systems of the Opuha and Opihi Rivers and what that could mean not only for businesses, but for community, sporting, ecological and environmental purposes. Several years later, the shares in the Dam were taken over by the present holders, so that the ownership would remain with the people of South Canterbury, rather than a large national electricity corporate.

The Dam provided an opportunity for all of South Canterbury to derive a benefit. It seems, with current proposals within PC7, that these purposes are being disregarded.

I pose the question - what would the Opuha and Opihi Rivers look like had the Dam not been built, and had the original shareholders not invested significant private funds not only for business advantage but for general community benefit?

The proposals seek to rely on a base line created by private investment by farmers and businesspeople in the area (through financial contribution to the Dam system) to restrict that same community and those businesses.

The base line imposed by Environment Canterbury ("**ECan**") for the purposes of PC7 should be the base line that existed prior to that private investment – not seek to rely on the environmental advantage created by that investment in order to restrict those very same investors – in a sense, *having one's cake and eating it too, or taking from the hand that feeds.*

Over the years since the Dam's inception, several resource consents have been applied for and subsequently granted by ECan with regard to water use and restrictions.

Businesses farming the Ashwick Flat have invested approximately \$40,000,000 of private funds into the land and infrastructure, with decisions being based on current minimum water flows. Changes to those minimum water flows will have a consequential effect on land values, in many cases rendering those businesses unsustainable. Using a base line improved by those businesses to then restrict them into a position of economic unsustainability seems punitive and would appear to disregard the private investment made by many of these entities into a system to improve the environmental impact of those business operations.

Rendering these businesses unsustainable impacts not only business opportunity of the farming enterprises. It will negatively impact the community in a multitude of ways: it will ensure major job losses as businesses cannot sustain staff levels, thriving communities will be affected, meaning less families in the area, children in schools, wider employment opportunities in the district, resulting in cutbacks in tax revenue, diminishing land values thereby resulting in a similar cut back in rates revenue for Mackenzie District Council and ECan alike.

In 2008 Cascade Irrigation Race Limited (“**CIR**”) instigated a private piped irrigation system for its shareholders, one of which being the submitter (Cascade Creek Limited).

The construction of the infrastructure has proved hugely beneficial for the shareholders and also for the wider community and environment – costs were reduced; water losses, nutrient leaching and other negative environmental impacts were significantly reduced as a result of the water being reticulated via underground pipelines rather than open races.

We believe that the proposed Plan Change will jeopardise these benefits, which were highlighted to ECan and affected parties when consents for the system were applied for. The system benefits shareholders of CIR using the system, the wider community, Fish & Game New Zealand and the wider environmental wellbeing, as set out below:

CIR shareholders and users of system

- Saving of Energy - No pumping costs, compared with use of previous pumping systems via open water races of over 500kwh of electricity
- More productivity from the land using the same amount of water previously taken from the South Opuha River – water previously lost could now be used for productive irrigation
- Water losses, and therefore wastage, is minimised.

The Community

- More productivity means more direct on farm employment opportunities.
- More jobs for the district due to increased population.
- More children at local schools.
- Saving of previous electricity usage necessitated by the previous open water race system
- Approximately 48 full time jobs and a further equal number of part time jobs –
- Off farm employment of approximately 100 jobs in the supporting area – contractors, transport, engineering, farm supplies, schools, retail, Mackenzie District Council, ECan.
- Taxation paid by those employed
- Higher land values meaning increased rates paid to Mackenzie District Council and ECan

Fish and Game New Zealand and wider environmental wellbeing

- Replaced open water races, which can transfer nutrients and other unwanted organisms (such as didymo) between waterways.
- Stopping transfer of water between catchments.
- Avoids water losses, thereby less wastage
- Avoids the risk of animals polluting and physically damaging waterways.

Summary

The Opuha Dam, created by private investment, provided enormous environmental benefits by increasing water flow. The water base line that existed prior to the significant private investment is what should be used by Environment Canterbury (“**ECan**”), rather than (as PC7 proposes) relying on the advantage created by that investment in order to restrict those very same investors, thereby disregarding the benefit they have provided, and continue to provide, to the environment.

The proposals of PC7 seeks to restrict those very parties who have created this environmental advantage – those who have invested some \$40,000,000 of private funds in reliance on a minimum water flow. The proposed changes will render their businesses unsustainable. Such unsustainability will have significant flow on effects for the community, the environment and the wider Mackenzie District bringing about reductions in farm employment opportunities, subsequent decline in local population and therefore further losses of employment opportunities, diminishing land values and therefore rates income for the Mackenzie District.

We implore ECan to consider the many and varied negative impacts on individuals and the wider community by placing further restrictions on the very parties that have not only created the improved water quality and flow of the Opuha and Opihi Rivers, but the very enterprises that create, and are at the heart of, opportunity for the community as a whole.

PLAN CHANGE 7 - REASONS FOR SUBMISSION AND DECISIONS SOUGHT BY CASCADE CREEK LIMITED

The specific provisions of PC7 that my submission relates to are:		My submission is that:		I/we seek the following decisions from Environment Canterbury (ECan)
Section & Page Number	Sub-section/ Point	Oppose/ support (in part or full)	Reasons	
14.1A Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Definitions (pages 125 to 128)	"Pro Rata Partial Restrictions"	Oppose in part	<p>In relation to the proposed partial restriction regimes for the North Opuha, Upper Opihi and Te Ana Wai rivers set out in Section 14.6.2 Environmental Flow and Allocation Regimes, the proposed definition of "pro-rata partial restriction" would require AA and BA permits, that are operated as part of a water user group, to start pro-rata partial restrictions when surface water flows correspond to the particular tributary's minimum flow plus the sum of all AA, AN and BA allocations for the tributary.</p> <p>This approach fails to take into account the fact that AN permit holders are required to cease abstraction according to the Opihi River mainstem minimum flows at State Highway 1 (set out in Table 14(u)) before partial restrictions commence in the tributaries. It is therefore unnecessary for AN allocation to be accounted for in the partial restriction "management block" for AA and BA Permits in the North Opuha, Upper Opihi and Te Ana Wai rivers.</p> <p>Including AN allocation in the partial restriction "management block" for AA and BA Permits, would reduce the amount of water available for abstraction under AA and BA permits at critical times for irrigation, with adverse implications for pasture production and consequently farm business viability and/or profitability. Such "costs" of the implementation of the proposed definition are unjustified when the alternative above would achieve the same ecological objective (i.e. protection of the tributary minimum flows) as PC7.</p>	Amend definition of "Pro-rata partial restriction" so that AA and BA permits that are operated as part of a water user group are subject to pro-rata partial restrictions that commence when the flows in the North Opuha, Upper Opihi and Te Ana Wai River correspond with the minimum flow for the tributary, plus the sum of the allocation authorised for abstraction under AA and BA permits that are being operated as part of a water user group.
14.4 Policies				
Abstraction of water (page 132)	14.4.6B (Takes for storage)	Support	I/we consider that enabling water abstracted under AA, BA, AN and BN permits (in particular) to be used for storage is an appropriate mechanism to offset at least some of the reduction in reliability of water supply that is anticipated from the implementation of the environmental flow and allocation regimes introduced by PC7.	Retain Policy 14.4.6B as notified.
14.6.2 Environmental Flow and Allocation Regimes (pages 166-171)	Table 14(m): North Opuha Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime – AA, AN, BA Permit From 1	Support in part	<p>Subject to the submission point relating to the definition of "Pro-rata restriction" above, I/we support the environmental flow, allocation and partial restriction regime proposed in Table 14(m), which is consistent with the Flow and Allocation Working Party's (FAWP) recommendations to the OTOP Zone Committee. I/we believe this proposed regime will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement Recommendation 5.3.2(l) Table 12 of the OTOP ZIPA; • incentivises the formation and operation of water user groups and therefore, water use efficiency; 	Subject to the relief sought in relation to the definition of "Pro-rata restriction", retain Table 14(m) as notified.

	January 2025		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assist in achieving the water quality and quality outcomes of the various higher order planning instruments. 	
	Table 14(n): South Opuha Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime – BA Permit From 1 January 2025	Support in part	<p>I/we support the environmental flow, allocation and partial restriction regime in Table 14(n), which is consistent with the FAWPs recommendations to the OTOP Zone Committee. I/we believe this proposed regime will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implement Recommendation 5.3.2(l) Table 9 of the OTOP ZIPA; incentivises the formation and operation of water user groups and therefore, water use efficiency; assist in achieving the water quality and quality outcomes of the various higher order planning instruments. 	Retain Table 14(n) as notified.
	Table 14(o): South Opuha Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime – BA Permit From 1 January 2030	Oppose in full	<p>The increases in environmental flows in 2030 for South Opuha proposed in Table 14(o) will result in measurable reductions in the amount of water presently available for abstraction, and consequently, current levels of pasture production. The anticipated reductions in pasture production will have a significant adverse effect on the viability and/or profitability of farm businesses in the South Opuha catchment. These significant costs are not justified for the incremental environmental benefit anticipated.</p> <p>I/we consider that the need (or otherwise) for increases beyond the 2025 environmental flows proposed in Table 14(o) would be best addressed at the time of ECan's next review of the OTOP sub-regional provisions (which should commence prior to 2030). This could then be informed by the water quality and quantity data gathered during the intervening period.</p> <p>I/we therefore considers that Table 14(o) should be deleted.</p>	<p>(a) Delete Table 14(o) in its entirety; and</p> <p>(b) As part of its expected 10-year review of the OTOP sub-regional plan provisions (in 2030 or prior), determine whether any increases beyond the environmental flows set out in Table 14(n) environmental flow regime is necessary in light of water quality and quantity data gathered during the intervening period and the directives of the higher order planning instruments applying at the time of such review.</p>
	Table 14(p): Upper Opihi Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime – AN and BA Permits From 1 January 2025	Oppose in part	<p>Subject to the submission point relating to the definition of “Pro-rata restriction” above, the Catchment Group supports the environmental flow, allocation and partial restriction regime in Table 14(p), is consistent with the FAWPs recommendations to the OTOP Zone Committee. I/we believe this proposed regime will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implement Recommendation 5.3.2(l) Table 14 of the OTOP ZIPA; incentivises the formation and operation of water user groups and therefore, water use efficiency; assist in achieving the water quality and quality outcomes of the various higher order planning instruments. <p>The Upper Opihi water users (with Opuha Water Ltd (OWL)) have reviewed the current consented allocations and shared allocations for the Upper Opihi and have identified a discrepancy in the allocation limit of 474 L/s included in Table 14(p), which does not account for all shareholding in that catchment. Based on this assessment, in order for the allocation limit to reflect current allocations (being based on the lesser of the shared or consented allocations), the allocation limit should be 493.45 L/s, which comprises 428.05 L/s of BA allocation and 65.4 L/s of AN allocation.</p>	Subject to the relief sought in relation to the definition of “Pro-rata restriction”, amend the allocation limit in Table 14(p) to reflect OWL shareholding, to 493 L/s.
	Table 14(q): Upper Opihi Environmental Flow and Allocation	Oppose in full	<p>The increases in environmental flows in 2030 for the Upper Opihi proposed in Table 14(q) will result in measurable reductions in the amount of water presently available for abstraction, and consequently, current levels of pasture production. The anticipated reductions in pasture production will have a significant adverse effect on the viability and/or profitability of farm businesses in the Upper Opihi catchment. These significant</p>	<p>(a) Delete Table 14(q) in its entirety; and</p> <p>(b) As part of the expected 10-year review of the OTOP sub-regional plan provisions (in 2030 or prior), determine whether</p>

	Regime – AN and BA Permits From 1 January 2030		<p>costs are not justified for the incremental environmental benefit anticipated.</p> <p>I/we consider that the need (or otherwise) for increases beyond the 2025 environmental flows proposed in Table 14(p) would be best addressed at the time of ECan's next review of the OTOP sub-regional provisions (which should commence prior to 2030). This could then be informed by the water quality and quantity data gathered during the intervening period.</p> <p>I/we, therefore, consider that Table 14(q) should be deleted.</p>	any increases beyond the environmental flows set out in Table 14(p) environmental flow regime are necessary in light of water quality and quantity data gathered during the intervening period and the directives of the higher order planning instruments applying at the time of such review.
	Table 14(r): Te Ana Wai Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime – AA, AN and BA Permits From 1 January 2025	Support in part	<p>Subject to the submission point relating to the definition of "Pro-rata restriction" above, the Catchment Group supports the environmental flow, allocation and partial restriction regime in Table 14(r), is consistent with the FAWPs recommendations to the OTOP Zone Committee. I/we believe that this proposed regime will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement Recommendation 5.3.2(I) Table 17 of the OTOP ZIPA; • incentivises the formation and operation of water user groups and therefore, water use efficiency; • assist in achieving the water quality and quality outcomes of the various higher order planning instruments. 	Subject to the relief sought in relation to the definition of "Pro-rata restriction", retain Table 14(r) as notified.
	Table 14(s): Te Ana Wai Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime – AA, AN and BA Permits From 1 January 2030	Oppose in part	<p>For environmental purposes I/we understand that it may be appropriate for there to be a move towards pro-rata restrictions applying to AA, AN and BA Permits that authorise abstraction from the Te Ana Wai river, as proposed by Table 14(s). I/we understand that the FAWP recommended this change to the OTOP Zone Committee in 2018, but on the basis that the change take effect from 2035 (not 2030 as proposed by PC7).</p> <p>I/we understand that the introduction of pro-rata partial restrictions will adversely impact the viability and/or profitability of farm businesses within the Te Ana Wai catchment, and necessitate changes to existing farm systems/capital infrastructure or the consideration of alternative water supplies to offset expected reductions in reliability. A further five years (beyond that proposed in Table 14(s)) is required to provide affected permit holders with time to adjust to the proposed change. I/we do not believe this timeframe is unreasonable, particularly as it aligns with the timeframe contemplated for the implementation of the environmental and flow regime proposed by PC7 for the Temuka Freshwater Management Unit in Table 14(l).</p>	Amend to provide for pro-rata restrictions to take effect from 2035 (not 2030 as proposed in the notified version of Table 14(s))
	Table 14(u): Minimum Flow Restrictions in the Opihi Freshwater Management Unit for AN Permits		I/we are unclear how the 5600l/s allocation for AN and AA surface users has been calculated. This appears to be a 'carry over' from the Opihi River Regional Plan and may not fully account for <u>all</u> AN and AA surface water and stream depleting groundwater takes within the Opihi FMU, especially with the introduction of the new stream depletion methodology. It is essential that this allocation limit is corrected.	(a) Amend the AN allocation limit in Table 14(u) so that it reflects all allocation attributable to AN and AA surface water permits and groundwater permits with a direct or high stream depleting effect.
	Table 14(y): Opihi Freshwater Management	Oppose in part	I/we support the proposed BN environmental flow and allocation regimes for the South Opuha, North Opuha, Upper Opihi and Te Ana Wai rivers contained in Table 14(y), together with the associated partial restriction regimes and Lake Opuha level restrictions. OWL also supports the proposed environmental flow and associated partial restriction	(a) Amend the BN allocation limit for the Opihi Mainstem in Table 14(y) so that it reflects all allocation attributable to BA and BN surface water permits and groundwater permits with a direct or high stream depleting effect.

	Unit BN Permit Environmental Flow and Allocation Regimes		<p>regime for the Opihi Mainstem in Table 14(y). In OWL's view, these regimes are necessary to off-set the reduced reliability of AA, AN and BA permits resulting from increases in applicable minimum flows proposed under PC7, and therefore implement Policy 14.4.6B.</p> <p>OWL is, however, concerned that the allocation limit for the Opihi Mainstem in Table 14(y) does not fully account for all BA and BN surface water and stream depleting groundwater takes, especially with the introduction of the new stream depletion methodology. It is essential that this allocation limit is corrected.</p>	
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The specific provisions of PC7 that my submission relates to are:		My submission is that:		I/we seek the following decisions from Environment Canterbury (ECan)
Section & Page Number	Sub-section/ Point	Oppose/ support (in part or full)	Reasons	
Definitions				
14.1A Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Definitions (pages 125 to 128)	Fairlie Basin High Nitrogen Concentration Area	Oppose	I/we oppose the spatial extent of the Fairlie Basin High Nitrogen Concentration Area, on the basis that it is not supported by the water quality data referred to in the technical documents supporting PC7.	<i>Specific areas should be mapped, not a wide ranging map covering the district.</i>
	Levels Plain High Nitrogen Concentration Area	Oppose	I/we oppose the spatial extent of the Levels Plain High Nitrogen Concentration Area, on the basis that it is not supported by the water quality data referred to in the technical documents supporting PC7.	<i>Specific areas should be mapped, not a wide ranging map covering the district.</i>
14.4 Policies				
Nutrient Management (pages 135 – 137)	14.4.19 (Water quality targets in HNCAs)	Oppose in part	While I/we acknowledge the rationale for a 10 year consent duration (e.g. to fit with plan review cycle) as proposed by Policy 14.4.19, this creates uncertainty at a time when considerable investment is required from farmers. The 10 year consent duration should be a minimum, but able to be extended if there is certainty around water quality improvements.	Amend Policy 14.4.19 so that consents greater than 10 years duration can be granted once the water quality targets are achieved
	14.4.20A	Oppose in part	I/we strongly support the intention of proposed Policy 14.4.20A to enable farmers to apply for an extension of time to achieve the staged reductions required by Policy 14.4.20(c). However, as notified, Policy 14.4.20A would only enable a request for an extension to be made at the time that an application for land use consent (i.e. consent to farm) was made to ECan. It would be preferable to allow consent holders to request an extension at any time.	Amend Policy 14.4.20A to enable holders of existing land use consents to apply for an extension of time
	14.4.20B	Support	I/we support the approach taken by Policy 14.4.20B in terms of providing a methodology where the Farm Portal is unable to generate a Baseline GMP Loss Rate or Good Management Practice Loss Rate or the number generated is demonstrated to be erroneous.	Retain Policy 14.4.20B as notified.
	14.4.20C	Oppose in part	While I/we accept that ECan should have the power to review land use consents for farming activities in the circumstances contemplated by Policy 14.4.20C, I/we consider that the scope of the consent review should be limited to a review of nutrient discharge allowance conditions.	Amend Policy 14.4.20C so that only the conditions relating to the nutrient discharge allowance can be reviewed.
Timaru Freshwater Management Unit: Levels	14.4.41	Support	I/we support the intent of Policy 14.4.41 which requires % reductions in nitrogen discharge from industrial or trade waste. I/we believe this is fair and equitable as the burden is shared across both farming and industrial activities.	Retain Policy 14.4.41 as notified.

Plain HNCA (page 141)				
14.5 Rules				
14.6.4 High Nitrogen Concentration Area Staged Reductions Page (page 173)	Table 14(zc) Staged reductions in nitrogen loss for farming activities in high nitrogen concentration areas	Oppose	In reducing nitrogen loss – an activity we are already regulated on and doing our best to improve on in the area - we as a farming family and community are already taking steps to reduce our footprint in this area. By proposing a 10% loss over the shortened time period we feel we are being penalised for our current efforts and this is not enough time to “fix” the problem.	<i>In dealing with the “triple Whammy” of the proposed affect to us and we propose the 10% reduction is changed to a staged reduction and split as 5% by 2030 and other 5% to 2035.</i>

The specific provisions of PC7 that my submission relates to are:		My submission is that:		I/we seek the following decisions from Environment Canterbury (ECan)
Section & Page Number	Sub-section/ Point	Oppose/ support (in part or full)	Reasons	
14.4 Policies				
Opihi Freshwater Management Unit: Surface Water Flows (pages 140-141)	14.4.35	Oppose in part	<p>As an OWL shareholder, I/we support the intent of Policy 14.4.35, to maintain connectivity and flow variability in the augmented Opuha and Opihi rivers. This aligns with the way OWL has been operating the Opuha dam, and the ethos of the OEFRAG approach to managing the Opihi River over the years, including in particular, during the severe water short years of 2014, 2015 and 2016.</p> <p>I/we support clause (b) which specifies that the flows at Saleyards bridge should be measured on a 24-hour average with instantaneous variance of not greater than 500l/s below the minimum flow. From an operational point of view this is a practical and efficient approach.</p> <p>In terms of clause (e) relating to fresh management, I/we understand that the Adaptive Management Working Group (AMWG) have been working to develop an artificial fresh regime to most efficiently manage periphyton and achieve improved environmental outcomes. I/we support the AMWG's proposals and submission in this regard.</p>	Adopt the decisions sought in the AMWG's submission on PC7 relating to artificial freshes.
	14.4.37 and 14.4.38	Oppose in part	<p>I/we support the approach adopted by PC7 of enabling the implementation of an alternative management regime for the Opihi River mainstem, which takes into account the available water within the Lake Opuha catchment, through a discharge consent held by the Opuha Dam operator.</p> <p>I/we are, however, very concerned about the implications of clause (b) of Policy 14.4.37 and Policy 14.4.38 for the efficient and effective management of the Opihi River.</p> <p>The requirements of clause (b) that an adaptive management regime (i.e. Level 1 or Level 2 flow regime) could only be entered at the start of a calendar month and must remain in place for the whole month fails to recognise that climatic conditions and water demand can change significantly over a month. These requirements would lead to delayed intervention, which in turn is more likely to lead to a fully drained Lake and associated loss of minimum flow control. For example, if the Level 1 regime thresholds are crossed a day after the first day of the month, Policy 14.4.37(b) would result in a month's delay in moving into a Level 2 regime - a month's delay is considerable.</p> <p>I/we also believe there is no valid reason to delay exiting a regime until the start of the next calendar month if conditions indicate that abstractions and minimum flows are likely to be able to be met for the upcoming months. This delay could be up to a month, would provide no appreciable benefit but would cause unnecessary stress to the Opuha and Opihi river systems and abstractors.</p>	<p>Adopt the decisions sought in the AMWG's submission on PC7 relating to Policies 14.4.37 and 14.4.38 to provide for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to enter into an adaptive management regime on any day if the requisite thresholds are met; • If an adaptive management regime is entered, the adaptive management regime must apply for a minimum of 14 days; and • The ability to enter into a Level 2 Regime only if a Level 1 Regime has been in place for at least 14 days; • The adaptive management regime "exit" thresholds are the equivalent of the Level 1 and Level 2 Lake level entry thresholds.

			I/we understand that the AMWG have been working to develop an adaptive management regime that is based on being able to enter the regime on any day if the requisite thresholds are met. I/we also understand the group have been considering an 'exit' strategy – i.e. when an alternative management regime can be lifted. I/we consider these essential amendments in order to ensure the storage in the Lake Opuha is able to be managed in order to achieve connectivity and variability, and completely support the AMWG in their proposal.	
14.5 Rules				
Augmentation of the main stem of the Opuha and Opihi Rivers (page 155)	14.5.29	Oppose in part	<p>I/we wish to highlight the crucial role OEFrag has historically had in the management of flow releases from the Opuha Dam. The OEFrag model has been hugely successful in ensuring the effective management of stored water in Lake Opuha during water short periods for the benefit of the Opuha and Opihi river systems and abstractors. This is largely due to the breadth of local knowledge, experience and technical expertise held by its members. I/we strongly believe that OEFrag should continue to have an advisory role under PC7 on the implementation of an adaptive management regime.</p> <p>I/we understand that the AMWG are proposing that this advisory role be detailed within an operational management plan that would be submitted by OWL in its application for a discharge consent. This seems a logical and practical way of providing certainty to OEFrag membership, and the wider community, that consultation will occur before any Level 1 or Level 2 regime is implemented.</p>	Adopt the decisions sought in the AMWG's submission on PC7 relating to Policy 14.5.29, to require that an operational management be required as part of a resource consent application that includes details of the matters for consideration and a consultation process with OEFrag to assist in the decision of if and when the Level 1 and Level 2 regimes should be entered into or exited.
14.6 Allocation and Water Quantity Limits				
14.6.2 Environmental Flow and Allocation Regimes	Table 14(v): Minimum Flow Restrictions in the Opihi Freshwater Management Unit for AA and BA Permits (2025)	Oppose in part	<p><u>Adaptive management regime</u></p> <p>I/we strongly support the inclusion of an adaptive management regime for Opuha and Opihi rivers in PC7 which proposes a tiered approach to environmental flows that would apply according on Lake Opuha levels, snow pack and inflows to Lake Opuha, based on the concepts developed by the AMWG prior to the notification of PC7.</p> <p>I/we are, however, concerned that the proposed adaptive management regime has simply been copied and pasted from an application for a plan change back in 2008, that was drafted by OEFrag. While I/we appreciate that this '2008 application' would have reflected best knowledge at the time, 11 years on our knowledge and experience has greatly improved, especially in light of the dry period of 2014-16. I we understand that the '2008 application' was trialled by OEFrag in 2014/15, but it was ineffective because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lake level threshold for moving into a Level 1 Regime or Level 2 Regime equates to 50% full, which is too low to make any meaningful impact on Lake storage (i.e. it is too little to late). • The reductions in minimum flows through the Level 1 and Level 2 Regimes would not be enough to make meaningful water savings, for subsequent use for the benefit of the downstream environment and abstractors. • The ability to make water savings under a Level 1 Regime between April and August is severely constrained. In this regard it is noted that in 2015, WSD were in place for much of the winter in order to reduce the minimum flows 	Delete the partial restriction in Table 14(v) and adopt the decisions sought in the AMWG's submission on PC7 relating to the partial restrictions for AA and BA permits at Saleyards Bridge, which provide for variable monthly restrictions, as detailed in Table 14(v(iii)) of the AMWG's submission.

		<p>prescribed by the ORRP and improve the likelihood of a full Lake at the start of the 2015/16 season, to meet the needs of the downstream environment and abstractors.</p> <p>I/we very much doubt that PC7's adaptive management regime would enable the flexibility required for proactive management of available storage in the Lake Opuha catchment. I/we anticipate that we will just have to resort back to relying on Water Shortage Directions into the future.</p> <p>I/we understand that the AMWG have identified a set of revisions to PC7 that it believes will achieve the outcomes sought by PC7, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Amendments to the "full availability" flows proposed in Table 14(v), which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more water for the river environment during the summer months (by moving water from the shoulder periods to Jan/Feb); and • Ensure sufficient flows for salmon migration (Mar/Apr) and whitebait migration (particularly Oct) (i.e. flows will be maintained at SYB during these critical periods at greater than 6 cumecs, which prior research has indicated is the flow required to maintain the mouth of the Opihi river open). (b) Amendments to the "Level 1 Restriction" flows proposed in Table 14(v), which also provide more water for the river environment during the summer than PC7 and otherwise respond to changing climatic conditions in the catchment; and (c) Amendments to the "Level 2 Restriction" flows proposed in Table 14(v), to align with PC7's proposed 2022 Opihi mainstem environmental flow requirements for AN permits of 2.6 cumecs at Stage Highway 1 (Table 14(u) and historical IFIM habitat modelling). <p>I/we support these proposed revisions.</p> <p><u>Partial Restrictions</u> The approach taken to restrictions under PC7 represents a significant change from the present planning and consenting framework under the ORRP. I/we accept that the ORRP regime's 50% restriction when Lake Opuha reached RL375m was too late to make any measurable benefit (i.e. in terms of water savings). However, the approach under PC7 of linking a "Level 1 Restriction" to a flat 50% restriction and a "Level 2 Restriction" to a flat 75% restriction, will have significant consequences for the irrigators. This is too harsh and fails to recognise the benefits of the Opuha Dam which irrigators own and have funded.</p> <p>Alternatively, I/we believe that the restriction regime should recognise the criticalities between river demand and irrigation for different times of the year (i.e. variable monthly restrictions). It should also provide for exemption for AA and BA permit holders in the North Opuha, South Opuha, Upper Opihi and Te Ana Wai Rivers which have lower</p>	
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			<p>reliability as a result of tributary-specific environmental flow regimes.</p> <p>I/we are also very concerned about the implications of the proposed partial restrictions being a daily 24 hour volumetric restrictions. This fails to recognise the operational constraints of the irrigation infrastructure of consent holders. It would also lead to gross inefficiencies in terms of water released from the Dam if, for example, a 50% restriction was in place and shareholders could only irrigate 12 out of the 24 hours. From our experience in the dry period of 2014-16, a restriction regime based on a fortnightly volumetric restriction led to a 'smoother' operation of the dam and greater water efficiency. I/we are sure that OWL and irrigators could provide the necessary real time information to ECan to provide them comfort from a compliance point of view.</p>	
	Table 14(w): Minimum Flow Restrictions in the Opihi Freshwater Management Unit for AA and BA Permits (2030)		<p>I/we oppose the minimum flows under "Level 1 Restriction" and "Level 2 Restriction" in Table 14(w) for the reasons addressed above in relation to Table 14(v).</p> <p>I/we also fundamentally oppose the provision in Table 14(w) for increases in the "full availability" environmental flows beyond those proposed in Table 14(v), which would take effect from 2030. I/we understand that these increases in "full availability" environmental flows in Table 14(w) are intended to reflect the flow gains in the tributaries (Upper Opihi and Te Ana Wai) from increased minimum flows in 2030. I/we would argue, however, that this is not hydrologically correct, it has no underlying scientific rationale and does not appear to have been informed by any detailed analysis. As I/we understand it, the proposed "full availability" environmental flows for 2030 have a number of significant issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It fails to recognise that the relationship between flows in the tributaries (Upper Opihi and Te Ana Wai rivers) and saleyards bridge is much more complex than the 1:1 ratio assumed in Table 14(w). • It would result in approximately 5.2 million cubic metres (on average per year) of additional water released from Opuha Dam to meet this increased minimum flow, as the AMWG's analysis indicates additional water from the Upper Opihi and Te Ana Wai would only be flowing 1% of the time. The release of this extra water would reduce the availability of stored water volume in Lake Opuha for environmental and irrigation releases by approximately 8% per year on average, which may increase the frequency of water shortages into the future. • the approach raises issues of equity as PC7 does not include a similar increase in the environmental flows for AN Permits. <p>I/we also understand, from ecological work that the AMWG advisers have undertaken, that for the physical habitat of most native fish species, juvenile brown trout and salmonid spawning, increasing the minimum flows is actually detrimental.</p>	Delete Table 14(w) in its entirety
	Table 14(x): Alternative Management Regime	Oppose in part	<p>I/we have concerns about the thresholds proposed in Table (x) and how they may be implemented in the future. As an example, the Lake Level trigger for a level 1 regime is at 50% full. Our experience of 2014/15 is that this is fundamentally flawed and does not provide for early enough intervention. Overall, I/we believe that the thresholds in PC7</p>	Delete Table 14(x) and adopt the decisions sought in the AMWG's submission on PC7 relating to the alternative management regime triggers, which presents a revised set of thresholds for lake level, snow storage and lake inflows.

	Triggers		are too conservative to enable the proactive management of flows in the Opihi River. I/we understand the AMWG have agreed on an alternative set of thresholds for Lake level, snow storage and lake inflows and I/we support these.	
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The specific provisions of PC7 that my submission relates to are:		My submission is that:		I/we seek the following decisions from Environment Canterbury (ECan)
Section & Page Number	Sub-section/ Point	Oppose/ support (in part or full)	Reasons	
14.4 Policies				
Tangata Whenua (page 130 – 132)	14.4.2 -14.4.5	Oppose in part	<p>I/we feel that there needs to be greater clarity/explanation around the term 'culturally significant sites' used in PC7 Policy 14.4.2. At the moment it is unclear whether the 'sites' are those referred to in Policies 14.4.3 – 14.4.5 (i.e. Mataitai protection Zone, wahi tapu, wahi taonga, nohoanga, rock art management zones) or if they are other sites. This needs to be clarified for both the consenting authority and land owners.</p> <p>If sites are not specifically identified it becomes difficult for us, as landowners, to understand how we can avoid or minimise effects of our activities.</p>	Amend Policy 14.4.2 to clarify the intended meaning of "culturally significant sites".
Efficient Use of Water (page 133)	14.4.12 (Replacement consented allocation based on past use)	Support in part	I/we support the exemption in Policy 14.4.12 from the general requirement to restrict volume and/or rate of take when an existing permit is replaced to reflect actual use (as prescribed by Method 1 of Schedule 10, CLWRP) for AA, BA and KIL permits, as permits affiliated to OWL. This is consistent with ZIPA Recommendation 4.9.5(II).	Retain Policy 14.4.12 as notified
Transfer of Permits (page 134)	14.4.13	Oppose	<p>I/we understand that the primary focus of proposed Policy 14.4.13 is to address the phasing out of over-allocation. However, there is no clear statement within Policy 14.4.13 or PC7 regarding which of the various surface water catchments and groundwater allocation zones within the sub-region that have been assessed by ECan as "over-allocated". It is therefore unclear which surface water catchments and groundwater allocation zones that the directives contained in proposed Policy 14.4.13 will apply to. It is essential that certainty about the sub-region's over-allocated resources be provided in Policy 14.4.13.</p> <p>Importantly, it is my/our understanding that none of the surface water catchments from which water is abstracted under permits affiliated to OWL are over-allocated, and this should be made clear.</p> <p>Furthermore, clause (b) of proposed Policy 14.4.13 does not provide an express exclusion from the requirement to surrender allocation on transfer for water permits affiliated to OWL (i.e. AA, BA and KIL) Permits, as contemplated by ZIPA Recommendation 4.9.3(IV). This needs to be addressed.</p>	<p>Amend Policy 14.4.13 to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include specific reference to the surface water catchments and groundwater allocation zones within the sub-zone that were over-allocated as at the notification of PC7. Clarify the exemption from the requirement to surrender allocation on transfer for water permits affiliated to OWL.
Out of Catchment Water (page 134)	14.4.14	Oppose in part	The intended meaning and scope of the term "catchment" in Policy 14.4.14 is uncertain. Specifically, it is not clear whether the intention of Policy 14.4.14 is to address water introduced from outside the OTOP sub-zone (which I/we believe is the intent of the Policy) or, for example, movement of water between the tributary catchments of larger catchments in the OTOP sub-zone. OWL considers Policy 14.4.14 requires amendment to ensure there is greater certainty around the intended scope and application of the Policy.	Amend Policy 14.4.14 so that the term 'catchment' is replaced by 'Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora sub-region'

Livestock Exclusion from Waterbodies (pages 134 – 135)	14.4.15 (Application of region-wide stock exclusion provisions)	?	We support and uphold best practice stock management in and around waterways.	As a group we all feel responsibility towards best stock management practice. And have therefore at our own cost already undertaken fencing of waterways on our properties and management of stock around these areas. Retain Policy 14.4.15 as notified.
Freshwater Management Unit Specific Policies:				
Opihi Freshwater Management Unit: Surface Water Flows (page 141)	14.4.40	Oppose in part	I/we support the principle of global consenting under Policy 14.4.40. However, as notified, the Policy would only enable Scheme-wide global consenting. It may be more appropriate (from an operational and/or management perspective) for global consenting of permits affiliated to OWL on a sub-catchment scale (e.g. for permits to cover all affiliated takes in each of the individual tributaries of the Opihi). PC7 should not foreclose that option.	Amend Policy 14.4.40 to remove reference to the term 'single'.
RULES				
Take and use of surface water (pages 144/145)	14.5.12 (Transfer of water permits)	Oppose in part	<p>As already addressed earlier in the submission, I/we believe that further certainty is required in PC7 around which of the OTOP sub-region's freshwater resources are over-allocated. This is necessary to provide appropriate guidance around which transfers condition 5(b) of Rule 14.5.12 will apply to.</p> <p>Condition 3 of Rule 14.5.12 does not provide an express exclusion from the required for volume on permits transferred for irrigation be calculated on the basis of past use, as contemplated by ZIPA Recommendation 4.9.3(IV). In addition, condition 5(b) of Rule 14.5.12 does not provide an express exclusion from the requirement to surrender allocation on transfer for water permits affiliated to OWL (i.e. AA, BA and KIL Permits), as also contemplated by ZIPA Recommendation 4.9.3(IV). This express exclusion needs to be made clear in the rules.</p> <p>As an Opuha Water shareholder, I/we believe it is unnecessary to restrict the transfer of permits affiliated to OWL from tributary catchments to the Opuha/Opihi mainstem or Lake Opuha, as done in Rule 14.5.12. Such transfers should be enabled by PC7 as they would assist in taking pressure off the tributary catchments and do not result in any increase in Opihi mainstem allocation (as OWL already releases water to compensate for the effects of such takes on the Opihi mainstem).</p>	<p>Amend Rule 14.5.12 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify which of the OTOP sub-regions freshwater resources are over-allocated Clarify the exclusion of OWL shareholders specified in ZIPA recommendations 4.9.3(IV). Provide for transfers of permits affiliated to OWL from the tributaries to the Opuha/Opihi mainstem and Lake Opuha.
Stock Exclusion from Waterbodies (page 154)	14.5.25 and 14.5.25A	Support	As addressed above in this submission on Policy 14.5.15, we consider that Rules 14.5.25 and 14.5.25A are appropriate and reflect best practice stock management in and around waterways.	Retain policy as notified
Transfer of AA and BA Water Permits to a Principal Water Supplier	14.5.31 and 14.5.32	Oppose in part	<p>As noted above in relation to Policy 14.4.40, I/we support PC7's framework for global consenting. However, OWL the requirement that a global consent obtained through Rule 14.5.31 must authorise all existing AA and BA permits is unnecessary and problematic.</p> <p>It is also unnecessary for the rule to limit the rate of take to the lesser of current consented</p>	Amend Rules 14.5.31 to delete reference to 'determined as the lesser of current consented instantaneous rates of take or shareholding entitlements with Opuha Water Limited'.

(pages 155-156)			instantaneous rates of take or shareholding entitlements with Opuha Water Limited, as proposed under condition 2 of Rule 14.5.31, as this does not recognise the role of carriage water for OWL's sub-scheme consents, which are an essential component of such consents but are not covered by "shared" entitlements or water supply agreements with OWL.	
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