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To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Plan Change 7 to the LWRP Submission
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Attachments: [Mackenzie District Council Submission Letter PC7 LWRP - Final.pdf](#)

Please find attached a submission from the Mackenzie District Council

Regards

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Mackenzie District Council

13 September 2019

Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

Email: mailroom@ecan.govt.nz

Dear Environment Canterbury,

Submission: Plan Change 7 to the Land and Water Regional Plan

Introduction

The Mackenzie District Council (MDC) provides governance, leadership, and community representation for the Mackenzie District.

MDC represents the ratepayers and residents of the Mackenzie District and has responsibility for the provision of community water supply services. MDC's role in the provision of community water supply services, requires management of the existing water supply portfolio, upgrading and improving water supply service infrastructure to meet increases in demand on the system.

The Mackenzie District Council are a considerable stakeholder in terms of water supply management in the Mackenzie District, with an interest in their continued operation in order to supply an agreed level of service to the community.

MDC administers surface water take consents within the proposed Opihi Fresh Water Management Unit that provide for community drinking water supplies, rural water schemes and stock water and changes to the Land and Water Regional Plan provisions have the potential to affect the general operation of the MDCs community water supply and the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of its community.

Structure of Submission

This submission provides a commentary on the provisions of Part B of PC7 which are discussed below.

The MDC's submission on the PC7 is structured as follows:

- Key Areas of Support
- Key Areas of Concern

MDC has identified key areas of support and concern in relation to Part B of PC7.

Key Areas of Support

Part B - PC7

MDC supports the principals behind the introduction of Section 14 Orari – Temuka- Opihi – Pareora (OTOP) into the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (CLWRP) for the purpose of giving effect to the NPSFM and to achieve the fresh water outcomes set out in the region-wide sections of the CLWRP for the Opihi Fresh Water Management Unit (OFMU) and broader OTOP region.

MDC recognises the importance of managing land, freshwater, and the protection of sites of cultural significance in the OTOP sub-region in ways that balance cultural, economic and recreation use, landscape and biodiversity values, for both individual and community good.

Protection of sites of cultural significance

MDC is fully supportive of provisions that enable the protection of sites of cultural significance across the OTOP sub-region and in particular within the OFMU in order to manage effects on cultural values.

Community Water Supplies, Including Network Supplies – Policy 14.4.10

MDC is supportive of the provisions in PC7 that seek to protect and provide for community water supplies, ensuring MDC can maintain the quality and reliability of drinking-water and the policy approach contained within PC7, in particular Policy 14.4.10.

MDC recognises Policy 14.4.10 seeks to exclude community water supplies from the minimum flow, residual flow, partial restriction conditions, environmental flow and allocation regimes conditional on a Water Supply Strategy being developed in accordance with Schedule 25 and is implemented.

MDC is supportive of this policy as it provides for MDC's interest as a provider of community water supplies while enabling Council to identify water supply management strategies that best suit the community.

Key Areas of Concern

The effects on Mackenzie District Council and Mackenzie Stakeholders of the Implementation of a two stepped process for allocation reductions

MDC recognises a number of policies seek to maintain all consented abstractions within applicable flow and allocation regimes. These policies capture MDC's AN community water supply permits.

MDC recognises the need to provide for the certainty in relation to environmental flows and allocations in order to achieve the cultural, economic and recreation, aesthetic and landscape values and biodiversity outcomes that are sought under this plan change.

MDC supports the implementation of the 2025 dates for the changes to the environmental flow and allocation regimes set out in tables 14(m) to (14(y) and specifically those that relate to MDC (14(p) and 14(q)). Prior to implementation of the 2030 environmental flow and allocation regimes MDC seeks an assessment of the results from the 2025 changes to ensure the 2030 changes are necessary.

Of particular concern are the implications of imposing a second round of water restrictions, through the proposed stepped process, before considering the effects and outcomes of the first round of reductions.

MDC asks that the Step 2 restrictions are considered through a separate plan change process, allowing for a thorough assessment of the effects of the first step before setting further reductions.

Effects on Mackenzie Stakeholders of introducing limits on the nutrient management – Nitrogen and Phosphorus

While MDC recognises the importance of introducing measures to manage nutrient discharges in order to avoid adverse effects on water quality for ecosystem health and drinking water outcomes, it is important that measures to manage nutrients do not have unintended economic and social effects on the wider community.

Mackenzie as a district relies heavily on the rural community for their contributions to the local economy.

The rural community makes a significant contribution to the local economy both directly and indirectly and it is important that the proposed requirements to manage nutrients in the OFMU are achievable from a social, economic and environmental perspective. MDC is concerned about the potential impact of the timeframes for nutrient management imposing unrealistic demands on the rural community that may in turn, have flow on effects for the wider Mackenzie District.

MDC asks that the time frames for nutrient management are carefully considered and achievable from social, economic and environmental perspectives, achieving the outcomes sought without compromising the ability of the rural community to carry out their business in a sustainable economic manner.

Location of recorder sites for the measurement of flow

MDC recognises Plan Change 7 seeks to manage AA, BA, KIL, AN and BN permits in accordance with the environmental flow and allocation regime in Tables 14(m) – (y) (Policy 14.4.36).

Under Policy 14.4.36 the location of the recorder sites for AA, BA, KIL, AN and BN permits allocations are in different locations, which can influence the extent of water take reductions required by different consent holders. MDC seeks a fair and equitable means of determining the environmental flow and allocation, ensuring no water user is disadvantaged by the location of the recorded flows.

We also note that the un-modified flow for the Opihi River is measured 80 kilometres from the Mackenzie District. This means there is limited relationship between the location of the flow measurement and mechanism for the placement of restrictions and the community in the Mackenzie District.

To provide for a better understanding of the effects of using water when restrictions are imposed, MDC requests the point where the flow is measured is moved closer to the community concerned.

MDC seeks that:

- The location of the recorder sites for the purposes of the environmental flow and allocation regime is at a minimum in the same location for all permit holders (AA, BA, KIL, AN and BN).
- The location of the recorder sites for MDC water abstraction is within the Mackenzie District in order to provide a direct and visible connection between the community as water users and environmental flows and flow restrictions.

The Mackenzie District Council could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission and wishes to be heard in support of its submission.

MDC would be prepared to consider presenting its submission in a joint case with others making a similar submission at the hearing.

Yours sincerely



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