

PUBLIC NOTICE

OF AMENDMENTS TO CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL FRESHWATER PLANS

Environment Canterbury gives notice that, in accordance with s55(2) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the following regional plans have been amended to incorporate clauses from the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM 2020):

- Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan
- Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan
- Opihi River Regional Plan
- Pareora Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan
- Waimakariri River Regional Plan
- Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan
- Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan

Background

On 3 September 2020, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM 2020) came into force. The NPSFM 2020 directs how freshwater resources, and activities that affect those resources, are to be managed. Included within the document are directions to regional councils to amend regional plans to incorporate specific provisions from the NPSFM 2020. These clauses are set out below:

NPSFM 2020 Clauses

3.22 Natural inland wetlands

The loss of extent of natural inland wetlands is avoided, their values are protected, and their restoration is promoted, except where:

- (a) the loss of extent or values arises from any of the following:
- (i) the customary harvest of food or resources undertaken in accordance with tikanga Māori
 - (ii) restoration activities
 - (iii) scientific research
 - (iv) the sustainable harvest of sphagnum moss
 - (v) the construction or maintenance of wetland utility structures (as defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020)
 - (vi) the maintenance or operation of specified infrastructure, or other infrastructure (as defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020)
 - (vii) natural hazard works (as defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020); or
- (b) the regional council is satisfied that:
- (i) the activity is necessary for the construction or upgrade of specified infrastructure; and
 - (ii) the specified infrastructure will provide significant national or regional benefits; and
 - (iii) there is a functional need for the specified infrastructure in that location; and
 - (iv) the effects of the activity are managed through applying the effects management hierarchy.

3.24 Rivers

The loss of river extent and values is avoided, unless the council is satisfied:

- (a) that there is a functional need for the activity in that location; and
- (b) the effects of the activity are managed by applying the effects management hierarchy.

3.26 Fish passage

The passage of fish is maintained, or is improved, by instream structures, except where it is desirable to prevent the passage of some fish species in order to protect desired fish species, their life stages, or their habitats.

Clause 3.26 is required to be incorporated into relevant plans as a freshwater objective, while clauses 3.22 and 3.24 are required to be incorporated as policies. These changes must occur without using the process set out in Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act (1991). Accordingly, Environment Canterbury gives notice that it has amended relevant regional plans to incorporate Clauses 3.22, 3.24 and 3.26 of the NPSFM 2020.

Inspection and availability of environment canterbury's plans

Copies of all of Environment Canterbury's regional plans can be accessed at the following locations (during normal office hours):

- The offices of Environment Canterbury at:
 - 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch
 - 75 Church Street, Timaru
 - 73 Beach Road, Kaikōura
- All open public libraries in the Canterbury Region
- All head offices of the District/City Councils in the Canterbury Region
- The Environment Canterbury website at <https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/>. Click the link 'resource management plans' and navigate to the relevant freshwater plan to view a copy of the public notice and a copy of the plan incorporating the above changes.

Paper copies of the Plans are available from Environment Canterbury's Customer Services for a cost set in the Fees and Charges Policy 2019. Plans can also be downloaded free of charge from the website specified above, or alternatively a CD can be provided free of charge by contacting Customer Services on **353 9007** if you are calling from Christchurch, or on **0800 324 636** if calling from outside Christchurch, or by email to ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz.

This notice was first published on Monday 28 September 2020, and a summary notice was published in The Christchurch Press, Timaru Herald, Ashburton Guardian, Otago Daily Times, Kaikōura Star and the Northern Outlook. If you have any questions, please contact Customer Services **03 353 9007** or Freephone **0800 324 636**, or by email to ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE