

Oral introduction, Mark Webb for FAWP

Tena Koutou

With permission please, I would like to give a brief summary of my evidence

I am a Fish and Game Officer for Central South Island Fish and Game and have long relationships with the North and South Opuha, upper Opihi and Te Ana Wai tributaries to the Opihi River. This includes Fish and Game opposing consent applications on all of these tributaries at individual consent hearings through the 1990's. The results of those Hearings are the minimum flow regimes that currently apply.

The Flow and Allocation Working Party was formed in 2017 by interested parties in response to an apparent absence of an OTOP Zone Committee process dedicated to local input and negotiation around flow and allocation to contribute to the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum. While the Zone Committee undertook numerous public meetings in Fairlie and Pleasant Point there was no opportunity for informed but informal round the table discussion.

The FAWP consists of community representatives from the four tributaries, Timaru District Council and Fish and Game.

Despite FAWP forming by its own volition independent of the Zone Committee, the minimum flow regimes, allocation limits, partial restrictions and high flow take provisions in the first steps in PC7 for each of the tributaries largely reflect the recommendations FAWP made to the Zone Committee.

Where FAWP has concerns is with the second steps -

For the South Opuha and upper Opihi rivers FAWP does not support second step summer minimum flows in Table 14(o) and 14(q) respectively and instead supports review of the first step environmental flows at the expected OTOP plan review in 10 years (about 2030)

For the Te Ana Wai River, FAWP does not support introduction of pro rata restrictions in 2030 and instead supports their introduction in 2035.

Thank you. I am happy to take questions from the Hearing Panel