



27. CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL FURTHER SUBMISSIONS ON WAIMAKARIRI RIVER REGIONAL PLAN - PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek adoption by the Council of the attached further submissions (**Attachment 1** to the Committee report) on the Waimakariri River Regional Plan (WRRP) - Proposed Plan Change 1. The further submissions must be lodged with Environment Canterbury (ECan) by 13 November 2009.
2. The proposed further submission supports a number of submissions made on the plan by other parties. The advantage of lodging the further submission is that it broadens the scope of issues on which the Council can comment on in evidence, particularly with respect to the proposed allocation regime and the 'gap' between A/B1 and B block allocations of water from the Waimakariri River.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. The WRRP manages water quality and quantity, including surface water takes, and the management of river and lake beds in the Waimakariri Catchment. ECan have prepared a number of changes to the Plan (WRRP Proposed Plan Change 1) to deal with, essentially, water takes and diversions. The plan change primarily concerns a proposed allocation regime for the Waimakariri River.
4. The Council recognises the need for a plan change due to the increased pressure to take water from the mainstem of the Waimakariri River, and the concerns in the interpretation of some of the WRRP provisions.
5. The Council's original submission (lodged with ECan on 11 September 2009) supported the proposed plan change but sought a stronger mechanism for water allocation for the purpose of providing for future community supply for Christchurch. The Council recognises that there are a number of methods that could be used to obtain water from the Waimakariri River, including applying for a resource consent, or reaching an agreement with another major consent holder(s) to share or buy-out their allocation. However, the critical issue for the Council is that any plan change recognises the importance of providing for essential community supply.
6. This report follows a recent report - *Submission on the Proposed Plan Change 1 Waimakariri River Regional Plan* - presented to the Regulatory and Planning Committee meeting on 15 September 2009, and the Council on 1 October 2009.
7. A Summary of Decisions Requested on WRRP Plan Change 1 was notified by ECan on 10 October 2009, and the close of further submissions is 13 November 2009. The further submission process provides the Council with an opportunity to support or oppose submissions made by other organisations and individuals. It does not allow for new matters to be raised.
8. ECan received 95 submissions on WRRP Plan Change 1 - including submissions from local government organisations, interest groups, industry groups, residents, and landowners. About one-third of submitters, mostly individuals, requested the plan change be withdrawn, with the remaining submitters generally requesting that the proposed changes be retained as notified, or retained with, generally minor amendments. A reasonable number of submitters suggested changes (both increase and decreases) to the water allocation block volumes, as well as a need for ECan to give further consideration to a 1:1 flow sharing regime. Overall, there were no submissions that are specifically contrary to the City Council 'objective' of ensuring the plan remains flexible enough for allowing future potential water take for community supply.

9. In summary, the City Council further submissions:
- (a) Support requests for amendments to further enhance the ecological health of the Waimakariri River, and its amenity and recreational values.
 - (b) Support requests for amendments that clarify the distinction between the Waimakariri River mainstem, and its tributaries.
 - (c) Support requests for further research, and specifically for better understanding the relationship between the Waimakariri River and the recharge of aquifers.
 - (d) Support requests for on-going and targeted monitoring.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no immediate financial implications for the Council. The plan change will not directly affect Council operations.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

11. The cost of preparing and presenting the further submission is included in existing budgets.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

12. The RMA 1991 (First Schedule, Part 1 (6)) allows Council to make submissions on a variation/change to a regional plan.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

13. A legal review of the original submission and further submission has not been carried out. However, any evidence prepared for a hearing will be subject to a legal review.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

14. This submission supports the LTCCP community outcome of a 'well governed city', and in particular, planning for the future, and as part of this, the activity of providing a reliable supply of water which is safe to drink.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

15. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

16. This submission is consistent with, and supports, the Council's Water Supply Strategy.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

17. As above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

18. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council adopts the attached further submission on Waimakariri River Regional Plan - Proposed Plan Change 1 for lodgement with Environment Canterbury.