



Waitaki Irrigators Collective Limited

Submission to the
Ministry for the
Environment

Proposed amendments to the
National Policy Statement for
Freshwater Management 2011

[withheld]

Organisation Name: Waitaki Irrigators Collective Limited

[withheld]

WAITAKI IRRIGATORS COLLECTIVE LIMITED

[withheld]

ABOUT THE WAITAKI IRRIGATORS COLLECTIVE

The Waitaki Irrigators Collective Limited (WIC) is a company which represents the interests of irrigators who take water from Lake Waitaki, the Lower Waitaki River, its tributaries, and connected groundwater, and use that water to irrigate land downstream of the Waitaki Dam. Its shareholders are:

- the Kurow-Duntroon Irrigation Company;
- the Maerewhenua District Water Resource Company;
- the North Otago Irrigation Company;
- the Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company;
- the Morven, Glenavy, Ikawai Irrigation Company;
- the Waitaki Independent Irrigators Incorporated Society.

WIC represents an irrigable command area of around 80,000 hectares across North Otago and South Canterbury, and over 580 individual farmer-irrigators. The schemes and individuals within WIC use irrigation water for production across the primary sector, including the agriculture, horticulture, dairying and viticulture industries. Some of the schemes also provide water to other industries, town supplies and sports clubs. WIC represents a large number of farmers, farming companies and irrigators who create significant wealth for their communities well beyond the farm gate.

SUBMISSION

WIC is generally supportive of the reforms outlined in the discussion document. However, as with any such policy development, how the proposed changes are implemented will be a critical factor in whether or not they achieve the desired outcomes, and do not lead to unintended, negative consequences.

Therefore, WIC is committed to working with the government, both at the national and regional levels, in the development, implementation, and ongoing monitoring of objectives, limits, and policies to better manage New Zealand's freshwater resources.

WIC is committed to effective collaborative processes being developed to enable implementation of these changes. In order for the collaborative process to be meaningful and effective at establishing the values and attributes to be developed under the NPSFM amendments, councils need to ensure that the community members charged with these tasks are sufficiently supported and resourced to be able to make such decisions effectively.

In terms of submission points relating to the questions posed in the discussion document, and specific changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011, WIC agrees with and supports the submission of Irrigation New Zealand Incorporated.