

Otago's Water Futures: Enabling Change with Community Management

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Water
+ individuals
+ community
+ environment

= successful society

Water and Community

What are the essential features of water management systems that will:

- enable adaptation to changing future water uses where water demand has become competitive?
- enable adaptation to changing societal values and support inclusive community wellbeing?

Traits of people

Dominant human traits include:

The personal traits:

- Greed
- Selfishness
- Lazyness

The collective traits:

- Social need
- Fairness
- Caring

Traits of management theory

Dominant traits of management theories include:

- Market forces – best economic return
(Greed ?)
- 1st come 1st served 1st secured
(Selfishness ?)
- Meet minimum environmental need
(Lazyness ?)

But where is the collective stuff?

Social need

Fairness

Caring

A old approach to a new management - theory

Enable informed community management.

i.e. provide for the collective stuff including wider environment and values.

Social need

Fairness

Caring

Then hone to best deliver to market forces, productivity, and security.

BUT – do ensure efficiency and accessibility

A old approach to a new management - practice

- No area will be stranded dry.
- Local water 1st used to meet local needs
- Water resource use will be efficient
- Communities collectively self manage the daily use / distribution of allocated water.
- Community based minimum flows and levels will be observed.

Otago's Water History

- Water wars caused the need for NZ's first water law over 140 years ago.
- Water has been allocated 1st come 1st served under 3 different legal regimes.
- Water is over-allocated and market regimes have applied for over 100 years.
- The haves share a bit, and the have-nots can not.

Otago's Future

Otago has greatest future potential in its:

- expanse of open land area
- continental type climate
- opportunity to intensify/diversify land use

BUT

Without change the shackles
of water history deny the future.

Otago's water assets

- Plenty of water – poor distribution
- Communities that know the necessity of water for all facets of life
- A desire to retain and grow rural and urban communities
- A long experience in managing water
- A well developed sense of need to share in times of hardship

Otago's Water Needs

- Strong development of local community management of water – not just in formal water schemes, but for everyone.
- Holistic approaches to the what, where and how of water use.
- New, expanded and re-developed water infrastructure.
- A regulatory regime that supports managed change.

RMA constraints

The RMA enables security for water management to happen.

Many sound water management actions can happen outside or beyond the RMA.

The trick is to use the two approaches together for best community and individual gain.

Too often our thinking is the major constraint.



A Vision for Otago's Water Plan

Assuring Otago's future by providing long-term water allocation planning

Two Big Picture Principles

1. No area is to be stranded dry.

Agri-potential and community/industrial futures are to be provided for, but efficiency of water use is demanded.

2. Requirements of the RMA are to be upheld.

Environment, amenity, habitat, water quality are to be protected.

Two Vital Subsidiary Principles

1. The 1st preference is for local water to be used efficiently for local demands in a planned preference order.

When (efficient) local demands are met allocatable water may be applied to export demands.

2. Exportable water must be efficiently used and will be assigned to demands and locations in accord with a planned preference order.

Transitions and Evolution

1. Until local demands reach their potential all excess local water may be exported. **Water is not to be “reserved without use” or inefficiently used at any higher order allocation preference.**
2. When demand approaches or exceeds supply, efficiency attainments must be reviewed. **Demands for higher order allocation preferences must be satisfied.**
3. Efficiency promoting water distribution networks are to be fostered.
4. Allocations will move from “peak demand” criteria to “efficient demand servicing” criteria.

Ingredients of Water Efficiency

Water efficiency involves:

- Best use of sources of water
- Appropriate allocation concepts
- Appropriate allocation preferences
- Appropriate infrastructure (plant & methods)
- Appropriate infrastructure (delivery systems)
- Seeing water as a scarce essential ingredient
- Focusing on water volumes more than flows
- Focusing on water not \$ or past investments

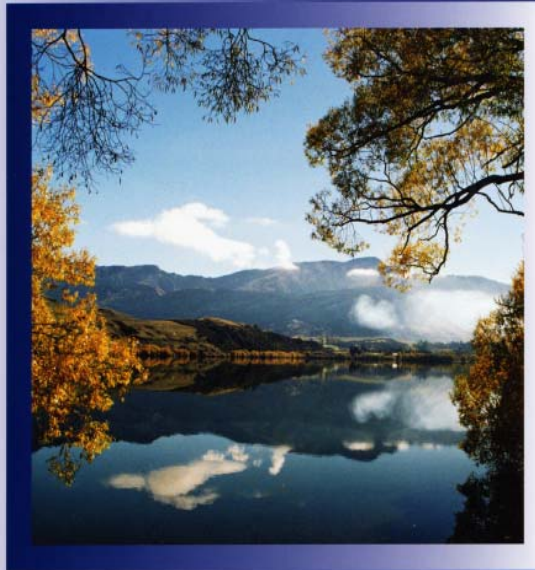
Water schemes

Water use via locally managed “schemes” will be fostered.

- “Schemes” may be notional, real or a mix.
- “Schemes” will apply consumer controls.
- “Schemes” will be subject to take and use controls, and may also have service delivery requirements imposed.
- “Schemes” may be imposed by Council.

Water Management Groups: Getting *Local Self Management*

Regional Plan: Water



Thinking about Water Management Groups

- Does the Group wish to only jointly manage and/or jointly own consents?
 - Legal agreement amongst parties needed
- Does the Group need to have legal ownership of assets, or give security for raising funds?
 - Independent legal identity desirable

Starting small? Potential to grow?

The world is yours.

You don't have to have a Group.

You don't need the ORC,

[even if you have a Group]

You can group with other Groups.

Growing the Group is fine.

Legal identity will:

make larger growth easier;

help Group continuity;

give member protection.

Want to community manage?

If you want an ORC management delegation you need a Group.

ORC can only delegate to those who have signed to accept delegation.

Group form is not specified by ORC.

Water Management Groups

Council may appoint Water Management Groups with delegated authority and responsibility for specified water permits (including deemed permits) for any one or more of:

1. coordinating the take and use of water authorised by the permits;
2. rationing the take and use of water to comply with relevant regulatory requirements;
3. reporting information to Council for enforcement of regulatory requirements and authorised directives issued by the Management Group;
4. recording and reporting to Council the exercise of permits in accord with permit conditions and regulatory requirements.

Water Management Groups

In appointing Water Management Groups the Council will require to its satisfaction:

1. The schedule of permits to be specified and managed by the Group
2. The form and rules of the Group
3. The delegated authority and responsibility the Group seeks
4. Documentary evidence that the Group members and scheduled permit holders agree to be bound to the Group for the delegation.

Water Management Groups

An appointed Water Management Group

1. may have a terminating date or criteria;
2. may apply to have other permits included within the Group's management;
3. must have amendments to its form and rules approved by Council;
4. may have its Council delegation revoked in part or in full on its request or on receipt of not less than 6 months written notice by Council following mediated discussion with Council.
5. must report annually to Council on the operation of the Group and the exercise of its delegations from Council



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