

## Environment Canterbury Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Land and Water Regional Plan

---



### Submissions close on 13 September 2019

Irrigation New Zealand is focusing its advocacy work on national-level policy changes that affect our members (there are many such changes happening). We have reviewed the provisions of the proposed Plan Change 7 to the Land and Water Regional Plan for Canterbury and have decided not to submit.

However, there are many changes to the Plan that have local applicability, so we strongly recommend all our Canterbury members have a read through the proposed Plan and, importantly, check the planning maps, to see how they will apply in your area.

We have summarised some of the key parts of the proposed Plan changes that relate to irrigation below.

**Part A** of the Plan Change is an “omnibus” change which amends region-wide aspects of the Plan and makes specific changes in relation to Selwyn Waihora augmentation and the Lower Hinds/Hekeao Plains area.

**Part B** provides the “sub-regional” planning framework for the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone.

**Part C** provides the “sub-regional” planning framework for the Waimakariri Zone.

If you are in these areas it is important you check the rules and policies to determine your new consenting requirements, nutrient discharge limits, and so on.

### Indigenous Freshwater Species Habitats

One of the key changes that will affect irrigators and irrigation schemes is the inclusion of defined Indigenous Freshwater Species Habitats and provisions to protect them.<sup>1</sup> These are defined places identified on planning maps, which can be viewed here:

<https://mapviewer.canterburymaps.govt.nz/?webmap=bed0e58b32664e3abb98ef88727009a4>

Several policies and rules are being amended to restrict or control activities in these areas, which vary in size and are found right across the region. These changes include livestock exclusion; water abstraction; water and sediment discharges; vegetation clearance; excavation and deposition of material; other disturbances of surface water bodies; and the installation,

---

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that stronger provisions to protect indigenous biodiversity will roll out nationwide after the release of the National Policy Statement on Biodiversity later this year (which follows the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy).

removal and operation of a number of different types of infrastructure in or under the beds of rivers and lakes.

*It is important that the planning maps are checked by irrigators and schemes to determine the scale and impact of these rules on your specific operations.*

If you don't think a defined area is correct, it is important to submit on the Plan Change and you will need to have evidence to support your submission to present at the hearings.

### Water quality data collection

Another fairly significant change is the requirement that water quality data that is collected as a requirement of resource consent conditions must be submitted to Environment Canterbury in a format suitable for automated upload to the Council's water quality database software.

### Other changes

New definitions, policies, and rules have been developed to specifically provide for commercial vegetable growing, and managed aquifer recharge projects.

Consideration must now be given to adverse effects on Ngāi Tahu values or on sites of significance to Ngāi Tahu, including wāhi tapu and wāhi toanga (sacred sites and objects).

Several other new definitions have been added or amended in the Plan.