

WATER PLAN PROVISIONS AND WATER GROUPS

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Water Groups

Water Management Group

Water Allocation Committee

Water Management Group

- Where a group of permit holders cooperate in using their water permits
- Agree on rostering system when low flows are happening

Water Management Group

- Limited Company
- Co-operating Society
- Incorporated Society
- Partnership
- Individuals with permits 'wired' together

Water Allocation Committee

- Permit holders agree to cooperate with each other in meeting minimum flows
- Permit holders elect a sub-committee of 4-5 people
- Committee creates and implements rostering regime
- Committee is adopted by ORC as a sub-committee of ORC

Group Benefits

- Share costs of preparing consent application
- Develop own rostering system to suit own needs and characteristics of the river
- Share water between users
- Fair system for rostering

Primary Allocation

- All deemed water permits and any other permits current in 1998
- First allocation block
- Lowest minimum flow

Supplementary Allocation

- Higher minimum flows
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th allocation blocks
- Tied to Primary Allocation
- Usually no summer water

“Paper” Allocation

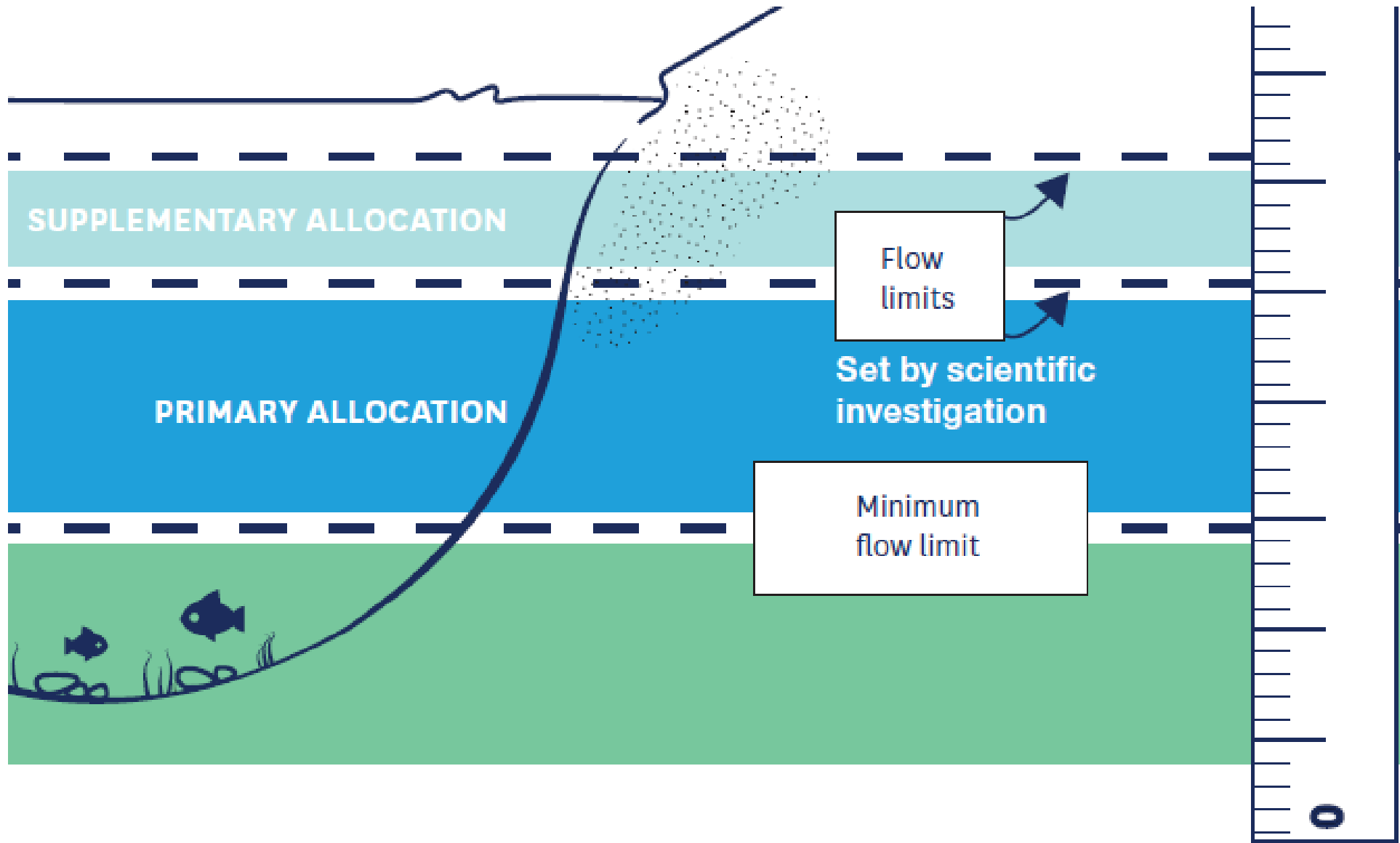
- Mining privileges issued with no assessment of water yield
- Priority system invoked no assessment of lower priorities
- Often only part of a permit can be used
- Unused part “paper” allocation

“Sinking Lid” Policy

- Water Plan sets out ideal allocation limit
- Most Central Otago rivers are over allocated
- Unused “paper” allocation prevents others from gaining access to water

“Sinking Lid” Policy *continued*

- Paper allocation removed
 - When consent is renewed – new permit is tailored to actual historical use
 - Permits cancelled when not used at all (5 years non-use)
 - Some permits surrendered



Section 417 Certificates



Water race high up on Carrick Range with Lake Dunstan in distance.

Preserve “easement” for Races

- Water races can go over multiple properties
- Mining privilege included the race + water
- Rights in substitution under Water and Soil Conservation Act split these two: A & B
- The land part (water race) of the historic privilege also expires on 1 October 2021

Applying for a S417 Cert

- You may need to investigate to determine the actual line of the race
 - The line of the race cannot have been altered over time
 - As original mining privileges were not terribly detailed, this could be tricky
- Some topographical maps have water races marked on them
- Aerial photos can help, ORC has these
- May need to find historic maps and photos

The S417 Certificate

Sets out the line of the water race in a map,
plus:

Schedule of properties with legal
descriptions

Certificate must be registered against the
properties at the Land Office

Activated S417 Certificate

- Preserves occupation of land by the race
- Confirms the line of the race
- Continues access to 6 metres across the width of the race for maintenance
- Can be transferred to another person with memorandum lodged at Land Office
- Other water can be carries in the race
- Note: some irrigation companies have easements for races already