



Young River, Mt Aspiring National Park

Consultation on Otago's new Land and Water Regional Plan is gathering pace this year

The Otago Regional Council is responsible for managing and protecting Otago's lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater. That includes protecting water quality and ensuring there's enough water in our waterways.

We do this in a number of ways, including community consultation, policy development, education, support, fieldwork, rules and enforcement.

In 2019, following a recommendation from the Minister for the Environment, ORC agreed to develop a new Land and Water Regional Plan for notification in 2023. This will replace the current Regional Plan: Water and Regional Plan: Waste, and that will ensure an integrated approach to

managing the effects of land use on water quality and quantity.

The new Land and Water Regional Plan will set out how ORC will protect and manage the region's water by setting objectives and rules for how land and water can be used.

The Plan will be structured around each of the different freshwater management units – areas of the region that are appropriate sizes for managing freshwater. In Otago, there are five proposed freshwater management units: North Otago, Taieri, Dunedin Coast, Catlins, and Clutha Mata-Au. The Clutha Mata-Au area is further divided into five rohe, or sub-areas, due to its size: Upper Lakes, Dunstan, Manuherekiā, Roxburgh and Lower Clutha. There will be some rules that apply across Otago, and others which are specific to each freshwater management unit.

We'll be working with freshwater management unit and rohe communities over the next two years to understand how to manage and protect what is important for each community, consistent with national direction. We want as many people as possible to get involved in deciding how waterways in each area should be managed.

It's important that you have your say, as the decisions made will affect how you can use water, which areas need to be protected, and what activities can take place in or near your waterways.

To keep up to date with consultation opportunities in your area, follow our Facebook page and subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at www.orc.govt.nz/on-stream.