SUBMISSION ON

Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan, and Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan)

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To: Environment Canterbury
Name of Submitter: Horticulture New Zealand

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Ahumāra Kai Aotearoa

OVERVIEW

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Our submission

Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) thanks Environment Canterbury for the opportunity to submit on the Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan, and Proposed raft Plan Change 2 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan.

HortNZ welcomes any opportunity to continue to work with Environment Canterbury and to discuss our submission.

The details of HortNZ's submission and decisions we are seeking are set out in our submission below.

PART 1

HortNZ's Role

Background to HortNZ

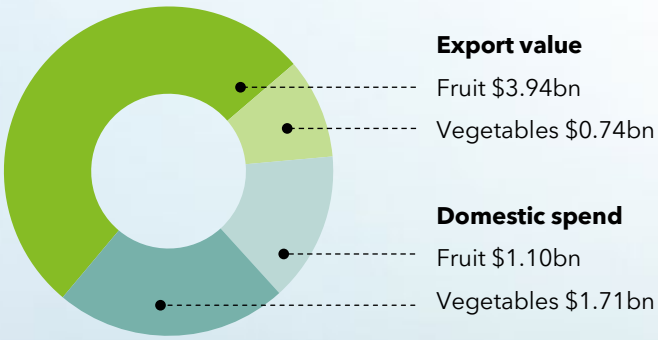
HortNZ represents the interests of approximately 4,200 commercial fruit and vegetable growers in New Zealand who grow around 100 different fruits and vegetables. The horticultural sector provides over 40,000 jobs.

There are approximately 80,000 hectares of land in New Zealand producing fruit and vegetables for domestic consumers and supplying our global trading partners with high quality food.

It is not just the direct economic benefits associated with horticultural production that are important. Horticulture production provides a platform for long term prosperity for communities, supports the growth of knowledge-intensive agri-tech and suppliers along the supply chain; and plays a key role in helping to achieve New Zealand's climate change objectives.

The horticulture sector plays an important role in food security for New Zealanders. Over 80% of vegetables grown are for the domestic market and many varieties of fruits are grown to serve the domestic market.

HortNZ's purpose is to create an enduring environment where growers prosper. This is done through enabling, promoting and advocating for growers in New Zealand.



Industry value $7.48bn

Total exports $4.67bn

Total domestic $2.81bn

Source: Stats NZ and MPI

HortNZ's Resource Management Act 1991 Involvement

On behalf of its grower members HortNZ takes a detailed involvement in resource management planning processes around New Zealand. HortNZ works to raise growers' awareness of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to ensure effective grower involvement under the Act.

PART 2

Submission

1. Horticulture in Canterbury

Fresh fruit and vegetables are significant for the health of the nation, for domestic nutrition and food security and for export value as low emissions, high value products.

The Canterbury region itself is nationally significant for its contribution to domestic food supply of fresh fruit and vegetables and is a significant export earner. There is more than approximately 12,500 ha of horticultural land in the region, approximately 11,352 ha of which is planted in vegetables (Fresh facts, 2025[1]).

Canterbury is one of the top 3 potato producers in New Zealand and a key process vegetable region. Horticultural crops are diverse and include but are not limited to; Potatoes, sweetcorn, peas, broccoli, walnuts, onions, pumpkin, carrots, leafy veg, green beans, apples, blackcurrants.

2. Commercial Vegetable Production

2.1. The Canterbury Land and Water Plan

Food production, security and supply is a resource management issue of concern that has in the past had little direct attention and assumed to be dealt with broadly in planning instruments. This issue straddles several of the issues of resource management significance expressed in the Canterbury Regional Policy Statements and importantly within the context of climate change.

In resource management planning, there is a value-based issue related to food production that is to be considered. In the case of commercial vegetable production this value is already recognised in the Canterbury Land and Water Plan in regard to the current nutrient management regime.

Policy 4.36A is as follows:

> *Recognise the importance of commercial vegetable growing for domestic food supply and the particular constraints that apply to commercial vegetable growing activities (including the need to rotate crops to avoid soil-borne diseases and for growing locations in close proximity to processing facilities) and provide a nutrient management framework that appropriately responds to and accommodates these constraints while improving or maintaining water quality by:*
>
> *(a) providing alternative rule frameworks to authorise commercial vegetable growing;*

[1] Fresh-Facts-2025---Online-Version---28.10.25.pdf

(b) *requiring commercial vegetable growing activities to operate at good management practice;*

(c) *constraining the establishment of new commercial vegetable growing activities, or any expansion of existing commercial vegetable growing activities beyond the baseline commercial vegetable growing area, unless the nitrogen losses from the new or expanded activity can be accommodated within the lawful nitrogen loss rate applicable to the new or expanded location;*

(d) *requiring commercial vegetable growing activities to demonstrate, at the time of application for resource consent and at the time of any Farm Environment Plan audit, how any relevant nutrient loss reductions, nutrient limits or targets set out in Sections 6 to 15 of this Plan will be achieved;*

(e) *requiring a method for accounting for cumulative nutrient losses where commercial vegetable growing activities operate across more than one Nutrient Management Area; and*

(f) *requiring a Farm Environment Plan, excluding a nutrient budget as part of any application for resource consent, and requiring that Farm Environment Plan to be prepared in accordance with Schedule 7 of this Plan.*

While focusing on elements relating to water quality, the policy chapeau begins with the explicit recognition of the importance of commercial vegetable production for domestic food supply. This is a consideration across the entire regulatory framework and applicable in the drafting of Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan, and Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan.

Policy 4.36A is achieved through tailored methods for nutrient management expressed through a definition of Commercial Vegetable Growing Activity:

> ***Commercial Vegetable Growing Activity*** *is a sub-set of 'farming activity' and means the growing, for the purpose of commercial gain, of vegetable crops for human consumption, on one or more parcels of land held in single or multiple ownership (whether or not held in common ownership) that constitutes a single operating unit, and may include crop-rotation across different parcels of land over time, but excludes vegetable crops grown under cover.*

Regulations of the Land and Water Regional Plan set out in the Region-Wide Nutrient Management Rules for Commercial Vegetable Growing Activities in 5.42CA - 5.42 CD and Part B – Farm Environment Plan Default Content.

2.2. Highly Productive Land and Freshwater

Commercial vegetable growing is reliant on the productive capacity of Highly Productive Land and is a Land-Based Primary Production activity as expressed through the definition of the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022.

> ***Land-based primary production*** *means production, from agricultural, pastoral, horticultural, or forestry activities, that is reliant on the soil resource of the land*

Achieving the productive capacity of Highly Productive Land for commercial vegetable growing requires a number of inputs and outputs. Outputs include nutrient discharges which as above are managed through a nuanced nutrient management framework under the Land and Water Regional Plan. A key input is water.

Part 3 of the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 sets out a list of things that local authorities must do to give effect to the objective and policies of this National Policy Statement.

3.2 Integrated Management prescribes that regional councils must identify highly productive land, and manage the effects of subdivision, use, and development of highly productive land, in an integrated way, which means:

> *{3.2(1)(a) considering how land-based primary production, including supporting activities, interact with freshwater management at a catchment level;*

The consideration is not just in terms of discharges but also freshwater input. It should be noted that in terms of freshwater management the value-based issue related to food production is a matter the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM 2020) expresses through Appendix 1B (Irrigation, Cultivation, and Production of Food and Beverages) for the National Objectives Framework (NOF) process.

This a relevant consideration for the drafting of Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan, and Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan.

2.3. Efficient Allocation and Use

As previously described, in resource management planning, there is a value-based issue related to food production and food security. In the case of commercial vegetable production this value is already recognised in the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan. Other regions have in recent times also more expressly recognised the issue through planning regimes. National policy statements have recognised the concerns and resource management reforms constantly discuss how the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables can be enabled.

There are economic efficiencies with allocating water for commercial vegetable production. Economic efficiency is generally taken to mean the situation where resources are allocated in such a way that society's welfare is maximised. Society's welfare includes the whole range of monetary and non-monetary factors that individuals and society consider important. Where market failures arise – particularly as they relate to non-monetary factors, maximising economic efficiency may require intervention by central or local government.

The economic efficiency of water use has been described to have three dimensions[2]. Technical, allocative and dynamic.

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[2] Robb C et al (2201): Water Allocation: A Strategic Overview Prepared for Ministry for the Environment (Report No 4455/1, May 2001)

Technical efficiency relates to maximising the level of output from a given resource, i.e. the rate at which resources, capital, labour are converted into goods. More goods produced for a given set of resources equates to higher technical efficiency. Many of the irrigation applications on horticultural crops are of a lower volume and are generally applied more regularly than that for pastoral agriculture and therefore achieve a higher technical efficiency than most pastoral farming irrigation practices.

Technical efficiency is expressed in the CLWP through the definitions of Reasonable Use, the Reasonable Use Test and Schedule 10 of this plan that applies to the activity of using water for irrigation. Those definitions are:

Reasonable use	when applied to the taking or using of water for irrigation means the **technically efficient** use of water in the particular circumstances of the activity, calculated in accordance with Schedule 10 of this Plan.
Reasonable use test	when applied to the taking or using of water for irrigation, means a test of the **technical efficiency** of water use in the particular circumstances of the activity, including consideration of the water requirements for the intended land use activity; whether there are already existing resource consents for the use of water for the same area of land (either partially or totally); on-site physical factors such as soil water-holding capacity, and climatic factors such as rainfall and evaporation. It is calculated in accordance with Schedule 10 of this Plan.

Allocative efficiency is the arrangement of all resources to maximise society's welfare, i.e. resources are optimally allocated to the production of different sets of goods for maximum benefit. This relates to the value generated from the use of the water resource. The combination of high gross returns and the relatively low total amount of irrigation water used mean that horticulture is very efficient when it comes to allocative efficiency.

Dynamic efficiency is the way in which resources can be rearranged over time to continually maximise allocative efficiency. This allows patterns to evolve over time. The allocation system should ensure that water goes to its most productive locations and use over time. The NPSHPL and NPSFM steer the decision making.

Dynamic efficiency also includes elements of innovation and adaptation. Diversification to horticulture presents an opportunity to reduce emissions while increasing food production, as identified by the Climate Change Commission[3]. *'Ināia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa' includes the assumption (in the Demonstration Path) that nationally, 2,000 ha of land will be converted to horticulture per year from 2025 and notes that the Commission expect this could increase if "barriers – such as water availability, labour, supply chains and path to market – are addressed*". Opening up more opportunities for conversion to lower emissions production systems and land uses, including horticulture, is listed as a critical outcome. The advice also notes that further land use change from livestock agriculture into horticulture and forestry (from 2021, additional 3,500 ha per year converted from dairy)

[3] https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/inaia-tonu nei-a-low-emissions-future-for-aotearoa

would be required to meet the more ambitious end of the 2050 methane target if new technology does not come through.

Despite the value-based issue relating to food production and food security being recognised in the CLWRP, there is no particular water allocation arrangement for food production generally nor specifically for commercial vegetable production.

2.4. Planning System Reforms

This plan change process occurs at a time of significant reform to New Zeeland's planning system, including a proposal to replace the RMA with two new Acts, the Planning Act and the Natural Environment Act, and introduce new national direction. These plan changes will likely progress adjacent to the reforms and there is uncertainty about how or if the proposed provisions or plan itself will align with the new planning system.

The government have described that the reforms will deliver a simpler planning system to support farmers. *New Zealand's new planning system will be clearer and more consistent. It will let farmers do what they do best and boost our primary sector while protecting the environment*[4].

It is our view that these plan changes should reflect this direction of travel and enable rather than frustrate the food production system.

3. The Proposed Plan Changes

3.1. Provisions Enabling the Change of Use of Water

We generally support the proposed change that would enable the change of use of water but consider that the provisions should encourage changes in water use, including to commercial vegetable growing which is a land-based primary production activity and an efficient allocation and use.

Any requirement for a reduction in the rate of take or volume of water allocated will discourage rather than encourage the potential change in use that might achieve better environmental outcomes than current state.

In the absence of clear priorities for allocation, an enforced clawback in allocation at this time might compromise options for the future and adversely affect the food production system.

We agree that a reasonable and efficient use assessment is relevant to consider if reductions in over-allocation situations are to be achieved. This assessment would consider whether the amount of water sought is reasonable and demonstrates efficient use of water for the end use, where the water is to be used for irrigation (the schedule 10 calculation) or any purpose other than irrigation.

[4] New-Planning-System-factsheet-04-Backing-our-primary-sector.pdf

We are of the opinion that the outcomes sought through the proposed plan changes and the established objectives and policies of the CLWRP can be achieved with a discretionary activity status tier rather than the non-complying activity status proposed.

A discretionary activity status would enable a broad assessment that could also consider the potential benefits of the activity to the applicant, the community and the environment.

3.2. Provisions Enabling the Construction of Wetlands

We support the proposed change that would enable the construction of wetlands as permitted activities.

Through feedback on the draft pan change provisions, we had expressed opposition to policy that sought to discourage the use of constructed wetlands for water storage. We are pleased to see this is not included in the proposed plan changes.

Multiple positive environmental outcomes may be achieved relating to water quality, indigenous biodiversity, amenity values and security of a clean water supply – a critical component for food production systems.

We support the proposed permitted activity condition the prohibits the introduction of planting of vegetation in, on, or under the bed of any lake or river is: *(a) not of a species listed in the Biosecurity NZ Register of Unwanted Organisms or the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan*.

Submission on Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan, and Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan

Without limiting the generality of the above, HortNZ seeks the following decisions on the Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan, and Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan], as set out below, or alternative amendments to address the substance of the concerns raised in this submission and any consequential amendments required to address the concerns raised in this submission.

Additions are indicated by bolded underline, and deletions by strikethrough text.

Plan Change	Proposed Plan Provision	Suggested changes(s)	Reason(s) for proposed change(s)
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	Definitions	*Defined the term "ancillary use of water"*.	The term "ancillary use of water" requires a definition to determine the limits as to which this can be applied relative to Policy 4.50B.
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	4.50A	*Amend 4.50A* *Within fully or over-allocated groundwater allocation zones or surface water catchments, only allow the substitution of an existing water permit to take and use water with a new water permit for a different use or uses where:*	Oppose the policy criteria that adds uncertainty to the assessment and decision making. A consideration of all relevant effects (adverse and positive) as they relate to a particular proposal is a statutory requirement through the consent process.

		(a) the substitute permit is granted for a term not exceeding that remaining on the existing water permit; and *(b) the substitute permit does not enable an increase in actual water use at the application site; and* ~~*(c) the substitution does not result in:*~~ ~~*i. adverse effects on the health and well-being of any water body or indigenous ecosystem; or*~~ ~~*ii. adverse effects on Ngāi Tahu values or on sites of significance to Ngāi Tahu, including wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga.*~~	
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	4.50B	*Amend 4.50B* *Unless the substitution is limited to the addition of an ancillary use of water to the use authorised by the existing water permit, water permits in over-allocated groundwater allocation zones or surface water catchments granted in accordance with Policy 4.50A shall be restricted to* ~~*the lesser of:*~~ *(a) the volume of water assessed as being a reasonable and efficient use for the proposed activity*~~*; or*~~ ~~*(b) 90 percent of the rate of take or annual or seasonal volume authorised by the existing water permit; or*~~	The term "ancillary use of water" requires a definition to determine the limits as to which this can be applied relative to Policy 4.50B. In the absence of clear priorities for allocation, an enforced clawback in allocation at this time might compromise options for the future and adversely affect the food production system. We agree that a reasonable and efficient use assessment is relevant to consider if reductions in over-allocation situations can be achieved. This would consider whether the amount of water sought is reasonable and demonstrates efficient use of water for the particular end use, where the water is to be used for irrigation (the

		(c) ~~*the maximum annual or seasonal volume of water used within the past 10 years, as demonstrated with actual use records*~~	schedule 10 calculation) or any purpose other than irrigation. Other methods enforcing reductions are unlikely to attract change. We note that water demand is related to the climate. If the previous 10 years were unseasonably wet, the average volume may not be sufficient to reasonably support another activity in the future ten years, which may have a more typical frequency of wet and dry years.
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	4.84A	Retain	Support retention of policy recognition of the benefits of constructed wetlands on water quality.
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	5.120C	*Retain as notified*	Support the proposed matters of discretion as they particularly relate to considering any adverse effects on Any Other Authorised Takes (2b) and Water Quality (2c). There can be adverse effects associated with the take or take and use of intercepted groundwater on primary production activities. It is right that the assessment considers effects on other authorised users and also water quality noting the critical need of clean water for food production systems.
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury	5.125E	*Amend 5.125E* *The take and use of surface water from a river or lake that will substitute an existing surface water permit*	The outcomes sought through the draft plan changes and the established objectives and policies of the LWRP can be achieved with a discretionary activity status.

Land and Water Regional Plan		*is a **~~non-complying~~ discretionary** activity, provided all of the following conditions are met:* *1. The existing water permit has been exercised within the previous five years; and* *2. The existing water permit is proposed to be surrendered upon the granting of the substitute permit; and* *3. The abstracted water is to be taken and used on the same property or properties as authorised by the existing water permit; and* *4. The proposed rate of take and annual volume of water taken is no greater than the rate of take and annual volume authorised by the existing water permit; and* *5. The substitute water permit does not enable a consumptive take and use where the existing water permit authorises a non consumptive take and use; and* *6. The substitute water use is not for the purpose of water bottling.*	A discretionary activity status would enable a broad assessment that could also consider the potential benefits of the activity to the applicant, the community or the environment.
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	5.130A	*Amend 5.130A* *The take and use of groundwater that will substitute an existing groundwater permit is a ~~non-complying~~ discretionary activity, provided all of the following conditions are met:*	The outcomes sought through the draft plan changes and the established objectives and policies of the LWRP can be achieved with a discretionary activity status. A discretionary activity status would enable a broad assessment that could also consider the potential benefits of the activity to the applicant, the community or the environment.

		1. The existing water permit has been exercised within the past five years; and *2. The existing water permit is proposed to be surrendered upon the granting of the substitute permit; and* *3. The abstracted water is to be taken and used on the same property or properties as that authorised by the existing water permit; and* *4. The proposed rate of take and annual volume of water taken is no greater than the rate of take and annual volume authorised by the existing water permit; and* *5. The substitute water permit does not enable a consumptive take and use where the existing water permit authorises a non-consumptive take and use; and* *6. The substitute water use is not for the purpose of water bottling.*	
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	5.160A	Retain 5.160A as a permitted activity pathway for construction, use, and maintenance of a constructed wetland.	Retain a permitted activity pathway for construction, use, and maintenance of a constructed wetland. These can be a useful mechanism to manage nutrients and an effective erosion and sediment control device for primary production systems. The permitted activity conditions must be practical and achievable to support a viable permitted activity pathway.

Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	5.160A(b)	Amend 5.160A(b) the planting or removal of vegetation in the bed of a lake or river, and adjoining land;	It must be recognised that the construction, use, and maintenance of a constructed wetland can involve the planting or removal or vegetation on land and the rule should enable this ancillary activity.
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	5.160A(1)	Delete 5.160A(1)	A notification of commencement condition for a permitted activity does not address an environmental effect. The condition is impractical and provides no flexibility for an activity that is required to commence as and when suitable environmental conditions are appropriate.
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	5.160A(2)(a)	Amend 5.160A(2)(a) within, or within 100 metres, of a natural inland wetland, where the activity is likely to change the water level or hydrological functioning of the natural inland wetland; or	The condition should align with the NES-FW.
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	5.160A(7)(b)	Amend 5.160A(7)(b) Where the taking of water is from a lake or river, there is an associated discharge of water which returns the water: (a) to the same lake or river; and (b) as near as practicable to the point of take ~~and no greater than 200 m from the point of take;~~ and	Flexibility should be provided in the conditions given the variables that will be associated with a particular site proposal -including environmental and landform conditions that will ultimately determine the most practical point of return. It is therefore relevant to require the return of water as near as practicable to the point of take. A defined maximum distance as a hard limit and consent trigger would discourage the activity and not change the environmental outcome.

Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	5.160A(10)(a)	Delete 5.160A(10)(a) Any discharge to a surface water body~~:~~ ~~(a) meets the water quality standards in Schedule 5 after reasonable mixing with the receiving waters; and~~ ~~(b)~~ does not produce conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams beyond the mixing zone as defined in Schedule 5; and	The standard is likely to be onerous, unachievable and discourage the use of a tool to achieve water quality outcomes.
Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan	5.160A(12)(a)	Retain 5.160A(12)(a)	Support the proposed permitted activity condition that in terms of the introduction of planting of vegetation in, on, or under the bed of any lake or river: 12(a) is not of a species listed in the Biosecurity NZ Register of Unwanted Organisms or the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan.
Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan	Policy 9.5	*Amend Policy 9.5* *Within fully or over-allocated groundwater allocation zones or surface water catchments, only allow the substitution of an existing water permit to take and use water with a new water permit for a different use or uses where:* *(a) the substitute permit is granted for a term not exceeding that remaining on the existing water permit; and* *(b) the substitute permit does not enable an increase in actual water use at the application site; and*	Oppose the policy criteria that adds uncertainty to the assessment and decision making. A consideration of all relevant effects (adverse and positive) as they relate to a particular proposal is a statutory requirement through the consent process.

		~~*(c) the substitution does not result in:*~~ ~~*(i) adverse effects on the health and well-being of any water body or indigenous ecosystem; or*~~ ~~*(ii) adverse effects on Ngāi Tahu values or on sites of significance to Ngāi Tahu, including wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga*~~	
Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan	Policy 9.6	*Amend Policy 9.5* *Unless the substitution is limited to the addition of an ancillary use of water to the use authorised by the existing water permit, water permits in over-allocated groundwater allocation zones or surface water catchments granted in accordance with Policy 9.5 shall be restricted to ~~the lesser of~~:* *(a) the volume of water assessed as being a reasonable and efficient use for the proposed activity; or* ~~*(b) 90 per cent of the rate of take or annual or seasonal volume authorised by the existing water permit; or*~~ ~~*(c) the maximum annual or seasonal volume of water used within the past 10 years, as demonstrated with actual use records.*~~	The term "ancillary use of water" requires a definition to determine the limits as to which this can be applied relative to Policy 4.50B. In the absence of clear priorities for allocation, an enforced clawback in allocation at this time might compromise options for the future and adversely affect the food production system. We agree that a reasonable and efficient use assessment is relevant to consider if reductions in over-allocation situations can be achieved. This would consider whether the amount of water sought is reasonable and demonstrates efficient use of water for the particular end use, where the water is to be used for irrigation (the schedule 10 calculation) or any purpose other than irrigation. Other methods enforcing reductions are unlikely to attract change. We note that water demand is related to the climate. If the previous 10 years were unseasonably wet, the

			average volume may not be sufficient to reasonably support another activity in the future ten years, which may have a more typical frequency of wet and dry years.
Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional P lan	Rule 15.1	*Amend Rule 15.1* *The taking and using of surface water or groundwater that will substitute an existing water permit is a ~~non-complying~~ discretionary activity, provided the following conditions are met:* *(a) the existing water permit has been exercised within the previous five years; and* *(b) the existing water permit is proposed to be surrendered upon the granting of the substituted permit; and* *(c) the abstracted water is to be taken and used on the same property or properties as authorised by the existing water permit; and* *(d) the proposed rate of take and annual volume of water taken is no greater than the rate of take and annual volume authorised by the existing water permit; and* *(e) the substitute water permit does not enable a consumptive take and use where the existing water permit authorises a non-consumptive take and use; and* *(f) the substitute water use is not for the purpose of water bottling.*	The outcomes sought through the draft plan changes and the established objectives and policies of the LWRP can be achieved with a discretionary activity status. A discretionary activity status would enable a broad assessment that could also consider the potential benefits of the activity to the applicant, the community or the environment.