

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## WATER RESTRICTIONS UPDATE #4

The storage has continued to decline and 50% restrictions are to be implemented from Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December for two weeks.

**Please now be prepared to implement a 50% restriction regime on your property.**

### WATER STORAGE SITUATION

The lake level is currently at 383.6m (43.5%) and falling at around 0.65% per day.

The storage situation is tracking very close to what we had forecast prior to the restrictions.

There is still concern however over the medium term outlook and further restrictions are now proposed.

One of the strongest reasons for further restrictions is the limited opportunity we have to realise some water savings from the environmental river flows. By going on to restrictions now, we are able to get some relief from the minimum flow required to be retained in the river. If we delay any action until January and February, the minimum required flow in the river is already low (these two months are the lowest flow months of the whole year) so we cannot expect to be able to get much relief from the river.

We realise that a 50% restriction regime is very tough for irrigators. However by moving to the level now, we can achieve some water savings that will just not be achievable in the New Year. A 50% reduction in irrigation should realise between 1,000 l/s and 1,500 l/s. At the same time, the agreed reduction in minimum river flow should realise 1,500 l/s – we are effectively implementing the January river flow regime two weeks early.

Note that the flow reduction we have been granted for the river (3.5 cumec minimum) is greater than is provided for in the Plan (4.6 cumecs) and we are grateful to the OEFRAG group for their support and recommendation to ECan that the lower river regime be allowed for the remainder of the month.

### PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS

The 50% restriction is required to be in effect on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Please note that Above Dam irrigators are required to go onto a 25% restriction regime for this period.**

In reality this means that we need to be operating at our reduced level at midnight Monday and we will require the water orders for **6pm Monday** to reflect the reduced demand.

In our notice last week, we did request that you advise the office whether you prefer to operate on a roster regime of four days on and four days off, or whether you are able to reduce your take to 50% on a steady basis.

We have not had a good response to the request for that feedback so our office and operations team will be making contact with those who haven't responded over the next 24 hours. If you haven't responded to us or been contacted yet, please respond urgently to the office. (preferably email to [office@opuha.co.nz](mailto:office@opuha.co.nz), otherwise phone in on the Water Phone 021 433 522 or office 03 614 7801)

### WATER ORDERING

As we have mentioned previously, and as we are experiencing already, to be able to manage the restriction regime effectively and actually reduce the draw on dam storage, it is critical that irrigators maintain accurate water orders with the office so that we can determine the right amount water that must be released from the dam.

**Please ensure that your water orders accurately reflect your intended water use so that we can deliver the right amount of water and limit wastage and/or situations where insufficient water is available to you or other users.**

### WATER METER INFORMATION

As mentioned in my last notice we are working with ECS and Boraman Consultants to access the water use information they collect from our shareholders (for compliance)

Where we feel it is appropriate, will approach water users with water meters that aren't telemetered or who have only pump running hour meters for access to their meters (manual reads)

### If Circumstances Change ...

As always, if we are fortunate enough to get sufficient rain to relieve our concerns over our storage, we will review the level of restrictions.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact the office (phone or email) if you have any questions or require any further information in preparing for the restriction regime.

Regards



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