

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## WATER RESTRICTIONS UPDATE #2

We have received a lot of support from our shareholders and irrigators for our early and proactive approach to managing the water storage as we head into the new season. We have appreciated the response and also the regular updates we are getting about conditions around the scheme.

It seems we have reached something of a turning point over the last week – quite literally with the lake which yesterday saw its first daily drop in level since 12<sup>th</sup> March, but also in conditions around the scheme where the warm windy weather has soil moisture levels in some areas starting to drop and 50% irrigation maybe not keeping up. We are also aware there are a reasonable number of farmers with newly sown crops whose need for water now is quite critical.

OFRAG met on 12th October and there was agreement to lift all irrigation restrictions for the next (fortnight) period. This takes effect immediately. The minimum river flow required has been lifted slightly to 7 cumecs (a reduction of 1.5 cumecs on the ORRP minimum).

Given that conditions do vary somewhat around the scheme and depending on individual land type and land use, we are not expecting all our irrigators to be going to 100% irrigation but I would expect everyone will be doing what is necessary to maintain soil moisture levels and to ensure the best opportunity is taken of the current favourable growing conditions. We do still expect a very 'tight' year and we will continue to review conditions and any restrictions on a regular basis.

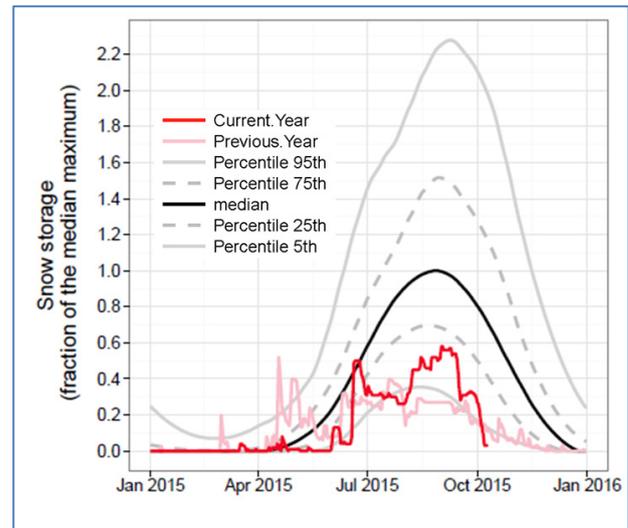
### WATER STORAGE SITUATION

The lake level has continued to increase gradually since the start of the month but with our releases increasing from 2 cumecs to 6 cumecs and no change in lake inflows, we have just reached the point where the lake level is now starting to decrease slowly.

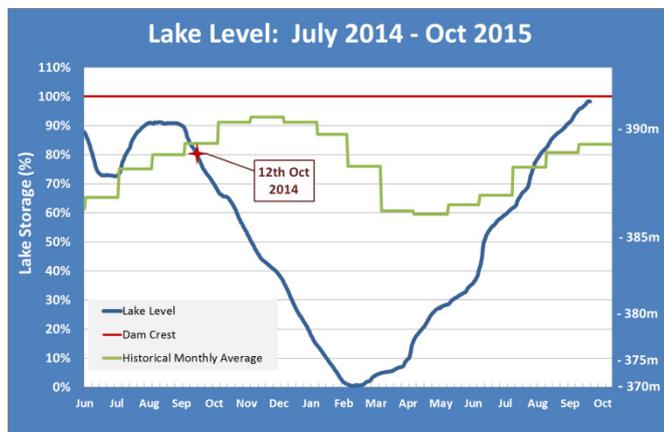
The reasonably steady inflows to the lake have been driven mainly by melting of the last remnants of snow so, without some rain in the upper catchment, we can expect a decline in the river and stream flows into the lake.

The lake peaked at 98.4% full on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. At the same time last year, the lake was at 81% so my estimate is that we are about 21 days ahead of our position a year ago.

Last October we got about 46mm of rain in the upper catchment - so far this month (12 days) we have had around 6mm. So definitely no room to relax at the moment.



Estimated Snow Pack in Lake Opuha Catchment



Our modelling of snow pack suggests we have likely seen the last of any meaningful contribution to lake inflows. There does appear to still be snow in the Mt Dobson area but I expect this will likely help maintain the Opihi River rather than flow into the lake.

### RESTRICTIONS

There are no restrictions on irrigation use for the next fortnight. It is our expectation that, even with no restrictions in place, our overall irrigation demand will remain below 75% for October.

The reduced minimum flow required for the river (7 cumecs instead of 8.5 cumecs) will assist significantly in preserving the lake storage. Without significant rain however, we would anticipate that lake level will continue to drop now with month end levels around 87-88%.

We will continue to monitor conditions around the scheme and in relation to the lake storage and aim to continue with fortnightly updates.

Regards

Tony McCormick  
Ph 027 233 0412  
[tony@opuha.co.nz](mailto:tony@opuha.co.nz)

### **SHARES TO LEASE**

**13 water shares - \$275 + GST per share**

Can be used Above Dam

Contact Greg Anderson

Ph 03 685 4846

### **SHARES FOR SALE**

**52 water shares**

Can be used Above Dam

**Sale via Tender – closes 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Contact Opuha Office for Tender Documents

Ph 03 614 7801 or [office@opuha.co.nz](mailto:office@opuha.co.nz).

## **REMINDER!**

### **Irrigation Operator and Manager Training Course Thursday 29th October, 10am-4.30pm @ Opuha House**

Places are still available for shareholders and managers to attend this one day training course. The course provides a mix of classroom learning and in the paddock practical application, and topics include irrigation regulation, scheduling, operation and maintenance and irrigator calibration. A comprehensive set of resources is also provided to take home for reference and future learning.

**RSVP by Wednesday 21st October to Julia at [julia@opuha.co.nz](mailto:julia@opuha.co.nz) or  
021 535 174. Registration is limited to 24 people.**