

When calculating your flow rate entitlement, use the number of share that your own or lease multiplied by 0.41336 litres/second. For example, 40 shares provide for a flow rate of $40 \times 0.41336 = 16.53$ l/s.

Water Entitlements

Notice Periods

Because there is a substantial travel time for water released from the dam to reach the downstream users, we require water orders with enough notice period to allow timely release to manage stored water efficiently. Notice periods for water ordering and cancellations are listed below. Please plan your water requirements before ordering and we ask that you keep to these times so the appropriate releases can be made.

Water users in the Levels Plain area are differentiated due to the time it takes for the water to reach the scheme.

	Levels Area	All Other Areas	All areas must place orders for: 6.00am start/finish, or 6.00pm start/finish
Placing Orders	48 hrs. notice	24 hrs. notice	
Cancelling Orders	24 hrs. notice	12 hrs. notice	
Editing Current Orders	24 hrs. notice	12 hrs. notice	

Placing Orders and Cancellations

The following options are offered for ordering your water:

Internet/Website Ordering

Internet and website ordering is the preferred method. It is the easiest format for us to get the information from and once you are familiar with its use, we believe is the simplest method for water users as well.

- The website address is www.opuhawater.co.nz
- First time users will need to contact the Opuha Office for an invitation to the water portal

If you are having trouble ordering water through the website then please contact the office on 03 614 7801

Please Note: Once you have ordered water and the notice period has passed, you are deemed to have taken that water. The onus is on water users to cancel their orders when they intend to stop their water to avoid being "billed" for water they have not used.

The Directors of Opuha Water Limited have applied consistent interpretation to this matter and that is; ***if you order water, you will be charged. It is up to each water user to place and cancel orders.***

Historically for Opuha and its irrigation schemes each scheme race-man stuck to their own scheme primarily; however we now have each member of the operations team is competent for each scheme. This provides us with improved flexibility, and it allows the members of ops team take time away from work during the irrigation season without creating undue issues around who's running 'their scheme'. With this change, we have also implemented an on-call roster for a 'Duty Operator'.

The Duty Operator will be the first port of call for all ops team enquiries.

Please call the main Opuha Water Phone number of 03 614 7801 and follow the prompts to speak to the on-call dutyman after hours for emergencies. Alternatively, you can contact our main number above during business hours to speak to a Scheme representative.

Good Irrigation Scheme Practice

The overview of the good irrigation practices below is a reminder that OWL wants to ensure that the water resource is used efficiently by the farmers who obtain water from within the scheme and to allow the fair, equitable and efficient allocation of water to all water users.

Pre-Season Checks

While we carry out pre-season checks on the race delivery system prior to commencement of operations, individual water users should also carry out their own checks of the waterways adjacent to their property, as well as their own farm equipment.

Please advise of any potential issues regarding scheme races or scheme equipment so that the operations team can attend to them prior to water being released.

We can provide an equipment checklist for center pivots and linear irrigators. Contact Opuha House for a copy.

Operations during the Season

Water users are encouraged to note and advise of any evident or potential operational problems with the irrigation schemes so that we can attend to the problems promptly.

Water users should also be making regular checks of their own on farm equipment, including pumps and intake screens, to ensure any potential issues can be addressed before they cause problems that will affect water delivery.

Spray Irrigators

All those using spray irrigators have an obligation to ensure that **irrigation water does not fall on roads or cause nuisance to adjacent properties**. While there will naturally be some spray drift occurring, particularly from a prevailing wind, farmers are required to carefully plan irrigator run start and stop points and programme pivot end guns to switch off in proximity to roads.

Water Ordered

It is important that all water to be used is ordered with the required notice periods and similarly cancelled when it is no longer required. Opuha Water is required to maintain river flows and provide records of water usage to Environment Canterbury daily for compliance.

Disregard of Rules

Water users who choose to disregard the rules by either tampering with set gates or taking water without ordering through the appropriate channels are in breach of their water supply deeds.

There will be penalties applied to any water users who choose to flaunt the rules.

Contact Information

Office Location

Opuha House
875 Arowhenua Road
RD 4
Timaru 7974

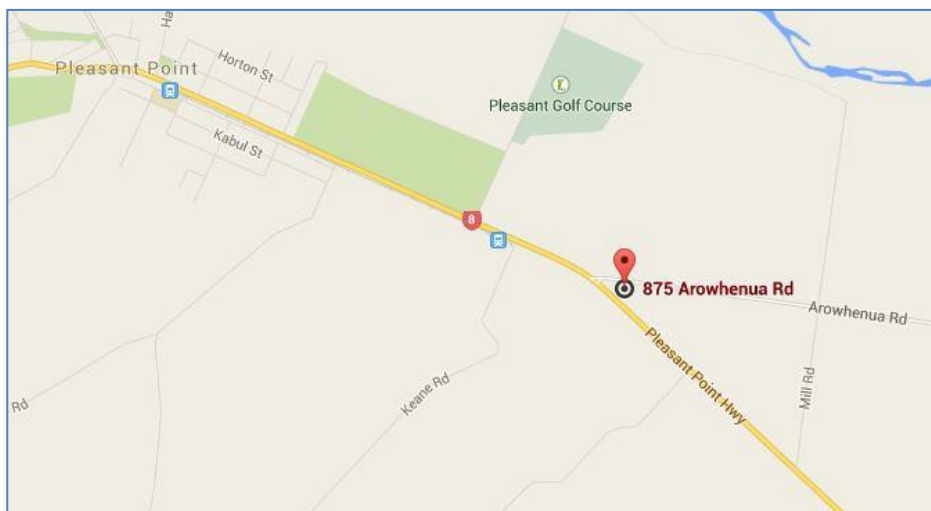
Phone: (03) 614 7801

Email

office@opuha.co.nz

Website:

www.opuhawater.co.nz



Personnel

Chief Executive Officer

Andrew Mockford - Phone 021 333 043, Email andrew@opuha.co.nz

Asset & Operations Manager

James Cullimore - Phone 027 480 4997, Email james@opuha.co.nz

Environmental Manager

Julia Crossman - Phone 021 535 174, Email julia@opuha.co.nz

Business Manager

Laura Shaw - Phone 021 227 6377, Email: laura@opuha.co.nz

Commercial Manager

Aimee Bennett - Phone 021 075 5602, Email aimee@opuha.co.nz

Environmental Advisor

Jane Hewitt – Phone 021 409 665, Email jane@opuha.co.nz

FEP Implementation

Lucy Millar - Phone 027 696 1742, Email lucy@opuha.co.nz

Financial & Payroll Officer

Fiona Davies - Email accounts@opuha.co.nz

Business Administrator

Christine Walker - Phone 021 535 788, Email christine@opuha.co.nz

Operator Maintainers

Neil Partridge - Phone 021 0264 6119, Email neil@opuha.co.nz

Bevan Hand - Phone 021 227 9001, Email: bevan@opuha.co.nz

Jason Smith - Phone 021 227 5554, Email: jason@opuha.co.nz

Board of Directors

The Board consists of 5 elected farmer Directors and 2 appointed independent Directors:

Ryan O’Sullivan (*Chair, Farmer Director*), Brendan Caird (*Vice-Chair, Farmer Director*), Nicky Hyslop (*Farmer Director*), Rebecca Biggs (*Farmer Director*), Tony Howey (*Farmer Director*) Jeremy Boys (*Independent Director*), Paul Burns (*Independent Director*), Tom Hargreaves (*Associate Director*)

Company History

The Dam Project

The Opuha Dam is situated at the confluence of the North and South Opuha Rivers, 17 km north-east of Fairlie. The scheme consists of a 50-metre-high earth dam and a lake storing a nominal 65.5 million cubic meters of water.

OWL's principal activities are the coordination and supply of water for industrial and domestic consumption, environmental river flows, irrigation supply and electricity generation.

Water is released into the Opuha River and flows into the Opihi River to maintain minimum flows especially in times of drought or low natural flows.

Irrigation water is supplied to approximately 240 irrigators (with 278 consents) covering 16,000 hectares inland from Timaru and Geraldine.

The majority of water released from the Dam generates renewable hydroelectricity through a 7MW single turbine power station and river control gate owned by OWL but operated by Trustpower Limited.

Initially, the concept came out of discussions between the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand (ECNZ) and the Opihi Augmentation Society and resulted in the Opuha Dam Partnership being formed back in 1992 to commercialise the project.

At this time, it enjoyed the support of local Lines Company, Alpine Energy Ltd, Timaru and Mackenzie District Councils, the Opihi River Development Company and two irrigation companies - Levels Plain Irrigation Company Ltd (which existed prior to the dam) and South Canterbury Farmers Irrigation Society (SCFIS) which was established to represent the farmers who would in future be able to access water from the dam.

Construction of the dam began in 1995 and progressed very successfully until Waitangi Day 1997 when three days of solid rain in the upper catchment resulted in the partially completed dam being overwhelmed and breached by the high inflows. While there was extensive damage downstream and to the construction site, the project faced only a temporary setback. Repairs were swiftly completed, and the project was commissioned and officially opened in November 1998. After nearly ten years of initial operation, the scheme was purchased outright by the farmer irrigators who are now 100% shareholders.



The Success of the Dam

A 2006 study by the Ministry of Economic Development evaluated the economic impact of the Opuha Dam over two "normal" seasons and found the dam added an impressive \$124m million to the South Canterbury economy and \$20 million/year to the district's households. It also created another 500 full-time jobs.

The project has been immensely successful for the economic prosperity of the region and has enabled the development of a robust agricultural sector covering a wide range of land use activities. These include dairying, horticulture and arable cropping, sheep, beef and deer and specialist seed growing. These on-farm activities support significant downstream industries such as the vegetable processing facilities at Washdyke, dairy processing and represent a significant part of the region's export economy and earnings.

The 7MW power station provides a valuable contribution to the local electricity network and the revenue from the electricity sales accounts for approximately half of the company's income.

The lake itself provides excellent amenity value, especially for the local Fairlie community where the lake provides recreational benefits which people from Timaru and Ashburton also come to enjoy. The lake is an increasingly popular destination for the region's schools as part of their rowing and water-based activities and programmes.

The Opihi catchment is experiencing the same challenges as most freshwater catchments in Canterbury with concerns over the reducing water quality of the rivers and streams and the impacts this has had on amenity value and in-stream aspects including the fishery. The Opihi catchment including the Opuha Dam is no different and the company is committed to working with its irrigators and with the wider river community to achieve the goals and targets of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and ensure a sustainable future for the river environment.

While the dam has resulted in better river flows being maintained throughout the year with positive results such as maintaining the river mouth opening, understanding the impact of the dam on water quality and what improvements may be able to be made continues to be a focus for Opuha Water Limited.