

What work is in the pipeline and how can you become involved?

Once the major water allocation framework issues with the Waitaki are resolved, the Society plans to shift its attention towards implementing enhancement proposals for the river.

This will provide the opportunity for interested members of the community and young people to become directly involved in projects.

As a charitable organisation, ultimately success will depend on the level of support provided by the wider community.

We hope you will support the work of the Society and help with the conservation and sustainable use of this wonderful river.

For more information or if you want to help

The following information is available from Julia Laming (contact details below):

- Lower Waitaki River Management Society
- Membership forms
- Membership fees (to cover admin costs and general running expenses): Individual \$20, Organisation \$50
- Society Rules/Constitution
- Copies of Submissions
- Contact details for Steering Committee members

Key Contacts

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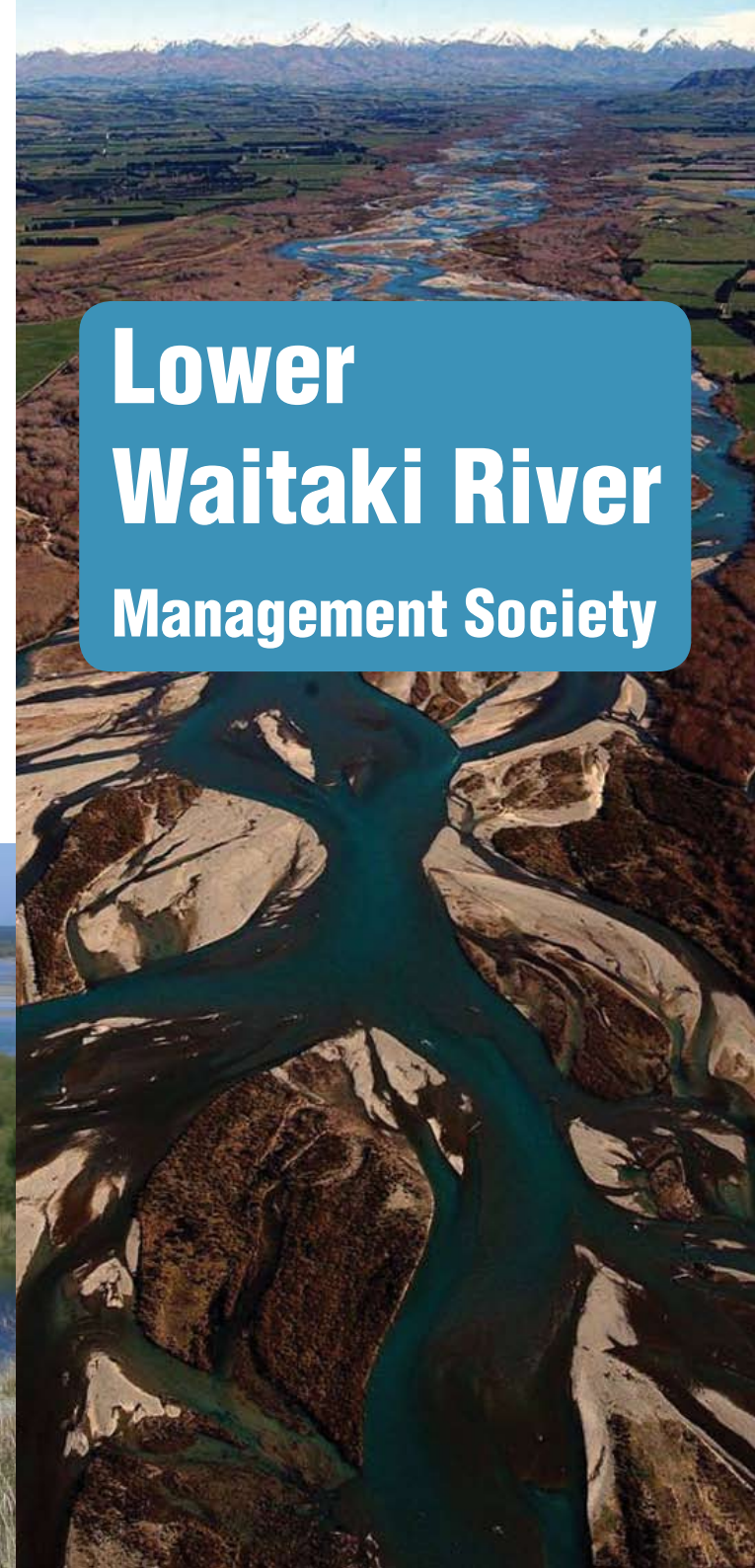
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E94 - March 2008

Lower Waitaki River Management Society





Society's Mission statement:

“To protect and enhance, in a sustainable way, the Lower Waitaki River System”

The Society's goals

- 1:** The Community and Statutory Authorities work together to prepare, monitor, update and implement a management strategy for the Lower Waitaki River which integrates the environmental, social, economic and cultural values of the community
- 2:** To protect and enhance the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations
- 3:** To provide for safe recreation in balance with other river users

How did the Society come about?

The Lower Waitaki River Management Group was formed in July 2004 to prepare a community-based management strategy for the Lower Waitaki River using the principles of Integrated Catchment Management.

Legal status as an Incorporated Society was obtained in 2006. The Society is facilitated by Environment Canterbury and made up of a broad cross section of individuals and organisations with an interest in the Lower Waitaki River.

The Society's Management Committee formally represents the interests of irrigators, conservationists, recreationalists, anglers, adjacent landowners, community representatives and coastal farmers.

The Lower Waitaki River Management Strategy was ratified by the Lower Waitaki community at a public meeting in July 2006, and is now being implemented.

What's the general scope of the Society's work?

- Fostering community involvement and relationships
- Collating of scientific data
- Maintaining the “wild river values”
- Advocating for a variable flow regime to sustain river braids and associated values
- Protecting and enhancing wildlife, native and exotic fish
- Protecting wetlands and spring-fed tributaries
- Maintaining surface and ground water quality
- Promoting and publicising improved recreational access and facilities
- Advocating for sustainable allocation of water

What the Society has been doing

Submissions

With the potential for major new hydroelectric proposals to affect the Lower Waitaki River, questions of sustainable river management and water allocation needed to be formally addressed.

Because of the thorough consultation behind its formation and policies, the Society has been able to provide a community-wide voice for the “river perspective” in a series of planning forums concerning Waitaki River water use.

These have included:

- Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan process
- Environment Canterbury's review of representation for the council elections
- Environment Canterbury's Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan process
- North Bank Tunnel Concept consent application
- Hunter Downs Irrigation Scheme consent application

- Below Waitaki Dam called-in water consent applications
- Annual Plans of Local and Regional Authorities

Technical workshops

- The society has organised technical workshop series with Meridian Energy expert advisers on the North Bank Tunnel Concept and Hunter Downs Irrigation Scheme, for greater understanding of the proposals and their potential impacts

Field trips

- February 2005 - Tour of the North and South Banks of the Lower Waitaki River to get a general understanding of the issues facing the River
- March 2008 – Te Anau to visit the work of the Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Enhancement Trust

How does the Steering committee work?

The Steering Committee is made up of three subcommittees, one for each stated goal.

Subcommittee 1 are involved with the general running of the Society, making including funding applications and submissions, and liaising with other organisations and agencies.

Subcommittee 2 look more at the science, and what is required to ensure a sustainable Lower Waitaki River System.

Subcommittee 3 are charged with developing recreational activities, and ensuring access to the river is maintained and improved.

From time to time, public meetings are held to advise the public and membership of progress and to seek feedback.