

Surface Water Quality

Issues

- (1) Point source and non-point source discharges of contaminants into the Opihi River or its tributaries can adversely affect their ecological value or their present and future use by, and value to, the Canterbury community and Takata Whenua values.

Objectives

- (1) Enable people to benefit from the water quality of the Opihi River, its lagoon and its tributaries while:
- safeguarding sources of drinking water, life supporting capacity, habitat, indigenous vegetation and mahinga kai;
 - protecting wahi tapu and other wahi taonga;
 - preserving the natural character of lakes, rivers, and their margins and protect them from inappropriate use and development;
 - protecting habitat of trout and salmon;
 - maintaining and enhancing amenity values.

Policies

- (1) No new discharges of treated or untreated human sewage into the Opihi River or its tributaries. Existing human sewage discharges to cease by 2003. Contaminants from sewage discharges to land must pass through soil. Set and maintain water quality standards that improve their value for cultural purposes, and provide water suitable for aquatic ecosystems, contact recreation, and for public water supply.
- (2) Promote land use practices and investigate controls on land use that improve the water quality of the Opihi River and its tributaries.

Methods

- (1) Investigations.
 (2) Information and education.
 (3) Regional rules.

Monitoring

- (1) Concentrations of contaminants in surface water in the Opihi River catchment.
 (2) Compliance with discharge consent conditions.
 (3) Incidents reported to the Environment Canterbury relating to unauthorised water pollution incidents.
 (4) The perception of water quality by the Takata Whenua.

Environmental Results

- (1) Adequate quality of sources of drinking water.
 (2) Protection and improvement of water quality for aquatic ecosystems.
 (3) Water quality suitable for Makika Kai.
 (4) Water quality suitable for water contact recreation.

This is a summary only, the text that follows contains the actual Environment Canterbury policy.