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## **MCWSG (SIG) Special Interest Group - Environmental Principles, Shared Values and Desired Outcomes -**

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The following environmental principles, shared values and desired outcomes are based on the MCWSG 'Community Proposition' arising from the MCWSG's collaborative process to date. This document has been prepared collectively by the Special Interest Group (SIG) members namely Central Otago Environmental Society, Central Otago Lakes Forest and Bird and The Otago Fish and Game Council with the aim of making SIG expectations explicit

Two outcomes have been added from the CODC Long Term Plan and the Otago Regional Plan:  
Water: following the completion of Plan Change 6A.

These desired outcomes need to be addressed during the Feasibility Phase in anticipation of the 'Resource Consent Ready' status the MCWSG is aiming to achieve. Otherwise the more tangible outcomes the Manuherikia catchment proposals (storage and supply of water) will advance at a different rate from the environmental outcomes, and the latter could be left behind.

The next strategic stage will be to identify the mechanisms for managing each outcome in formal agreements such as resource consents, on-farm management plans, irrigation company conditions of operation, RMA plan compliance, legal side agreements and covenants etc.

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## Shared Values and Desired Outcomes of Importance to SIG:

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### Statement of Intent:

The MCWSG Special Interest Group representatives collectively support the proposal to increase the security, storage and use of water within the Manuherikia catchment for the purposes of community benefit subject to consideration of the following shared values and desired outcomes as an integral part of the proposal.

1. Any scheme to store and use water will be subject to a critical and comprehensive assessment of the possible benefits (security, economic growth and social well-being) and the potentially adverse effects on our distinctive regional identity, cultural values and environments described in the Central Otago Long Term Plan. Such schemes will rely on the approval of the wider Central Otago Community as expressed through a robust resource consent process.

*Reference: CODC Long Term Plan pp 5 -13*

2. Environmental considerations (biodiversity and significant landscapes), the security, quality and supply of water to communities and individual properties for domestic consumption and stock water are considered to be first order priorities, above irrigation supply and demand.

*Reference: MCWSG Community Proposition (page 7 –first paragraph).*

*Refer to:*

- *Water Plan for Otago Schedule 1A Values*
- *DOC CMS for Otago*
- *Sports Fish and Game Management Plan for Otago*

3. Irrigation water will be supplied to individual properties subject to the development of an approved Farm Management Plan which meets Regional Plan compliance requirements, provision of information on property water allocation (both past and

present), an approved water quality monitoring regime and any environmental mitigation or remediation identified specific to the property.

*Reference: MCWSG Community Proposition (page 7 - bullet points 3, 7, 8)*

4. Recreation and Amenity values (natural or physical qualities and characteristics that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes) are considered as second order priority considerations equal to the provision of irrigation and renewable electricity generation.

*Reference: MCWSG Community Proposition (page 7 –first paragraph).*

Enhancement of Recreational and Amenity values based around water bodies are identified as (but not limited to)-

- a) Enhanced flows on main stem and tributaries
- b) Enhanced water quality
- c) Improved public access
- d) Protection of visual qualities
- e) Protection and development of wetlands
- f) Improved recreational opportunity
- g) Protection and development of Riparian planting / fencing / stock control
- h) Erosion control and bank stabilization
- i) Maintenance and enhancement of natural character.

5. The MCWSG will demonstrate a commitment to the continuing improvement of water quality and water based habitats ensuring enhancement opportunities both aquatic and terrestrial are identified and achieved. This commitment to enhancement will be reflected within policy, planning and strategic decision making.

*Reference: MCWSG Community Proposition (page 3, paragraph 3).*

6. Riparian margins will be managed effectively and enhanced where possible within irrigated areas.

*Reference: MCWSG Community Proposition (page 10, Outcomes sought – bullet point 2)*

7. Land use, industry and business practices (horticultural, agricultural and industrial) do not adversely impact on water quality or biodiversity, either directly or cumulatively.

*Reference: MCWSG Community Proposition (page 7 - bullet points 3, 7)*

8. Water use and quality will be routinely monitored by irrigators and the results reported on with respect to the requirements of the Regional Plan: Water (plan change 6A) . Any non-compliance will be identified rapidly, and reported to ORC and the community,

with the aim of achieving compliance with the plan limits, thresholds, and timeframes.

*Reference: MCWSG Community Proposition (page 7 - bullet point 3).*

9. All irrigation infra-structure and associated in-stream works will be designed and built in ways that respect landforms, landscape character, bio-diversity and maintain (or restore where necessary) connectivity to support healthy aquatic ecosystems.

*Reference: MCWSG Community Proposition (page 8, Outcomes sought – bullet point 1).*

10. Public access for recreation to Falls Dam post inundation will be ensured on a like for like basis and existing huts effectively relocated within the vicinity with security of tenure ensured.

*Reference: MCWSG Community Proposition (page 9, Outcomes sought- bullet point 3).*

11. The natural form and character of lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands will be protected and enhanced.

*Reference: MCWSG Community Proposition (page 8, Outcomes sought - bullet point 6).*

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