IMPROVING THE TUKITUKI

# Information Sheet

## 6.0 Existing Irrigators

### Irrigation in Ruataniwha Plains

The Ruataniwha Plains benefits from accessible surface and aquifer water resources. There are around 150 consents to irrigate within the boundaries of the command zone of the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme, irrigating approximately 6,000ha of farmland. Water allocation currently exceeds limits in the Regional Resource Management Plan and the security of supply is low. No new consents have been granted since 2007, and future long term renewals for water consents remain uncertain.

### Tukituki Plan Change:

HBRC is currently updating the Regional Resource Management Plan to implement the Government's National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. The proposed Tukituki Plan Change is HBRC's first amendment and amongst other changes includes:

- Raising the current minimum flow levels in the Waipawa and Tukituki Rivers to enable a healthier ecosystem. This will affect the reliability of stream depleters with greater probability of water reductions and for potentially longer periods
- Setting revised water allocation limits and new measuring and reporting requirements. This will affect both stream depleters and groundwater abstraction.

The following table summarises the current and proposed changes in reliability and allocation for each consent. For example, in the Upper Tukituki, farmers currently have restrictions 1 in every 3 years.

| Plan | Allocation conditions |
|---|---|
| Current Plan | Rate of take and maximum weekly allocation |
| Tukituki Plan Change | Rate of take, monthly, and seasonal allocation |

### Water Consents

**Water consents fall into three different categories:**

- Surface water takes - these are takes directly from rivers and streams, directly affecting river flows
- Shallow groundwater abstraction - shallow groundwater wells that also directly impact upon surface water resources. Abstraction from these wells have a similar influence on river flows as surface water takes
- Deep groundwater abstraction - deep groundwater wells that also impact upon surface water resources, but do not have an immediate impact on river flows. Rather, there is a lag between when groundwater abstraction occurs, and the influence this has on river flows.

From a water resource management perspective, surface water takes and groundwater abstraction are treated the same and are referred to as stream depleters.

| Consent Area | | Stream Depleters | Deep Groundwater |
|---|---|---|---|
| Upper Tukituki | Current Reliability | 1 in 3 years | Not subject to minimum flows |
| | Tukituki Plan Change | 1 in 2 years | |
| Waipawa | Current Reliability | 1 in 3 years | |
| | Tukituki Plan Change | 1 in 2 years | |
| Lower Tukituki | Current Reliability | 1 in 13 years | |
| | Tukituki Plan Change (for irrigators below the Red Bridge flow management site) | 1 in 7.8 years | |
| | Tukituki Plan Change (for irrigators above the Red Bridge flow management site) | 1 in 3 years | |

RUATANIWHA Water Storage

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company Ltd is a Council Controlled Trading Organisation of Hawke's Bay Regional Council

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