

## **LGOIMA**

*When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names of individual requestors may be withheld to protect their privacy.*

*Information requested by the media, from public sector organisations and MPs will always be published while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.*

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### **Request**

**from:** Water Management and Assessment Branch

**For:** Water allocation methods

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### **Response**

**by:** Jo Martin  
Manager Science and Environment

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## Venus Sood

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**From:** LGOIMA  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 July 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** LGOIMA - Water Allocation Methods - Response - 2022643

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Thank you for your enquiry and please see the answers to your questions below:

Benchmarking Water Allocation Methods: Water Management and Assessment Branch is seeking your assistance to understand how NCC's jurisdiction allocated fresh water resources in unregulated water systems for the purposes of irrigation predominantly but also for town water supplies and stock and domestic use. Information requested for the following key questions:

*1. What is the overall method used for allocating water?*

Water allocation is primarily controlled by central government through The Resource Management Act 1991. The Act requires Resource Management Plans to be developed by District and Regional Authorities across the country. Allocation of water resources is then carried out under those plans with resource consents required for other than permitted activities. Resource Consents for water abstraction are primarily processed by the regional consent authorities on a 'first in first served' basis. For NCC these consents are typically linked to the flows in the rivers and the impact of the abstraction as measured against assessment criteria. In NCC the predominant water abstraction is for the city water supply. This supply is a run of river supply with weirs and intakes on two local rivers and a storage dam on the North Branch of one of them. The Plan prohibits any other takes from the two rivers below the NCC intakes for those parts of the rivers within the NCC territorial boundary. There are also a number of smaller streams with a range of more modest abstractions, which may be more relevant to what you are considering in your request. The general method of permitted activities and resource consents also apply to these smaller streams.

*2. How is climate change addressed in your allocation framework?*

Current allocation limits for rivers and streams are primarily based on the river or stream flows and the impact of those abstractions on other users and the environment. The impact on adjacent streams and rivers is also considered for abstractions from aquifers. Climate change is not one of the specific assessment criteria in the current Plan but that is currently being reviewed and its expected impact on the demand for water and the flow in those streams and rivers will mean the various 'trigger levels' for restrictions or cease takes will be reached quicker in drier periods. The new Nelson Plan anticipates the effects of climate change into the rules and assessment criteria.

*3. Are your allocations seasonal or annual, and are the allocations based on different levels of reliability? For example high and low reliability water access licences?*

Allocations are based on abstraction volumes that can be taken until 'trigger levels' in the stream or river flow are reached. In that sense they are annual but generally seasonal flow variations means that trigger levels are reached more often in summer months. NCC does not have high or low reliability water access licences.

*4. How is reliability addressed? for example, days of access or based on a volume?*

Water abstractions are based on volumes rather than days of access.

*5. Do you have different methods for catchments with different hydrological conditions, or one broad approach?*

The Nelson Resource Management Plan (<http://www.nelson.govt.nz/environment/nelson-resource-management-plan/>) has one broad approach with specific minimum flows and allocation limits for each stream or river.

Please also note that the requirements of the new National Policy Statement for Freshwater (<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/national-policy-statement/about-nps> ) will inform Nelson's next generation resource management plan, called the Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan, which is currently under development.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Jo Martin, Manager Science and Environment at [Jo.Martin@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:Jo.Martin@ncc.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi,  
Venus

**Venus Sood**  
Administration Coordinator

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū  
P 03 546 0404  
021 154 3084  
[nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz)

If your email is related to a LGOIMA request, please send it to [LGOIMA@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMA@ncc.govt.nz)  
For more information about Privacy and Official Information requests, click here:  
<http://www.nelson.govt.nz/council/request-for-official-information/>

## Venus Sood

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 July 2020 5:26 PM  
**To:** Council Enquiries (Enquiry)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Request for information regarding water allocation methods  
**Attachments:** Letter to Nelson City Council.pdf

**Categories:** Sarah, 4 Hours

To whom this may concern

The Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment manage water for commercial purposes through the Water and Marine Resources Division. As part of this division, the Water Management and Assessment Branch (WMAB) is seeking your assistance to understand how your jurisdiction allocates freshwater resources in unregulated water systems for the purposes of irrigation predominantly but also for town water supplies and stock and domestic use.

Please find attached our letter detailing the specific information we are seeking assistance with.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact [REDACTED] on the contacts listed in the attached letter

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Water Management and Assessment Branch  
[REDACTED]



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