



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE – 12 January 2023

Water Take Monitoring in Upper Grey Valley Catchment Area

The West Coast Regional Council is monitoring river levels within the Upper Grey Valley catchment area as the dry conditions continue on the West Coast this week.

Due to the extended fine weather period, summer river flow levels could fall near or below their mean annual low flow levels and Council is looking at ways to protect the health of the waterways while enabling water consent holders to continue to utilise their consents as much as practicable.

Acting Consents & Compliance Manager Rachel Clark said should the need for restrictions arise, a flow assessment figure would be used to determine what restrictions on water taking may be applied.

“This may be a percentage reduction in the rate or volume of the take, or a requirement to cease abstraction altogether. It may be a situation where a Water User Group is formed, then users can go on to a roster to share the available water during a restriction period.”

“Some consent holders have specific cut off or reduction levels for their water takes specified in their consents and consent holders need to be aware of what their consents say and adhere to those conditions.”

Ms Clark said a compliance officer will be in touch with water take holders in the area over the next month to discuss water take usage.

Council needs to ensure water takes are meeting the requirements of the Resource Management Amendment Regulations 2020 which came into effect in September 2022 for water takes over 20 litres/second or more. Any restrictions instigated by Council will not apply to stock drinking water or domestic water supplies.

If consent holders are unsure of values or what those values meant for their consents, Ms Clark said they should contact Council’s Consents & Compliance team on 0508 800 118.

ENDS –

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