

Activities on the Surface of Rivers and Lakes

The Otago Regional Council is responsible for managing the take of water, discharges to water and structures on the bed of water bodies. But it's our responsibility to manage activities on the surface of rivers and lakes.

The existing situation

Rivers and Lakes are currently included as part of the Rural Zone. Any structures or commercial activities on their surface require resource consent.

This approach is not proposed to change.

Commercial Boating Activities

The current District Plan rules on boating activities treat commercial non-motorised boating activities (such as rafting, paddle boarding and kayaking) in the same way as motorised boating activities (such as jet boats).

Both activities currently require a discretionary activity resource consent.

However, non-motorised commercial boating activities generally have less environmental effects and potential impacts, such as less noise, boat wake, lighting, mooring structures and passenger numbers.

It is proposed to amend the rules to specify non-motorised boat activities as a restricted discretionary activity. The potential impacts from non-motorised activities are more predictable. The Council will still retain control over safety aspects and the amenity values of recreational users.

Lake Hayes

The current District Plan prohibits all commercial boating (including non-motorised boating activities) on Lake Hayes.

It is proposed to provide the opportunity for non-motorised commercial boating to obtain resource consent to operate on Lake Hayes. Motorised commercial boating will remain prohibited.

Jetties within the Frankton Arm

Monitoring has identified concern about the appearance of jetties within the Frankton Arm, and also that in some areas, too many jetties are located too close together.

Currently, resource consent applications for jetties within the Frankton Arm are assessed against the District Plan and the Council's non-statutory policy document called 'Jetties and Moorings Policy for the Frankton Arm and Other Environs of Lake Wakatipu'.

It is proposed to better align the Jetty and Mooring Policies with the District Plan. This encourages proposals for jetties to be consistent with the policy and ensures that these issues are given appropriate consideration during resource consent processing, providing greater certainty to applicants. It also means Council policy on the subject will be contained in one document.

Want to get into more detail?

Visit www.qldc.govt.nz/proposed-district-plan to read the full provisions or a range of other resources.