

For immediate release



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CENTRAL PLAINS WATER SCHEME WILL NOT CRIPPLE THE COAST TO COAST EVENT

Claims by Robin Judkins, organiser of the Coast to Coast multisport event, that the proposed Central Plains Water Scheme (CPW) will cripple the Waimakariri River, used for a segment of the race, are incorrect and mischievous says CPW Ltd Chair Pat Morrison.

“He’s just wrong. The point that Mr Judkins is missing is that the minimum flow level of the Waimakariri River is protected by a Regional River Plan, which sets restrictions on how much water can be taken out of the River by irrigators and anyone else. This plan was developed by Environment Canterbury in 2004 after extensive community consultation,” says Pat Morrison.

For Central Plains to ever take water from the Waimakariri River in summer there would need to be twice the amount of water flowing in it than it has today. The water flow through the Waimakariri has been so low this year, due to the lack of rain, that there have been significant irrigation restrictions imposed by Environment Canterbury.

“During February when the coast to coast event is run, we wouldn’t expect to be taking water from the Waimakariri River because of low-river flow restrictions set by the Waimakariri Regional River Plan,” says Pat Morrison.

“CPW is happy to assure everyone today that we won’t take any water when the Coast to Coast event is running even if, due to high rainfall, we could.”

The proposed amount of water the scheme will harness and turn to productive use is only a fraction of the volume of water that currently runs out to sea. While the scheme proposes to take a maximum of 40 cumecs from the Waimakariri at any one time, its annual average take would only be 9 cumecs from the Waimakariri or 7% of its total yearly flow.

Ends

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