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For immediate release

PROPOSED CENTRAL PLAINS WATER SCHEME WILL NOT IMPACT COAST TO COAST EVENT

The proposed Central Plains Water irrigation scheme will not impact the annual Coast to Coast event. During February when the event is run, it will be unusual for the scheme to be taking water from the Waimakariri River due to low-river flow restrictions set by the Waimakariri Regional River Plan which the scheme will abide by. Furthermore organisers of the event can be assured that the scheme could undertake not to take any water when the Coast to Coast event is running.

Central Plains Water Limited Chairman Pat Morrison says, "The Waimakariri River will not be left 'dry' over any stretch as a result of this scheme, the current low-flow minimum will be protected and no change to the summer minimum flow condition is required. For Central Plains to take water from the Waimakariri River it would have to have twice the amount of water flowing in it than it has today."

It is important to note that the scheme is seeking resource consent to only take water that may be allocated under the Waimakariri Regional River Plan. This plan was prepared by Environment Canterbury after extensive community consultation.

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 the Waimakariri at any one time, its annual average take would only be 9 cumecs from the Waimakariri.

Pat Morrison says it is important to remember that the Central Plains Water scheme has yet to go through a very thorough Resource Consent process. This will deal with the environmental effects of the scheme in fine detail. Central Plains Water trusts in this process to safeguard the interests of the community, and encourages all interested people to participate actively in the process.

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For further information:

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