

Note: These conditions are up to date as at 05/03/26. They include changes that have been made as a result of consultation with Waitaki Rūnaka and Environment Canterbury. Meridian continues to engage with Waitaki Rūnaka, Environment Canterbury and the Department of Conservation so further changes may arise through that process. Should that occur an updated version (Version 3) will be provided to the Panel for consideration.

Version 2

CRC262540 – Section 14 Consent – to take, use, dam or divert water for hydroelectricity generation (Operation of Lake Pūkaki below 518 m)

CONSENT SCOPE

Note: This consent relates to the operation of Lake Pūkaki below the normal minimum level of 518.0 m above mean sea level (m RL) (to a minimum of 513.0 m RL), during times of electricity shortage when not otherwise provided for as a permitted activity under the relevant Regional Plan or by a resource consent.

1. The consent holder must advise Canterbury Regional Council attention: Manager Compliance, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and Te Rūnanga o Waihao when reducing lake levels reach 519.0 m RL, i.e. before Lake Pūkaki is reduced below the Normal Consented Minimum Lake Level of 518.0 m RL.
2. During any period within which the level of Lake Pūkaki is below 518 m RL, the consent holder must advise Canterbury Regional Council attention: Manager Compliance, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and Te Rūnanga o Waihao weekly of:
 - a. the strategies adopted to restore Lake Pūkaki to the Normal Consented Minimum Lake Level of 518 m RL; and
 - b. the lake level at the end of each reporting week;
 - c. the estimated timeframe for returning Lake Pūkaki to the Normal Consented Minimum Lake Level;
 - d. the measures adopted to mitigate adverse effects of operating the lake below the Normal Consented Minimum Lake Level, including effects on cultural values and mahinga kai.
3. During periods when Lake Pūkaki is operated below 518 m RL, the consent holder shall measure and record the lake water levels, relative to mean sea level (Lyttelton datum), at a frequency not less than every 60 minutes, to the satisfaction of the Canterbury Regional Council, and shall supply the records to Canterbury Regional Council attention: Manager Compliance, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and Te Rūnanga o Waihao monthly.

Note: The intent is to update this consent condition so that it aligns with Meridian's water level monitoring obligations under its operational consents. These consents are currently before the Environment Court with a decision expected in late April 2026. We will update this condition once that decision is released.

4. On each occasion that the consent holder implements this consent to manage Lake Pūkaki below 518 m RL, the consent holder must, no later than eight weeks following the completion of each lowering event, provide Canterbury Regional Council attention: Manager Compliance, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and Te Rūnanga o Waihao with the following information:
 - a. the date and time at which the lake was lowered below 518 m RL;
 - b. the levels at which the Lake Pūkaki was managed over the duration of the lowering event;
 - c. the duration of the lowering event;
 - d. a written description of the circumstances leading to and applying during the lowering event;
 - e. a written description of the measures adopted to mitigate adverse effects of operating the lake below the Normal Consented Minimum Lake Level, including effects on cultural values and mahinga kai.

5. If the information provided in condition 4 indicates that the timing, duration, frequency and extent of any lowering event is different to what was predicted in the resource consent application, then the consent holder shall provide a detailed explanation of the differences and the circumstances of their occurrence to the Canterbury Regional Council, attention: Manager Compliance within 3 months of the lowering event.

6. The Canterbury Regional Council may, once per year, on any of the last five working days of May or November, serve notice of its intention to review the conditions of this consent for the purposes of:
 - a. Dealing with an adverse effect on the environment occurring as a result of the exercise of this resource consent; or
 - b. Requiring best practicable options to be adopted by the consent holder to remove or reduce any adverse effect on the environment as a result of the exercise of this resource consent; or
 - c. Requiring the consent holder to carry out monitoring and reporting instead of, or in addition to, that required by the resource consent; or
 - d. Requiring the consent holder to comply with a relevant rule in an operative regional plan.