

## Low Flow Contingency Plan for Water Abstraction from the Maitaura River

*(Prepared for Environment Southland Consent No. 204126)*

1. Alliance continues to recognise its duty of efficient use of natural resources.
2. The water take authorised by this consent is non-consumptive. Of the maximum allowable take at 35,600m<sup>3</sup>/day, a maximum 21,200m<sup>3</sup>/day is returned from refrigeration cooling and the remaining maximum of 14,400m<sup>3</sup>/day is returned on the same day as treated waste water within a short distance of the take. As the water take is non-consumptive, steps taken under this Low Flow Contingency Plan will have little impact on the Maitaura River under low flow conditions.
3. The trigger value for this Low Flow Contingency Plan is 20m<sup>3</sup>/sec, as measured at the Tuturau flow gauge. Flows less than 20m<sup>3</sup>/sec can occur each year, and often more than once per year.
4. During extended periods of low river flow and prolonged dry weather, on farm conditions are likely to give rise to animal welfare concerns. The direct curtailment of processing capacity is not appropriate as a contingency measure under these circumstances.
5. The measures proposed in this plan are in addition to ongoing measures being taken by Alliance to ensure water use efficiency. Sufficient water supply and reducing water requirements for meat processing are an ongoing imperative for Alliance.
6. At river flows below 20m<sup>3</sup>/sec, Alliance will implement the following measures:
  - a. Notify all plant personnel of low flow river conditions
  - b. Restrict use of the onsite truck wash facility
  - c. Restrict stock yard washing
  - d. Enlist a person for the sole duty of ensuring all unnecessary water use on site is restricted.
7. The Environmental Manager (or his nominee) is responsible for the implementation of this plan, advising ES when it is implemented and for on-going communication with ES while the plan is operative.

### *Notes:*

*Water used in staff amenities is sourced from Maitaura town supply and is independent of this water take.*

*The potential effects of the treated waste water discharge to the Maitaura River under low flow conditions are covered by Environment Southland resource consent 202327. A separate Low Flow Contingency Plan is required to be developed by 30 September 2008.*