

Water Position Statement

Water is central to Genesis' role as one of the largest generators of electricity for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Water is a precious resource. Genesis acknowledges the impact our assets and their operation has on river systems and the associated cultural, social and environmental effects and take very seriously our responsibility to carefully manage our operations and use of water¹.

Genesis recognises the importance of upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the relationship that mana whenua has with water. We work hard to mitigate and compensate for the effects of our activities, striving for strong and meaningful relationships with mana whenua, communities, and environmental organisations around our generation sites.

We are committed to creating positive outcomes in the catchments where we operate and strive to maintain transparent reporting of our performance.



Above: Tekapo A power scheme

Generation schemes

Genesis operates hydro power schemes in the Central North Island Plateau, Waikaremoana and Tekapo, which divert and use water to generate electricity. Together they generate enough electricity for around 330,000 households each year. Renewable electricity generation like this will play a crucial role in Aotearoa New Zealand's efforts to address climate change, enabling greater electrification to reduce emissions and decarbonise the economy.



We recognise the importance of making good decisions to operate and maintain our hydro electricity schemes. We work constructively in partnership with mana whenua and local stakeholders to contribute to meaningful environmental, cultural and community outcomes and are committed to ensuring that environmental, social and cultural awareness and responsibility are cornerstones of the Company's business activities.

Genesis acknowledges that hydro electricity generation has a range of environmental effects, stemming from the damming and diversion of water. This has associated cultural, ecological and recreational impacts and often requires the artificial management of lake levels and the management of erosion and sediment.

Genesis also operates Huntly Power Station, which requires water to be drawn from the Waikato River for cooling purposes, and for some to be demineralised before use in the boilers. Water is discharged back into the river under strict guidelines to protect human health and aquatic ecology.

August, 2023. This Position Statement will be updated every two years. Refer to Genesis' [Nature Position Statement](#) for more detail on our approach to biodiversity.

1. *Environment' in the RMA is defined to include: (a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and (b) all natural and physical resources; and (c) amenity values; and (d) the social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which affect the matters stated paragraphs (a) to (c) or which are affected by those matters.

Our resource consent conditions ensure the environmental effects from our activities are carefully monitored, managed and where required, mitigated or compensated. Genesis has a robust and well-established Environmental Management System in place to guide day-to-day operations and works constructively in partnership with mana whenua and local stakeholders to contribute to positive environmental outcomes. As one example of this approach, the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Genesis Energy Committee was established in the early 2000s to provide support for cultural, educational, health, and environmental initiatives to mitigate the ongoing impacts of the Tongariro Power Scheme on Ngāti Tūwharetoa.

Genesis has a dedicated hydrology team that maintains a variety of flow, water level, water quality and rainfall monitoring sites across all of our generation schemes. The data collected at these sites is audited externally each year to ensure their validity and reported as required to the relevant Regional Councils. Genesis is also a constructive contributor to national and regional environmental and water policy development and reform processes.

Our commitment

Genesis' ability to generate electricity relies on our appropriate use of water and respect for the relationship of mana whenua with water and the environment. We will endeavour to maintain strong relationships to address adverse effects of our power schemes, while meeting the renewable electricity needs of Aotearoa New Zealand as we progress toward a low emissions future.

This Water Statement aligns with the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



Find out more about our generation on our [website](#)
For all of our data on water, visit our [website](#)

Caring for waterways

Project River Recovery

Consent required mitigation

We jointly fund Project River Recovery (PRR), a Department of Conservation (DOC) programme to protect and restore braided rivers and wetland ecosystems in the Upper Waitaki Basin where our Tekapo Power Scheme is located.

Whio Forever

Over and above compliance

Genesis has also partnered with DOC on the national Whio Forever programme since 2011, achieving a 90% increase in native blue duck/whio breeding pairs in the wild. Whio are an indicator species of healthy freshwater ecosystems, and their conservation drives broader biodiversity outcomes for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Te Kōpuka nā te Awa Tupua

Te Kōpuka was formed following the Te Awa Tupua (2014) Settlement. Te Kōpuka's membership is comprised of Whanganui Iwi and other iwi and hapū with interests in the Whanganui River, local and central government, and groups to address and advance the wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua, focusing on the Whanganui River as a whole across a range of areas and wellbeings. Genesis is privileged to be a member of Te Kōpuka. Together, Te Kōpuka members have been responsible for producing a strategy document that will identify issues relating to the environmental, social, cultural and economic health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua and provide strategies and recommended actions for addressing those issues.

Waikato Rivercare

To help care for the Waikato River, Genesis was a founding member of Waikato RiverCare in 1999 and is a long-term supporter of Waikato RiverCare restoration projects. This charitable trust, whose other members include iwi, local councils, businesses and community groups, undertakes native habitat restoration along the lower Waikato River and associated catchments.

For more examples of Genesis' water and nature related initiatives, please see our [Nature Position Statement](#).