



Lake Hāwea operating levels

Contact's proposed changes

Why this matters

New Zealand is facing three big energy challenges:



Keeping the lights on

We need reliable energy, especially during dry years or when demand is high.



Keeping energy affordable

Power prices are rising, which puts pressure on households and businesses.



Supporting New Zealand's decarbonisation

Cleaner energy cuts emissions and fights climate change, but takes planning and investment.



What's being considered

We're looking at how the Clutha Mata-au hydro scheme works to help make sure there's enough electricity during winter, when demand is highest. Two options are being explored:



A small change to lake levels

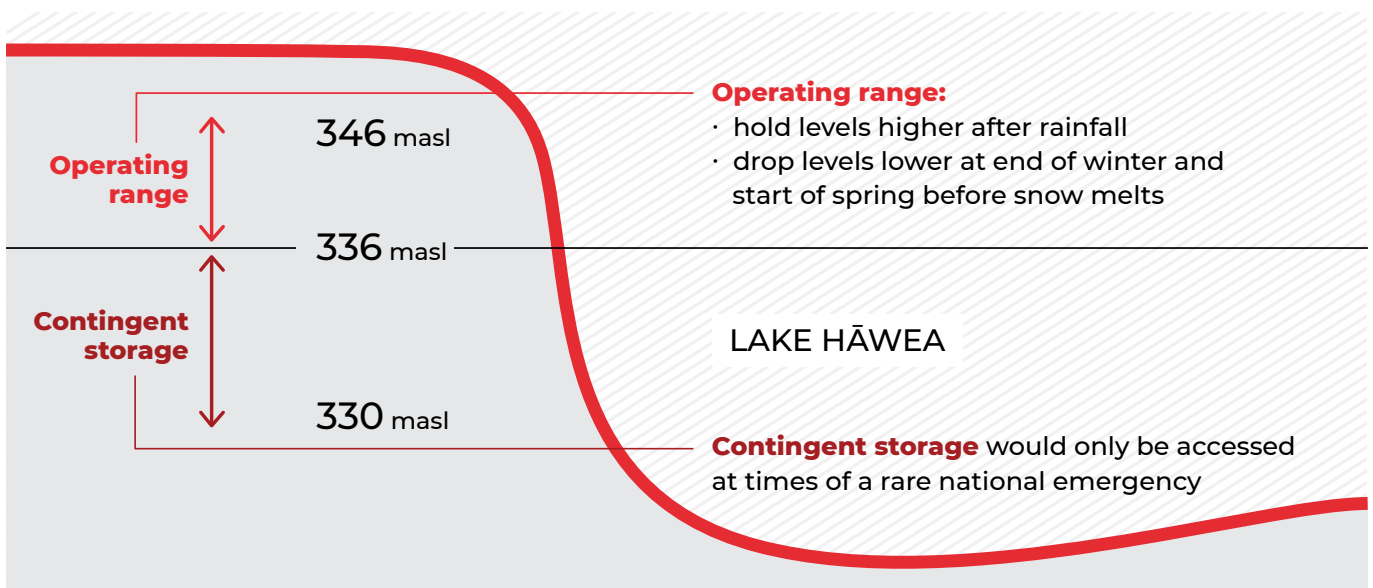
A two-metre change to how Lake Hāwea is managed. This would let us store and access more water to use when electricity demand is high or rainfall is low.



A temporary emergency option

In rare and extreme situations, we are considering the option of lowering the lake by up to six metres – but only if Transpower, who manage the national grid, warns of a serious electricity shortage.

The last time this emergency storage (called “contingent storage”) was used was in 1982, more than 40 years ago.



*masl means metres under the sea

Early stages

These are early-stage ideas. Contact has submitted an application to the Government to see if the project qualifies for the Fast-track Approvals process.

If the application is accepted, Contact will carry out a detailed review to understand how the project could affect the environment and local communities.

We're committed to working closely with Hāwea community and making sure your voices are heard throughout the process.

Want to know more?

Visit contact.co.nz/cluthahydroscheme or email hydro.engagement@contactenergy.co.nz

