

Media Release

15 March 2010

Hurunui Water Project wins V5 award

The Hurunui Water Project has made the final list for Canterbury V5 (www.canterburyv5.org.nz); an initiative to discover five projects of national significance with the potential to generate \$100 million of revenue for the Canterbury Region within five years - and \$1 billion or more in revenue within 20 years.

The project was given the honour last Thursday at a ceremony hosted by V5 backers; the University of Canterbury, the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce and the Canterbury Development Corporation. Judges included Dr Keith Turner, John Judge and Ruth Richardson.

Project Manager Amanda Loeffen says the V5 recognition is a welcome endorsement for the backers of the project (the Hurunui Irrigation and Power Trust, MainPower and the owner of Eskhead Station).

"The V5 award has given us new stimulus. The judges recognise that the project could offer new life for North Canterbury, which has the lowest earnings per capita in the country, and we are excited about benefiting from their expertise."

The four winning V5 projects will receive up to 50 days of free professional help from the University of Canterbury, worth around \$140,000, to further project development and confirm feasibility.

"This has come at just the right time. Despite the enormous gains that irrigation could provide for the welfare of Hurunui District, it has been exceedingly hard to reach the resource consent stage. The cost of investigations and research to date has been prohibitively expensive. And the current regulatory environment means we face Environment Court hearings for a Water Conservation Order this June before the project can even be considered on its own merits."

"Locals should be proud that their vision of a community irrigation and hydro generation scheme has achieved national recognition and excited that the project has such high calibre support."

For more information please contact:

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