

Hurunui Water Project



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Update on Water Conservation Order

Dates of Interest:

- **June:** *announcement of WCO decision*
- **4 June:** *Public forums*
- **5 June:** *Deadline for Submissions on Canterbury Water Management Strategy*
- **30 June:** *Deadline for further feedback*
- **Website:**
- *Our website www.hurunuiwater.co.nz continues to feature updates on the WCO.*
- *You can get in touch with us anytime through info@hurunuiwater.co.nz*

Thank you to those members of the Hurunui community who voluntarily gave up their time to write submissions and present evidence at the recent Water Conservation Order (WCO) hearings.

Hearings concluded mid May and we are hoping for a speedy result on the WCO application in June.

Residents in Hurunui District have told us they need a prompt decision on the WCO so they can get on

with planning for their future.

The WCO application has hung over the heads of the district for more than two years, generating hundreds of hours of work for the Project and its supporters.

It has been an exhausting and expensive exercise and we believe the evidence points to the Hurunui River having multiple values for the community – economic, recreational, social, cultural and ecological..

Public Forums

Thursday 4 June 2009

10am to 130pm

Cheviot Trust Hotel, Cheviot

Thursday 4 June 2009

330pm to 7pm

Hawarden Rugby Clubrooms Hawarden

Drop in for a coffee, view the displays and tell us what you think!

Come and Talk to us!

In February we held consultation meetings with the public. Unfortunately due to the early scheduling of hearings for the WCO, the consultation had to be put on hold. With the conclusion of hearings, we are now able to resume our conversations.

On Thursday 4 June 2009, we will hold two further open forums for the public and interested stakeholders in Hurunui District. We would welcome the opportunity to catch up with you at one of these forums. Short presentations

will take place at 11am, 12.30pm, 4pm and 6pm. The purpose of the forums is to explore any further concerns, issues or opportunities that should be taken into account. We are asking for further feedback on the Project by 30 June.

Other Investigations

Environment Canterbury has invited the Project to join a study to investigate other options for water management in Hurunui District.

The study is looking at among other things: on-farm storage of water, redirecting groundwater and the conversion of inefficient irrigation practices. Consultants are updating previous studies to see if any of these approaches compares favourably with bulk water storage.

While the Project has investigated these options in the past, it will be good to have an independent evaluation of the efficiency, likely impacts and costs of each water management approach. We need to be confident that the Project has focused on the most efficient and feasible option available for water management in Hurunui.

Have your say in the strategy by voting online for the strategy of your choice, or fill out the reply-paid forms enclosed.

February Consultation Follow-up

Since meeting with more than 150 people in February, the Project has examined some of the issues and concerns raised during this consultation.

The Project has looked at whether it can alleviate flooding in the district by controlling Hurunui River water.

It appears there is a limited opportunity, in the event of forewarned rain events, for storage to be released to reduce the potential for flooding downstream.

Another issue was the concern around water quality in Cheviot. A review of local water sources by our consultants has found that Cheviot's drinking water comes from aquifers not connected to the Hurunui River or the land that will be irrigated by the scheme. This means we can state with certainty that Cheviot's water supply will not be affected by any land intensification, run off or changes in quality to the Hurunui River. In essence, there will be no impact on Cheviot's drinking

water quality.

Other issues including; the need for particular flows for kayakers in the Hurunui River, protection measures for salmon and trout populations and possible landscape changes are still under review.

We will report back to you on these as the design of the Project comes together, taking into account feedback received this month and June.

Resource Consent

We are close to finalising the scope of Project and will shortly apply for resource consent for a water take for the scheme. This is, of course, dependent on the results of the WCO process.

Your current feedback will be used to modify and mitigate the design of the Project should we be allowed to proceed.

The resource consent application we are currently preparing only covers how much water we are allowed to take. The final location, design and operation of the scheme will still be subject to consultation and a further resource consent application.

Keep checking our website, to see the details of our resource consent application.

