



# WATER FOR OUR FUTURE

Lake Sumner at the highest storage level during irrigation season

## News Update

It's all change for the Water Conservation Order (WCO). Suddenly, the playing field has become fairer with the new bill that widens the Conservation Order mandate to take account of RMA issues and fit within the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS). It will streamline the quagmire of legal processes for the Hurunui Water Project (HWP).

The CWMS has a vision to increase irrigation in Canterbury Region by 70% (350,000 hectares) and to increase economic growth by \$1.7 billion in value-added by 2040. HWP is one of the few water storage projects in the region that will help to achieve that goal.

The real advantage of the HWP is that it offers in-stream storage. The facility to harvest water only when there is plenty is the best solution for the health of the river, and offers the highest form of reliability for irrigators.



## Investment Potential

HWP is considering making an offer of ordinary shares to the public. It is intended that the ordinary shares to be offered will eventually be linked to water right shares when resource consent is approved.

No money is currently being

sought and no applications for ordinary shares will be accepted or money received unless the subscriber has received an investment statement. It is still expected that the Prospectus will be issued in May or June. We will have fuller details in our May newsletter.



South Branch Gorge showing position of dam

## Irrigation New Zealand Conference

HWP is exhibiting at the INZ Conference at the Convention Centre in Christchurch from the 26th to 28th April. If you would like to come and talk to us and find out more about the project, you are welcome to visit the Trade exhibition free of charge (outside of morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch). We will have several large simulations of pictures of the new reservoir on South Branch, as well as simulations of the weir on Lake Sumner. You can see for

yourselves how unobtrusive the weir is going to be, and how it fits into the local landscape. You will see how the dam nestles within the gorge on South Branch, and is visible from only a few places.

If you are interested in attending the INZ conference to hear speakers including the Minister of Agriculture, Hon David Carter and Dr Terry Heiler, you should visit the INZ website at [irrigationnz.co.nz](http://irrigationnz.co.nz) for further details.



The weir on Lake Sumner outlet, at its highest point during irrigation season

## Did you know?

- Fish passage over the weir at Lake Sumner outlet is unlikely to be affected by the weir most of the time, particularly during migration times.
- Additional flow in the river during summer will increase flows downstream from State Highway 1, aiding fish migration.
- The WCO tribunal did not find the South Branch to be 'Nationally Outstanding' for either bird habitat, landscape or vegetation. We are advised that the primary nesting habitat for these birds is on the plains rather than in the high country.
- Only 5% of the catchment area at the Hurunui River mouth comes from the South Branch above the gorge. No significant change in sediment movement is expected downstream of the Mandamus confluence.
- The small change in flow regime at the mouth will not affect the maintenance of an open channel, especially as sea forces dominate the shifting of sand banks.



## Next Month

In May, we expect to be closer to issuing the prospectus, so there should be plenty of details to share with you.

Contact us through the website at [www.hurunuiwater.co.nz](http://www.hurunuiwater.co.nz)

Or through the project office at phone 03 378 3524, and ask for Amanda Loeffen.

