

# WATER FOR OUR FUTURE

South Branch reservoir from the gorge

## News Update

Highlights in May included a visit from the Agriculture Minister Hon. David Carter, prompted by letters from a number of local residents in North Canterbury, concerned about the need for Government support. It is a particularly drought stricken autumn this year, and the timing was perfect for local landowners to show the need for irrigation water. Close to 200 people attended the meeting hosted by Kaikoura MP Colin King. It was a chance for local people, not just those directly affected by the project, to ask questions.

Last week, the project hosted a tour of the South Branch of

the Hurunui River for district councillors and media, and invited a number of interested community representatives along to see the location of the proposed storage lake in Eskhead Station. The one-and-a-half hour off-road drive reinforces the remoteness of the location. When you reach the glacial valley it is not difficult to imagine a natural-looking high country lake. It is also an opportunity to see the 35km of river between the dam site and the irrigable area, which will remain largely unchanged as a result of the storage.



## Prospectus Draws Closer

A draft prospectus is close to sign off with the HWP Board with a release date in June. The prospectus will likely be used to raise funds to progress the resource consent and sustain us through the Water Conservation Order hearings. While we can't reveal details yet, we can report strong support from the Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce, other business supporters and rural banks. We plan to mail copies of the investment statement to all HIPT members and those identified as potential investors, and details will be placed on our website [www.hurunuiwater.co.nz](http://www.hurunuiwater.co.nz).

## Zonal Committee announcement

The Hurunui-Waiiau zonal committee under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy will be announced in the coming weeks. We expect to use much of the research that has been conducted by the project as support for the committee.

# Next Month

June is a key month for the project as we seek confirmation from investors that they will support our prospectus and the project's plans to move forward. A series of woolshed meetings is being planned where you can ask questions and find out more about the proposed prospectus. Please contact Mike Hodgen or Euan Frost to express your interest in attending.

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.

# V5 Support

The project is firing ahead with support from the V5 backers, including research teams within the University of Canterbury. Some of the areas being considered include social research (how the growth of the economy through irrigation improves the welfare of the community), and ecology (investigating mitigation and conservation).

**These projects are part of the Canterbury V5 Initiative which aims to identify five projects of regional and national significance, each potentially generating \$100 million revenue for the region within five years and \$1 billion or more within 20 years.**

Judges will select the final five Canterbury V5 projects, which will receive professional support and infrastructure to accelerate their development to full feasibility. More information on the initiative and other projects can be found on [www.canterburyv5.org.nz](http://www.canterburyv5.org.nz)

**WATER HURUNUI WATER PROJECT**

The Hurunui Water Project will create prosperity for Canterbury by turning dry lands into a productive area. Around \$300 million will be generated annually by irrigating 42,000 hectares of land and producing 150MW of hydro power. The area will gain a new high country reservoir for recreation by creating a 7km-long lake with a high country sheep station. Hurunui River flows will be maintained by storing the water in winter. Additionally, the use of a steel underwater weir at Lake Sumner will allow constant year-round flows and secure fish passage.

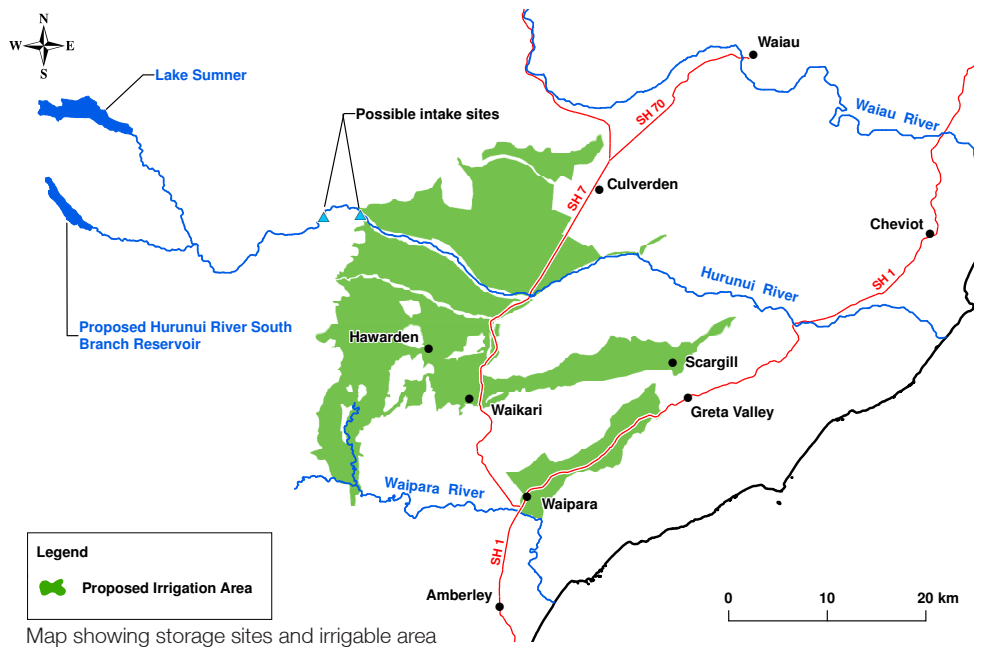
**MISSION/VISION**  
The land in Hurunui District today is dry and unproductive. Hurunui Water Project has a vision to find a solution for irrigation and hydro-generation, balancing the needs of all users of the Hurunui River. This is our chance to improve the well-being of the community.

"V5WP is a community-driven initiative with support from local landowners and Water Powers"

**CANTERBURY**  
Increase in crops, viticulture, meat and milk production, with opportunities for high value exports, the land in North Canterbury will become green and productive, the additional water in the river and new lake will provide opportunities for recreation and tourism, and the community will start to thrive.

**BENEFITS/IMPACT**  
Imagine more than a thousand new jobs, housing improvements, infrastructure development and all the support incentives and schemes that will be needed to service this thriving community. Hundreds of millions of GDP growth will be generated widely in the region through the diverse benefits from investment in food production.

The Canterbury V5 Initiative is supported by:



# Did you know?

- **Christchurch Benefits:** Three quarters of the gain in flow-on benefits, worth \$270 million per annum, will end up in greater Canterbury. This will result in increased spending in the city in every sector ranging from food and retail to goods and services.
- **Recreational benefits:** The project is working on finding a location for a recreational lake near the intake for the scheme. This could easily be integrated into the distribution network, helping to revive existing smaller rivers, and giving North Cantabrians a more accessible lake to play on.
- **Drinking water:** Much of the district suffers from poor quality water, and an ageing network of pipes. The new scheme will easily accommodate additional water for drinking supplies, if that is what the local council would like to see.
- **Hydro-generation:** There are several options for hydro-generation, depending on the final design of the intake and distribution system. Options include power at the dam site, the intake and at various locations along the distribution network.
- **Piping:** We will design to maximize the use of pipelines. Pipes have numerous advantages over canals, including minimal water loss, less disruption and supply at pressure to reduce energy consumption. It also costs about 50% more, so it will need to be carefully assessed when the detailed distribution plan is developed.
- **Intake Location:** We are considering a range of options varying from more expensive, higher intake locations that offer gravity fed water via pipeline, to more economic lower sites that can only work via canal. This detail will be established once we have a confirmed resource consent to take and use the water for storage.

## More Questions?

If you have any unanswered questions, please contact us through the website or project office and we will include answers in the June newsletter.