

WATER FOR OUR FUTURE

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View over Arariu Plain showing contrast between irrigated and dry land

News Update

It is no surprise that the Government needed to introduce a moratorium to allow a more collaborative process to work in Hurunui. We promoted the idea a year ago but few others were interested at that stage. HWP has been supportive of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) from the start when they consulted on different options in the catchment for storage. The recently-announced moratorium will allow the Zonal Committee to work through a collaborative process towards water management in the district. The goals of the CWMS and the goals of HWP are aligned in terms of finding a solution for irrigation, biodiversity and water quality. While this next year appears to be a holding pattern, the solutions for water storage that are endorsed at the end of the process will provide a faster route

to resource consent for the project. We also welcome the opportunity to increase collaboration and buy-in for the final solution. As stated in the New ECan Act, HWP will retain priority during this period, and will also have the opportunity to revise its application to fit with any changes to the planning framework that occur.

In a letter from Dame Bazley to HWP, she states "... While the moratorium is a delay, it does maintain Hurunui Water Project's priority relative to new applications, something that could not be guaranteed if the applications were put on hold. In addition, you will have the opportunity to revise your application to take account of a new planning framework, again without loss of priority."



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A message from Rt Hon John Key

Prime Minister John Key has sent a letter out to 120,000 households in Christchurch, asking for people's opinions on:

- Do you agree with the Government actions to replace ECan with the new commissioners?
- Which water issues concern you the most?
- When would you like to see new elections for ECan?

press for excluding the rural sector, but the Government claim that it is "not scientific" and it is seeking to find out the views of the layperson that is not involved in water issues directly. It is an informative pamphlet that explains the problems with Canterbury's Water, why the Government stepped in, and the progress and next steps for water management. If you would like to see a copy, please email us on info@hurunuiwater.co.nz and we can send you one.



North Canterbury Options



Hurunui River near Balmoral Forest at the highway

A recent report commissioned by ECan has just been released looking at all water supply options for irrigation in North Canterbury. It is a desktop study and covers everything from efficiency gains and on-farm storage, to groundwater availability and new storage options. While the South Branch and Lake Sumner are the only options that can use water from the Hurunui River, the report also considers the use

of the Lees Valley for supply to Amberley and Waipara, and large Waiau storage options that could also supply the north side of the Hurunui River and riparian areas below 240RL. The Waiau could be helpful in terms of increasing the water available for the north side of the river, allowing the project to supply a greater irrigable area including Waipara. There is a more detailed study to be commissioned shortly.

Hurunui Waiau Zonal Committee

Community representatives on the Committee are John Faulkner, Professor Ken Hughey, Andrew Harris, Mike Hodgen, Dr Michele Hawke, Tony Hawker and David Eder. The newly-formed Committee has already met

three times in the last two months. The meetings to date have been spent bringing members up to speed on water management and responsibilities. Commissioner Peter Skelton came to the last meeting in Cheviot on 16th

August to talk about how he sees the role of the Zonal Committee. There is a big responsibility for those members to come up with some priorities for water management for the Hurunui District by the end of the year.



The Zonal Committee gets down to business.



David Croft, Culverden dairy farmer and member of Pahau Enhancement Group, describes to the Committee how he has tackled water quality issues on his farm including constructing a storage pond to catch irrigation by-wash from border-dyke land.



John Faulkner, Zonal Committee member and winner of the Ballance Sustainable dairy farm award, gathers the committee around his dining table to talk about his approach to farm management.

HWP Website

The website is currently being updated with a new look that offers more opportunity for liaison with the community: www.hurunuiwater.co.nz will be going live with the new look in mid-September.

Revised Prospectus

The moratorium has enabled the project to trim costs significantly in the coming year, and we have taken the opportunity to revise our forthcoming prospectus. The highlights are reduced upfront costs for investors and a summary of the changes to the statutory environment. We are currently aiming to issue the prospectus in September. Please get in touch with us now if you would like to be kept informed by email on info@hurunuiwater.co.nz

Canterbury V5 Support

The V5 project is proving to be a big help to the project. We have been offered a substantial amount of free help from both Lane Neave (our existing legal advisors for governance) and Carter Price Rennie (a PR agency that we are just starting to work with). In addition, we are still firming up on some meaningful research projects at the University of Canterbury, which we hope to share with you in coming weeks.



These projects are part of the Canterbury V5 initiative which aims to identify the priorities of regional and national governments, work proactively generating \$900 million revenue for the region within five years and \$1 billion or more within 100 years.

Jonico 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

WATER
HURUNUI WATER PROJECT

The Hurunui Water Project will create opportunity for Canterbury by turning dry land into a productive area. Around 1200 hectares will be operational annually by bringing 45,000 hectares of land into production. The area will gain a new high quality resource for recreation by creating a new high quality sheep station. Hurunui River flows will be restricted by storing the water in Lake Sumner. Additionally, the use of a novel water-use will allow Sumner to store surplus water during winter and release for irrigation.

MISSION/VISION
The land in Hurunui District is dry and unproductive. Hurunui Water Project has a vision to find a solution for irrigation and horticulture. The project will create a new high quality resource for recreation and tourism. The area will gain a new high quality resource for recreation and tourism. The area will gain a new high quality resource for recreation and tourism.

CANTERBURY
Increase in gross value added, horticulture, meat and wool production, with opportunities for high value exports. The land in North Canterbury will become green and productive. The additional water in the river and lake will provide opportunities for recreation and tourism, and the community will start to thrive.

MARKETS/IMPACT
Imagine more than a thousand new jobs, housing programmes, infrastructure development and all the support initiatives and schools that will be needed to service the thriving community. Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of new investment in the region through the Hurunui benefits from investment in food production.

The Canterbury V5 Initiative is supported by:

CCC, UC, Canterbury Regional Council, Canterbury Chamber of Commerce

Driest Autumn

These pictures sent to us of hungry Hurunui sheep starkly record one of the driest Autumns in memory. The effects of the drought have carried over as there is very little growth despite a huge amount of winter rain. Mike Hodgen says he has 'less sheep than ever' on his Hawarden farm due to the shortage of food. "Most people don't realize the lasting impact of a drought at that time of the year."



Did You Know?

South Branch Tributary

Only 15% of the water in the Hurunui River at Mandamus originates above the South Branch gorge, contributing less than 10% to the flow at the outlet to the sea. Of the North and South stems it is the catchment that does not have its flood flows buffered by a lake, meaning that during floods the flow will be faster than the North Branch. It is our understanding that the flow is still minor in comparison to the waters at Mandamus when a flood occurs in the Hurunui catchment.

Lake Sumner margins

With recent surveys of the lake margins we are able to demonstrate more accurately the effects of holding the lake average higher for some of the summer. The majority of the changes occur in the delta of the lake where the land is flatter, and to some of the grasslands near Charley's Point. There is a limited amount of land (4 ha) that has Beech and hardwood trees around the margin

that will be at risk of inundation for up to a third of the year. A further two hectares around Loch Katrine contains a mixture of Manuka, gorse, Kowhai and Carex. The project is designed to minimise the effects, keeping the water level within the historic range, even during most floods.

Salmon

The South Branch spawning run makes up less than half a percentage of Canterbury's salmon returns. So while the Hurunui River (and to a lesser degree the South Branch) holds an important salmon fishery, it is not critical to sustain South Island salmon populations. It is also thought that many of the salmon in the Hurunui River are reintroduced from other, much larger, salmon-sustaining rivers such as the Waimakariri, which has thousands of returning salmon every year, instead of approximately a hundred in the Hurunui.

Are you a river flow expert?

See if you can guess the correct flow of the Hurunui River in these three pictures taken on the main stem near Seaward Stream. Enter our competition by emailing the results to info@hurunuiwater.co.nz, by 30th September 2010 and win a pen if you are right. (Answers next edition):



If you have any questions, please contact us at the project office on 03 378 3524 or info@hurunuiwater.co.nz.

www.hurunuiwater.co.nz