



NEWSLETTER

MANUHERIKIA CATCHMENT WATER STRATEGY GROUP

June 2014

Update from the project manager:

Over the past month we have been busy working behind the scenes on a range of different components of the feasibility study. Golders has been busy working on a number of engineering-specific outputs associated with the Mt Ida Dam site and the Falls Dam site options, and its representatives spoke to the wider strategy group at its June 5 meeting about a number of environmental matters, including ecology and landscape. The baseline environmental report has been completed, with the final details relating to the various options and the potential benefits, risks and mitigations to be pulled together in the final feasibility report. Continue to check the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group's website over the coming months, as we will put finalised reports onto the website - www.mcwater.co.nz

The consent working group has also had a busy month, working through options for a catchment-wide consenting strategy, focused on a single consent holding entity model. This work will continue to be further informed by the work of a small working party called the Farmer/Irrigator Advisory Group which is looking at matters relating to water allocation and management in the catchment, and in particular the options for working with private water rights holders. John Williamson from Checketts McKay Law and I will be progressing work on this front by preparing an issues/options paper using Lauder Creek as our working example. Once the document has been drafted, we will arrange a series of meetings with private water rights holders in the catchment to discuss examples/findings and undertake detailed engagement. Following this process, we expect to incorporate these details into the final Consent Strategy Document, which is a Feasibility Study Outcome.

AgResearch has been working on its component of the feasibility study, looking at nutrient budget modelling in the catchment, and is currently working on modelling the potential outputs from the five case study farms to enable detailed assessment of different land use opportunities and how these are able to comply with the Otago Regional Council's Plan Change 6A limits.

We are holding a Nutrient Management Workshop on Monday June 23 at 1.30pm at the Omakau Rugby Club, where a number of nutrient management topics will be covered.

On June 12, the strategy group held a seminar in conjunction with the ANZ Bank on "Opportunities, Options and Risks." The speakers included George Collier, a chartered accountant from Alexandra; Guy Blundell from Compass Agribusiness, and Nicky Hyslop, a farmer and agribusiness consultant from South Canterbury. This session was well attended by approximately 100 farmers and agribusiness representatives and was rounded off with a presentation by Cameron Bagrie, the chief economist at ANZ Bank.

See the July newsletter for a full review of the seminar by MCWSG deputy chairperson Gary Kelliher.

The speakers' presentations can be viewed on the MCWSG's website - www.mcwater.co.nz

Kate Scott
Project manager
Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group

The Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group's environmental work:

The Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group has been set up primarily to look at options for increased irrigation storage in the Manuherikia Valley, but it aims to do so in a way that builds a community consensus on rural water use, as outlined in the group's "community proposition." That means integrating environmental and economic objectives as far as possible.

This is timely because water users in the valley face major changes in the way water is managed, as a result of the Otago Regional Council's Water Plan Change 6A (controlling water quality) and the required transition from mining privileges to Resource Management Act consents by 2021.

Current water management and use in the catchment is complicated by over-allocation, gaps in information on water takes and river hydrology and the adverse effects of takes (depleted river reaches and in-river barriers). *Continues on page 2...*



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Increased water storage could provide the opportunity to improve low summer flows in the main stem and in the tributaries, without impacting on farming operations. That, in turn, would improve river health, fisheries' biodiversity and productivity and recreational amenity - benefits that accrue to everyone living in the valley and to visitors.

No one should be complacent about water quality. There are too many examples around the country where unmanaged land use impacts have resulted in entrenched water quality problems. Otago's new rules on water quality management mean all landholders will need to review their farm operations to ensure they manage run-off, and those who plan to farm more intensively will need to take care they can do so within prescribed nutrient leaching limits. The strategy group's stated outcome is to improve water quality, and its catchment studies and information dissemination are likely to play a key role in helping landholders adapt to the new water quality standards.

Involvement of environmental organisations in the strategy group allows input on a range of matters. Feedback on things like biodiversity, public access, riparian management or landscape values can take place continuously throughout the various steps in the scheme investigation, and bring alternative viewpoints to bear early in the process. It can't guarantee there won't be differences of opinion down the line, but it does give the best chance of reconciling differences in advance of the formal consenting process.

Niall Watson
Otago Fish and Game Council

Who's in the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group?

The MCWSG has an executive team of 10 people, which liaises with and is advised by a wider group of nearly 30 people, some of whom represent a wide range of organisations. Within the wider group is a "special interest group," which is made up of representatives of environmental and recreational organisations.

The MCWSG is led by independent chairperson Allan Kane, a high county merino sheep farmer from the Upper Clutha. The remainder of the

executive team comprises deputy chairperson Gary Kelliher from the Manuherikia Irrigation Company; Gerald Dowling and Ken Gillespie from the Hawkdun/Idaburn Irrigation Company; Gerard Flannery from the Omakau Irrigation Company; Ralph Hore from the Falls Dam Company; Graye Shattky from the Central Otago Environmental Society; Jan Manson; and Warwick Hawker, the Central Otago District Council's economic development manager. The project manager is Kate Scott, a resource management planner from a farming background, who is the managing director of Cromwell-based environmental planning, surveying and engineering company, BTW South.

The wider group comprises Ben Hore (Blackstone Hill Irrigation Company); John Paterson (Ida Valley Irrigation Company); John Waldron (Falls Dam Company); Murray and Annette Heckler (Falls Dam Company); Mike Kelly (Galloway Irrigation Company); Tommy Arthur (Ida Valley Irrigation Company); James Armstrong (Private Water Rights Holders); Anne Steven (Forest & Bird); Matt Sole (Forest & Bird); Niall Watson (Fish & Game); Clare Morris (Fish & Game); Francie Diver (Kāi Tahu ki Otago); Maree Kleinlangevelsloo (Kāi Tahu ki Otago); Gavin Udy (Department of Conservation); Jacob Dexter (Department of Conservation); Fraser Jonker (Pioneer Generation); Neil J. Gillespie (Contact Energy); Peter Bodeker (Otago Regional Council); Peter Morton (Central Otago District Council); Andrew Paterson; Brian Turner; Dave Menzies; George Collier; Glen Harrex; Hamish Jopp; Hilary Weber; Mary Flannery; Ritchie Stevens.

See a photo of the MCWSG on page 3...



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Photo: Most members of the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group: back row, left to right: Ben Hore, Tommy Arthur, John Paterson, Richard Little, Gerard Flannery, Ralph Hore, Allan Kane, Niall Watson, Ken Gillespie (on the end). Front row, left to right: Dave Menzies, Mike Kelly, Loretta Dobbs, Claire Morris, John Waldron, Gerald Dowling, Anne Stevens, Warwick Hawker, Phil Tisch, Graye Shattky, Jacob Dexter, Kate Scott.



Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group profile: chairperson Allan Kane:

The Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group is chaired by fourth generation Upper Clutha high country sheep farmer, Allan Kane, who has strong community and environmental values.

"I believe in integrating farming and conservation to avoid negative effects and I enjoy creating structures, or removing road blocks, so communities or groups are able to work together to achieve an agreed solution or a desired outcome."

Allan has a proven ability to help people with varying viewpoints reach an acceptable agreement. He founded the Upper Clutha Vegetation Control Group which finds alternatives to burn-offs and, when there is no alternative, involves all parties concerned to ensure the operation is safe and contained.

A merino farmer, Allan has dedicated many years to the wool industry, including a decade on the New Zealand Wool Board, which involved a stint as the deputy chairperson. He has also chaired the WRONZ (Wool Research Organisation of New

Zealand) and been a director of the International Wool Secretariat, which drives the global wool market.

Allan's son, Sam, has now taken over the family farm after many years helping third world countries improve their agricultural systems to reduce poverty. The 5260 hectare property, Glenfoyle Station, runs 10,000 merino sheep and 60 breeding cows. None of the land is irrigated and the Kanes have planted a large amount of native trees and shrubs.

Allan and his wife Barbara have three other children – Gretchen, who is mother to their first grandchild, lives in Akaroa and is married to a butcher who is the former marketing manager of the New Zealand Merino Company. Prue has an import wholesale business in Wanaka and Zoe is a winemaker for Mt Difficulty Wines.

A member of Fish and Game and a keen back-country fly fisherman, Allan has contributed to many agricultural and community organisations, including Young Farmers, Federated Farmers, the Upper Clutha A&P Society and rabbit boards. He spent a decade in the territorial force army, was deputy chair of Treble Cone during the ski field's early years, sat on the St Hilda's Collegiate School board, chaired Pioneer Generation for 13 years and is a current director of Central Otago Health Services Ltd.

Allan is committed to finding common ground between agricultural, environmental, economic and social interests and ensuring the way the Manuherikia Valley's water is used in the future is acceptable to all parties.



Allan Kane



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Upcoming events:

REMINDER: workshop to provide you with further information on nutrient management:

When: Monday June 23, 1.30pm
Where: Omakau Rugby Club

Speakers:

- AgResearch representatives will provide an overview of the work they are doing on the feasibility study and how it is progressing. They will also discuss the modelling they are doing on the five case study properties that have been developed by Compass Agribusiness and how these properties compare to the limits of the Otago Regional Council's Plan Change 6A.

- Otago Regional Council representatives will discuss Plan Change 6A, its implementation and what it means for farmers.

- Rabobank's Blake Holgate will talk about water quality, nutrient management and irrigation in a wider context and his experience of how these matters are being dealt with in other regions.

- An Overseer expert will provide a practical approach to the type of information/records that people need to keep, to enable them to prepare a nutrient budget and keep records under Overseer, as is now required by Plan Change 6A.

RSVP: rebecca@btwsouth.co.nz or 03 445 9905

REMINDER: Otago Regional Council Plan Change 6A roadshow:

What: an opportunity for the local community to find out what the ORC's Water Quality Plan Change 6A means for them.

When: Wednesday, July 2, 3pm
Where: Omakau Sports Ground

REMINDER: Field trip to North Otago:

When: Tuesday July 1 (bus will leave Omakau at 7.45am)

Purpose: visit an award-winning irrigation scheme in the Waitaki region. The North Otago Irrigation Company's vision is to deliver reliable and cost-effective irrigation to the widest possible area, for the benefit of water users, the community and the environment.

RSVP: by Monday June 23, to David and Kate Menzies on 03 447 3073 or cambrianstation@ruralinzone.net

Itinerary:

- 10.30am: Mitchell Webster Group, Weston - winners of the Supreme Award at the 2013 Otago Ballance Farm Environment Awards. The Mitchell Webster Group includes two businesses: Topflite Ltd, a bird and small animal feed business, and the Mitchell Webster Group, a specialist crop and dairying operation which uses irrigation from the NOIC.

- 12.15pm: Lunch at the Criterion Hotel, Oamaru. Own cost of \$15.00 per person which includes tea/coffee/juice. Presentations by representatives of the NOIC.

- 2.00pm: NOIC shareholders Jeff and Alison Thompson, Collie Downs, Five Forks.
www.noic.co.nz

Field trip sponsored by: SBS Bank and PGG Wrightson

Learn more about the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group's work by visiting our website – www.mcwater.co.nz – which is being updated as information and news becomes available.