

Consultation

Overview

In 2000 a joint committee was established by Selwyn District and Christchurch City Councils to investigate the opportunity to use water for the benefit of the wider community. As part of an initial feasibility study, the committee undertook extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholder groups.

One of the first initiatives by the Central Plains Water Steering Committee was to establish a potential water users group, following six woolshed meetings within the proposed scheme area. Consultation revealed strong interest within the area for the proposed scheme and this group later became the Ritso Society, a group which has continued to be instrumental in furthering the scheme.

Following consultation with other interested stakeholders a consultative working party was established in mid-2000. This included representatives of groups that included potential water users, conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts, township committees, host communities, existing irrigators, tangata whenua and people living to the east of the proposed scheme where aquifer recharge from the scheme could be an issue.

There were two strands to the consultation – one focused on the interest within the farming community for a community based water enhancement scheme and the principles on which such a scheme should be based. The other sought to identify potential issues and how those issues might be addressed in a sustainable way.

The consultative working party identified key issues from an environmental, social, economic and cultural perspective. These issues were fed back to the scheme's technical experts and the Steering Committee to assist in decisions on the development of the scheme.

In 2003 the Central Plains Water Trust sought to raise funds to enable the scheme to apply for the resource consents needed to proceed. This required further consultation with the farming community and involved numerous meetings and focus groups to clarify scheme details, funding options and other preferences.

Central Plains Water Limited was established in mid-2003 as a commercial entity to raise sufficient share capital to obtain the resource consents. In 2003, during the fund raising phase, members of the Central Plains Water Trust met with farmers in the Waianiwaniwa Valley to discuss the scheme and the potential impact it would have on their farms.

Moving into the resource consent process in 2005, Central Plains Water Limited has continued to consult with a variety of interest groups.

The ongoing technical investigations are addressing valid issues previously identified by key stakeholders. Central Plains Water technical representatives are attempting to mitigate concerns that have arisen as a result of consultation.

The objective of the consultation is to find a balance between enabling sustainable use of the scheme, while, where possible, avoiding or mitigating any adverse effects

of the scheme. Many of the scheme's principles have been influenced by the consultation process, for example:

- the bottom of the storage dam will not be allowed to dry out to offset potential dust issues
- the principle of a Farm Management Accord that addresses potential water contamination issues
- the scheme proposals will work within the scope of the Rakaia National Water Conservation Order and the Waimakariri River regional plan
- the use of gravity to move water where ever possible.

Other opportunities to mitigate the effects of the scheme include:

- enhancement work at Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere)
- introducing wetland areas
- establishing high environmental standards that require efficient use of water eg. i.e. spray irrigation rather than flood irrigation`
- creating opportunities for water based recreation on the reservoir and on other structures associated with the scheme
- establishing an 'environmental trust' concept to deliver other enhancement opportunities.

Consultation will continue throughout the consent process and there will be ongoing opportunities for Central Plains Water to meet with stakeholders to address issues and concerns prior to the hearing. Further meetings with stakeholders, including a hui with Tangata Whenua are scheduled for November and early December.

CONSULTATION MEETINGS 2000 - 2005

GROUP	CONTACT	KEY ISSUES	COMMENTS
<p><i>Woolshed Meetings</i> Six meetings to meet with potential interested water users.</p>	<p>August 2000 October 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that the water remained in community ownership • Community wanted control of water and management of scheme • Reliability of water / scheme reliability 	<p>Attendees were asked to seek to identify interested parties within thier community who would be interested in the supply of the water. Information fed back to the Steering Committee.</p>
<p><i>Issues and outcomes meetings</i> Over 15 meetings with stakeholder groups – commercial and environmental interest groups and the rural community.</p>	<p>September 2000 October 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on the takes of the rives • Land use intensification effects 	<p>Opinions expressed drove initiatives such as the Farm Management Accord and certain aspect of the scheme design. Information fed back to the Steering Committee.</p>
<p><i>Consultative Working party formed</i> 20 meetings held</p>	<p>September 2000 December 2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working party agreed that the following are the most important issues arising out of the feasibility study • Abstraction and diversion -The effects of abstraction from the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers • Logistics - Water transport and storage • Host communities - The impact of a scheme on the host community. • Secondary impact - The regional effects of the intensification of land use, including on the quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water, specifically on rivers, lowland streams and Te 	<p>Included represent ivies from Dam Action Group, Salmon Anglers Group, Forrest and Bird, DOC, Fish and Game, Nagai Tahu, Risto Society, Irrigation Users, community members. Information fed back to the Steering Committee and technical team for consideration in the overall design and development of the proposed scheme.</p>

		<p>Waihora.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics - The cost of the water from the scheme to those who wish to use it. 	
<p>Least Impact Option Group</p> <p>Combining groups who expressed a view that land use intensification should be minimised – Dam Action Group, Forrest and Bird, DOC, Fish and Game, Nagai Tahu, Salmon Anglers</p>	<p>November 2000 December 2000</p> <p>Three meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of the takes on the two rivers • Effects of land use intensification on the environment 	<p>Discussed principals and concepts and how major environmental impacts of the scheme could be addressed.</p> <p>Information fed back to the Steering Committee and technical team for consideration in the overall design and development of the proposed scheme.</p>
<p>Rural Township Meetings –</p> <p>Six meetings to communicate directly with communities in the scheme area.</p>	<p>March 2001</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheffield/ Springfield. • Glentunnell/ Coalgate. • Glentunnell Hall • Whitecliffs-old School Hall • Darfield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over water quality • Groundwater contamination a major concern • Dam safety issues • Effects on the community on scheme infrastructure • 	<p>Information was given regarding the state of the allocations from the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers and that there was enough water to satisfy the requirements of the study area. The downstream effects of the scheme were discussed as forming an important part of the next phase of the process.</p> <p>The meeting were informed that much of the detail that was being sought was not yet available. It was acknowledged that while this was frustrating for some, it was important to determine what the scheme was before the in depth study began.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation and information with these groups.</p>
<p>Water storage options meeting</p> <p>Five meetings</p> <p>Meeting to record the</p>	<p>April 2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental concerns, the effects of the storage and transport of water specific to their area. • Effects on ongoing farming 	<p>Ongoing consultation with community groups. Initiatives to come from these meetings included farm levys, environmental trusts – ideas currently being reviewed and considered.</p>

<p>views of the Whitecliffs/Glentunnel/ Wairiri/ Russell's Flat / Windwhistle to Coalgate / Highpeak Station communities on the storage options for Central Plains Water.</p>		<p>operations</p>	
<p>Consultation with Tangata Whenua Hui with five Rununga with a stake in the study area.</p>	<p>April 2001 September 2001 August 2005 – hui August 2005 – site visit November 2005 – hui</p>	<p>Key issues effects related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water abstractions • mixing of waters • the Waianiwaniwa storage reservoir • the construction and use of canals • the use of water on the Central Plains • Effects of engineering works to affect cultural heritage sites of significance to Ngai tahu and development of protocols to address discovering any cultural remnants. 	<p>Cultural Impact Assessment study commissioned by CPW. Protocols can be put in place.</p>

<p>Affected land owners Waianiwaniwa Farmers</p>	<p>August 2001 September 2003 October 2005 November 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncertainty associated with the scheme proposal to farm management. • Loss of farmland and requiring authority status • Land acquisition process 	<p>Considerable uncertainty with a scheme of this nature causing considerable concern</p> <p>Ongoing consultation throughout the entire scheme and will continue into 2006.</p>
<p>Affected land owners Canal Meetings – meetings to inform property owners that water scheme canals could potentially affect their property.</p>	<p>1-6 November 2000</p> <p>Four meetings were held, three on 1 November and one following on 6 November.</p> <p>Meeting at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Campbell's (north side of the Hororata River) • T Thwait's (south side of the river) • Whitecliffs Hall • G & D Innes (Longspur, Windwhistle) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those that see benefits are comfortable with the concept. They are prepared to make sacrifices to see this scheme go ahead. Comments include ;"This must happen, should of happened years ago." • Those that don't see any benefit are very concerned about the effects of any scheme on them. 	<p>Ongoing communications and consultation with these communities is important.</p>
<p>Lake Ellesmere River Rate and Drainage Committees – four separate meetings</p>	<p>August 2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effect on water tables, nitrate loading in ground water. • The opportunity to use bonds to gain certainty from consent holders. • Needs effective monitoring, benchmark now and then monitor changes. • Efficiency of use is a serious issue. • The effect on the spring zone, this is the distance spring sources can 	<p>Ongoing consultation with this group.</p>

		move from wet to dry years.	
Joint committee Councils Christchurch City Council and Community Boards/ Selwyn District Council // Selwyn and Malvern Community Boards	Ongoing meetings since commencement of feasibility study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information flow and funding 	Council are kept informed.
Resource Consent	Phase 2005		
Department of Conservation	May 2005 July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoC's four areas of interest are – native birds, invertebrates, fish vegetation Conservation of natural remnants 	<p>Ongoing consultation has occurred, keeping DOC up to date on the scheme's progress.</p> <p>DOC staff and CPW's technical team met in November to discuss issues and mitigation.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation will continue to occur.</p>
Fish and Game (Salmon Anglers part of some of this consultation)	May 2005 July 2005 September 2005 October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory responsibility for the sports fisheries Effects of takes on trout and salmon habitat Salmon passage Fishing days Fish screens Land use intensification and the effect on groundwater quality, surface water quality and potable water supplies Effects on lowland streams 	<p>Ongoing consultation has occurred, keeping F&G up to date on the scheme's progress.</p> <p>A technical meeting between the Nth Canterbury F&G Council and CPW technical staff occurred in October 2005.</p> <p>F&G has sent specific questions to the technical team for consideration. CPW will respond to the questions and continue to meet to ensure F&G's concerns are addressed. Briefing paper sent to head of F&G nationally.</p>
Coalgate Residents Association – Bob	September 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dam Safety 	Results of a residents survey reviewed

Mugford	November 2005		General meetings to update the Association have taken place. Questions from association expected soon and further meeting to be arranged to answer these questions.
Glentunnel residents	November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme infrastructure • Imposition and benefits accruing elsewhere 	<p>Range of resident views regarding the scheme.</p> <p>General meetings to update the Association have taken place. Feedback from consultation has seen the scheme place water in the bottom of the dam continually to avoid potential dust storms. Will continue to update this group and work to address valid concerns.</p>
Malvern Hills Protection Society Inc (formerly known as the Dam Action Group)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme infrastructure • Imposition and benefits accruing elsewhere • Dam Safety 	<p>A community that sees costs on their local social and environmental well being.</p> <p>Have shown this group that the Dam is safe – will continue to update this group and work to address valid concerns.</p>
Water Rights Trust	May 2005 July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased irrigation promotes intensive farming methods – more dairy conversions – increased environmental burden on streams, aquifers and downstream properties. 	Several meetings held to discuss the scheme and WRT's opinions. Information fed back to technical team.
Forrest and Bird	October 2005	Impact on native birds	Information on the technical experts retained and the reports that will be produced have been sent to F&B for their comment.
Consultation with Tangata Whenua – hui with five Rununga with a stake in the study area.	August 2005 – hui August 2005 – site visit November 2005 – hui	<p>Key issues effects related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water abstractions • mixing of waters • the Waianiwaniwa storage reservoir • the construction and use of canals • the use of water on the Cental Plains 	<p>Cultural Impact Assessment study commissioned by CPW, Report received and CPW technical experts working with Ngai Tahu on issues raised. A written report will go back to Ngai Tahu, followed by a hui to further discuss issues.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation throughout November and into 2006.</p>

