

**With 2016 nearly at an end, it is timely to update you on progress with the Water Wairarapa feasibility investigations of the proposed water storage and distribution scheme.**

You have received this newsletter because your property is within the scheme's potential water supply area.

A great deal has been accomplished this year, and subsequently 2017 promises to be an even more exciting period for the project. It takes, on average, at least 10 years for these types of projects to be established, so based on this, we are about halfway through the process.

You will recall that earlier in the year, geotechnical drilling investigations into the proposed dam locations at Black Creek and Tivdale found that there were no critical issues with both sites.

Since then, the project has focused on determining the feasibility of some critical aspects of the schemes as discussed below.

Much of the emphasis in recent months has been assessing financial viability of just one of the schemes. In partnership with one of the project's co-funders, Crown Irrigation Investments Limited (CIIL), we undertook further work to provide greater confidence around the likely demand for water from the scheme. Additional work has also been conducted to confirm the 96% water reliability.

Also completed, since our last Farmer newsletter in July, is another important piece of work, namely what future land uses might be in 2025, 2040 and 2080. A report was prepared by local farm advisory firm, BakerAg. One of their conclusions is that, with the proposed schemes the primary sector in Wairarapa will flourish, without, it won't, especially with predicted climate change impacts together with very little unallocated water left.

Monitoring of the Tauweru River flows is complete so we are now establishing whether the river is capable of transporting water from the proposed Tivdale storage lake to the areas where it's required for irrigation and other uses.

We are continuing to work closely with the councils as they are integral to realising the community infrastructure opportunities of the scheme. These include potential for environmental enhancement, urban water provision, stock water rationalisation and wastewater integration.

Another interesting study about to start is looking at the effects of climate change at a regional (5 km) scale; the results of this will be highly relevant to environmental aspects, farming operations and urban water supplies.

Also, watch this space for possible future ownership models for the scheme. We will keep you updated on this and further developments in the New Year.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Season's greetings from the Water Wairarapa project team.

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