

# MANIOTOTO IRRIGATION SCHEME UPDATE



Waipia Irrigation Company



Welcome to the seventh edition of the collaborative update from the companies of the Maniototo Irrigation Scheme.

After 5 years on the job Alastair snuck away quietly after a team dinner in Naseby. As much as we wanted to invite you all to farewell Alastair from the raceman's job, he wanted a low key send off. We thank Alastair for the many hours of dedicated work he has given the scheme.



## OPERATIONS MANAGER – BRENT CUNNINGHAM

Brent Cunningham started in the job in late March. Brent has been spending his days familiarising himself with the scheme and has shown us how quickly he is grasping the geography of the area. The season came to an end earlier than expected so he is yet to have a go at running the scheme solo, however he is building knowledge daily towards this. Brent is also working through an extensive list of deferred maintenance jobs that we have been building over the last season or two. Brent is basing himself in the office and will be on scheme when specific work is required. Please take the opportunity to call in to the office when passing. He would welcome the opportunity to learn from shareholders experience.

To contact Brent, please email [operations@maniototoirrigation.co.nz](mailto:operations@maniototoirrigation.co.nz) or by cell on 027 270 2731



## WINTER MAINTENANCE

A large list of maintenance jobs has been identified for the off season across each scheme. Some of the jobs on the go are: Race Draining, weir drain plate improvements on Westside race, Spraying or race clearing (see below), clay rolling for race sealing on MESIC, Linnburn gates H&S upgrades as per 2022 report, entry gate at Loganburn Dam, Solar upgrade for CCTV at Loganburn as per NZSOLD requirement, retaining wall above Westside race, under road culvert to be replaced on Waipia (Patearoa Ranfurly Rd), automation & metering of Gimmerburn by-wash, annual power wash clean of debris screen at Loganburn, automation of Eweburn syphon, D2 & D3 manual valves on Waipia to be replaced, safety upgrade of access for Piezo monitoring at Loganburn Dam, Linnburn Gate house painting & renewed signage, extension & certification of gantry at Linnburn Gates, gate lube programme developed, install inspections & corrections of 12 head gate flumes followed by install of level probs & harvest units for metering X6. If you have anything else that you would like added to the maintenance schedule, please contact Brent.

*Photo of screen cleaning debris after higher flows.*



## WATER TESTING PROGRAMME

Over the season we have been testing water for E. coli in 14 locations, with varying results. Our main stem results have been within acceptable range (with only one exception, where we discovered someone had been dumping wild pig carcasses at the site). Some of the tributaries that we are testing are showing high readings, especially after rain events. The farmers on these areas are aware and have been responsive and proactive to the issue. We have met with Tiaki Maniototo to discuss how we can work together to get more data, whilst sharing the cost and human resource to then make the necessary improvements. From this meeting we have identified 8 additional sites for testing and will extend this programme next season to include total nitrogen, suspended sediment & total phosphorus as well as continuing with E.coli tests.

*We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Debbie Paterson and Kate Gregan who give up a day a month to this water testing programme, we really appreciate their dedication to this!*

## ORC – OTAGO REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT (RPS)

The proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement (non-freshwater) hearing is underway. Jeremy, Jeff Winmill and Emma Crutchley have all made submissions with the support of OWRUG, Fed Farmers & Dairy NZ about the proposed RPS, and have given evidence at the hearing held last week. The perspective from each of our local representatives has been valuable. The RPS process is incredibly important to get correct for farmers and irrigators as the RPS is designed to set the benchmark for all future regional plans and rules for land and water use in Otago. Currently the RPS is not giving enough emphasis to the importance of rural Otago and the economic benefit it brings to our region. If the RPS is not clearly supporting rural Otago the room for interpretation in the future could limit availability of water. The RPS process is ongoing, and we will continue to actively engage in the process.

## UPCOMING MERGER MEETINGS

Distribution Company Merger Process Approval Meetings

25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Patearoa Bowling Club

Waipia 4:30pm

East Side 5:15pm

West Side 6:00pm

## RACE CLEARING & SPRAYING

As part of the water efficacy report that we provide to ORC annually we are required to provide information about the race corridors and the ease of water movement. Part of this process requires removal of weed growth in the race.

Over the off season we are working towards organising weed clearing in the races. In some areas this is likely to be machine clearing, in other areas it will be spraying. If you wish for spraying not to be carried out through your property, please let Brent know and we will work to come up with a solution that will work for you.

Current Dam Level

71,402,500m<sup>3</sup>

73% (of spill height)

Current Dam Release

Closed