

MANIOTOTO IRRIGATION SCHEME UPDATE



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

This update comes at just the right time to enable us to announce that Jeremy Anderson has been appointed as the new General Manager of the MIC. Jeremy has been involved as a director on the MIC board and the MWSIC board since September 2020. Jeremy will be leaving his position at ASB as their Rural Area Manager for Otago and South Canterbury at the end of June 2022 to take on this position. He is eager to take on the challenges that are ahead and work towards future proofing the security of water for irrigators in the Maniototo.



INTRODUCING JEREMY ANDERSON MIC GM

Jeremy was born and bred in the Ida Valley and now has his own slice of paradise with his wife Ainslie near Otarehua. Jeremy has been involved in the rural sector for most of his life in various roles, primarily Rural Banking. He has been an independent director for local farming entities in both the Dairy and Sheep & Beef sectors and will be bringing his business knowledge, understanding of the complexities facing farmers and staff management skills to the position. Jeremy is well aware of the challenges that face irrigators in an ever-changing regulatory environment.



TRUST POWER SHUT DOWN

Trustpower will be dewatering their whole scheme starting on the 29th of April for approximately 4-6 weeks. During this time, they will be inspecting and carrying out R&M on all the shared assets that are owned by MIC and Trustpower, as well as their own assets. This work has been on the cards for a few years now and has been delayed so we are pleased to see this being carried out. During this time the races will be dry, so we encourage anyone who is using irrigation water for stock to consider this early.

Photo: Trustpower staff and engineers carrying out a pre project inspection at the Paurau intake (middle fish screen) (1.04.22)



WATER DATA RECORDING

All companies are now using the same template to record water data. There are differences in these due to complexities and individual needs on each scheme but overall, we are aiming for consistency. When we read your telemetry for a period on Harvest, we ensure all dates and times are the same e.g., midnight the 24th of March until midnight the 13th of April will provide no lag time for this 20-day roll period. Hours are recorded for water going through 12 & 6 head gates and this is then multiplied to work out the water used and added to any telemetry units you may have on farm for a usage %. If you would like to have your own template to keep on track throughout a period, please email me.

- The eel survey carried out by Matt Hickey and Morgan Trotter (Tiaki Maniototo) in late January in the Upper Taieri River (as well as Loganburn and Serpentine Creeks) has shown that there is eel passage to above the Paurau Weir. However, their recommendation is that the Paurau Weir fish passage needs improvement, Matt believes that this passage is only occurring during high flow. MIC and Trustpower (TP) have been in discussions about how best to rectify this issue using the environmental consenting and engineering team in TP.
- ORC is developing a new Land and Water Plan (LWRP) in partnership with Kai Tahu iwi. This plan will include limits on water and land use. Their aim being to keep all waterways healthy and safe from the Mountains to the Sea. ORC have committed to developing this plan by 31 Dec 2023 to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. If you are not familiar with this plan change, please spend some time reading the ORC website, listening to the Taieri FMU webinar, carrying out the survey and adding to the mapping tool. This plan change will be a focus for our new GM, Irrigation Company Directors and staff over the coming year and we will need to band together to get the best outcome for us as irrigators.
- ORC are currently carrying out work towards the LWRP around the delineation of the wetlands in the Upper Taieri and the naturalization of the Taieri River, this is to determine what the Taieri would look like with no dams, no weirs and no power generation or irrigation takes. There is also the opportunity to get involved with ORC economic work programme.

Reminder 1

LAND & WATER PLAN SURVEY & MAP

Please visit the ORC website and complete the survey for the Land & Water Plan!

There is also a mapping tool that you can add areas of recreation and locations of importance for us as water users (family and fun too). Let's showcase what we already have that is special to our FMU and the health of our waterways.

This could be one of the biggest plans to affect water use in our area!

Reminder 2

MWSIC & MIC UP COMING R&M

Loganburn Outlet Screen Removal – 29th April

Linnburn Gates & Syphon De Water – 6th May

Linnburn Gate & Syphon Inspection – 7th May
(duck shooting weekend, just in case you had forgotten...)

Current Dam Level

922.7m (74.8% full)

Current Dam Release

3.26 cumecs being released currently

Consented to release up to 8 cumecs, however full demand and residual flow generally requires no more than 5 cumecs.