

# MANIOTOTO IRRIGATION SCHEME UPDATE



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

We are well into the irrigation season, yet demand is still on the low side after some favorable rain over the last week, the total scheme demand this morning being 1,450 l/s. Although demand on scheme is low, workflow in the office is growing daily.

After a recent visit to Opuha Water Company the MIC staff have identified areas of focus and priority. Opuha have been hugely supportive of the structural changes occurring here in our scheme and very generous with their time and Intellectual property (more about our visit below).

We encourage you all to visit our new website [maniototoirrigation.co.nz](http://maniototoirrigation.co.nz). This is a work in progress and will continue to evolve and bring you more information as we develop it further, we also would welcome any feedback and suggestions for what you would like to see on it.



## MIC DIRECTORS VISIT TO OPUHA WATER COMPANY

The MIC board visited Opuha Water Company last month. The meeting highlighted the huge amount of work we must do to be ready for the regulatory changes that are coming our way. Opuha shared their insights and involvement in their Plan Change 7 processes and the learnings that they had during this time. They presented how effective the merger of their 8 companies has been, with Tom Lambie (past chair) sharing his insights to how best to approach this for our 4 companies.

*Photo: MIC directors talk with Opuha board members (past & present) and Staff after a scheme tour and presentation from Opuha GM.*



## CHANGE IN DIRECTORS ACROSS THE SCHEME

After the conclusion of the AGM's there have been a few changes to the boards across the scheme. Luke Jefferies has been appointed to Maniototo West Side after the resignation of Rex Gibson, and Dawn Sangster has filled the vacant position on Maniototo East Side after the departure of Graeme Martin. James Herlihy has resigned as a director of Maniototo Irrigation Company after several dedicated years to this role, we thank James for the work he has done and time he has spent as a director of MIC. Dawn Sangster will be taking on the MESIC delegate space on MIC we welcome the strong governance background that Dawn brings. We would also like to extend our congratulations to Emma Crutchley who has been appointed onto Irrigation New Zealand. *Photo: The weir control gate at Opuha Water Company.*



## MANAWA ENERGY & SHARED ASSETS

Conversations are continuing with Manawa Energy around a cost sharing agreement for the shared assets. There are many considerations and risks involved with this process that we are working through slowly and thoroughly, seeking advice and guidance from experts. As part of this process, we have recently revisited the shared assets and worked through identifying the demarcation points on the scheme with Ewan Mason. Ewan has since retired from Manawa Energy and is now working 5 days a month as a contractor to Manawa. Ewan has a wealth of knowledge and has supported MIC in many R&M projects over the years including work at the Loganburn Dam. We wish him a restful retirement and thank him for all he has done for MIC over the years. *Photo: Control Gate at the end of the tunnel turned on to demonstrate its function when the water is shut off to below this point. This structure is used to release the pressure building up inside the tunnel when the flow is restricted (emergency function).*

## ORC LAND AND WATER REGIONAL PLAN CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Round 2 of the consultation periods for the ORC Land and Water Regional Plan is on this week. This Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November at 2pm and 7pm you can join ORC at the Ranfurly Golf Club to hear the suggestions that ORC have about how best to manage the future of land and water in our area.

ORC will deliver a presentation with their findings of the current state of the Taieri river and tributaries to it, actions they believe are needed and the outcome of various suggested actions from round one of consultation, as well as the government's national approach.

**We strongly recommend that you get along to one of these two meetings on Wednesday.**

The MIC management team will be representing our irrigators in the stakeholder workshops being held next week and will feed back to you all at the conclusion of these.

### REMINDERS FROM THE RACEMEN

Please remember to let the Racemen know if you are not going to be turning on and taking your water or don't want to be part of a roster.

Farm rubbish blowing into the races is an issue that we are seeing, (especially plastic containers) these can cause blockages in syphons and potentially lead to costly to repairs.

### SUPPLY AGREEMENT

The Supply Agreement has been passed by all distribution companies for signing unanimously and was signed at the last MIC meeting to bring it into effect.

Thank you for all who were involved in this process and those that spent considerable amounts of time and energy getting this across the line. We have all learnt a lot from this process and the need for open communication lines

### Current Dam Level

924.15m 99% Full

### Current Dam Release

Gate is currently closed, with close monitoring occurring as to if the demand is to increase.