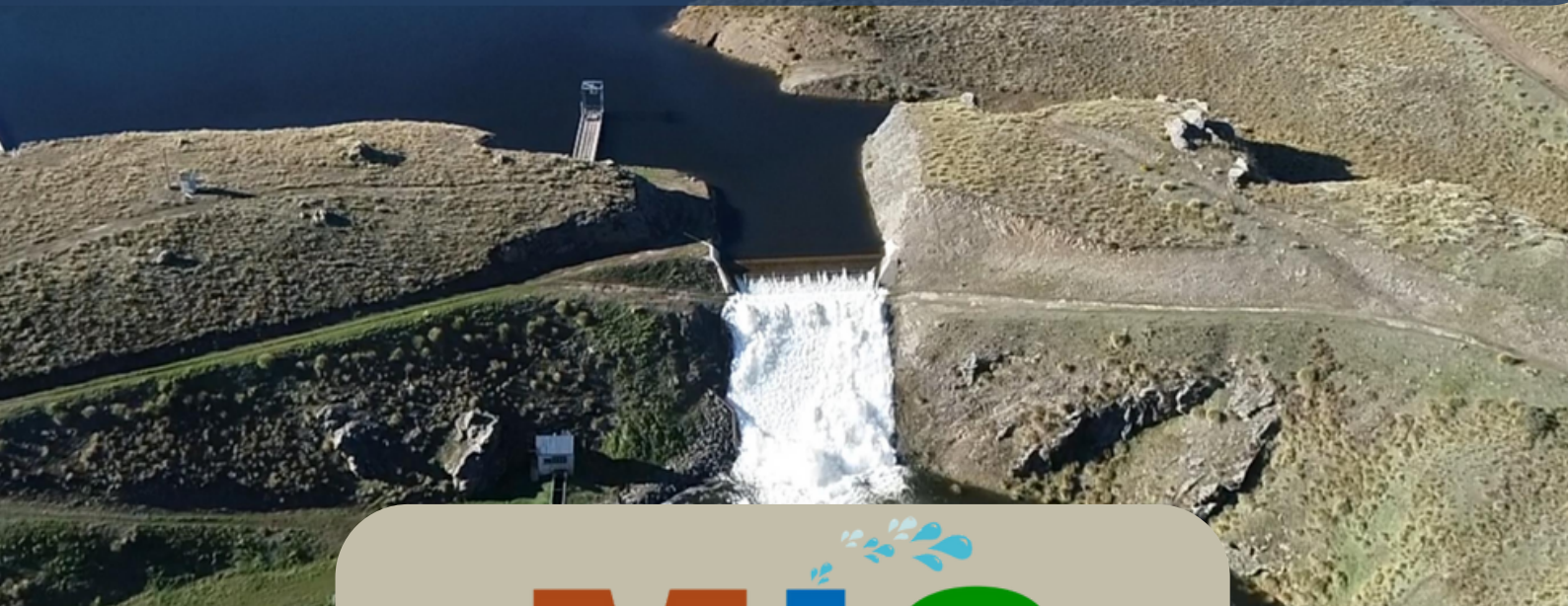




Seasonal Variations

One thing that we are all learning here in the office is that any one season is never the same. What you expect based on the weather patterns is not always what it means for water demand & release. The Styx area has had considerably lower rainfall than the rest of the Maniototo and therefore the hydrology of the river and scroll plain has meant that higher release has been required to meet the scheme demand. We now know that no matter how well we all think we understand the dynamics there are always variations to adjust for when releasing water from the dam. This season, unlike last season we have not released any additional water for the river as the major tribs (Sowburn, Eweburn & Pigburn) have provided sufficient to uphold Waipiata's minimum flow, along with the 900l/s going through the diversion gate at the weir.



Welcome Jim

Jim Sharratt has started this week as our newest operations team member. We wish to welcome Jim to this position and know he will bring a wealth of practical skills to the team. Jim is looking forward to spending time on the scheme doing all the odd jobs that come up and learning the ropes until the end of the season under the guidance of Brent and Robert.

Jim (originally from the UK) and his wife have moved here from Dacre in Southland after selling their farm and purchasing the Hawkdun Lodge.

Jim also runs a texel sheep stud and a scanning business that he will continue to run over the winter months. Jim will be part time, working around 20-30 hours a week, for 9 months of the year, using winter to do the scanning run and holidays away outside of the lodge's busy season.



Jim Sharratt - Operations Team

GM Update

As the season comes to an end and autumn is well and truly upon us it is interesting to reflect on how different a year it has been to the previous one. While it has been hot and dry, we have had bursts of rain for better growing conditions where the irrigation water seems to have been significantly more effective without the El Nino conditions we experienced last summer.

The dam level is currently circa 62% of available storage, while recharge has been limited due to the prevailing weather pattern, we are only 2% lower than the same time last year. Irrigation demand has eased significantly due to recent rainfall, and it is not anticipated that it will increase significantly between now and the end of the season. The last official period ends in 12 days' time.

Now that the season is drawing to a close, Brent is beginning to focus on the winter maintenance season and what upgrades will be carried out during the shutdown period. He will be in touch with shareholders regarding this in due course.

Finally, I would like to thank Robert for his many years of service, primarily as the Eastside Race operator but also for the cover he provided for the Westside and Waipiata operators. Robert's knowledge of and enthusiasm for the scheme is commendable as is his friendly attitude. Nothing is ever a problem to Robert and his efficient operation of the Eastside race has been very much valued. We wish Robert, Anna and the boys all the best for the future as they continue on their farming journey with passion and energy. Robert will finish at the end of his current contract in October. Until then he will support Brent & Jim in the transition.

Mapping of Irrigation Areas

Thank you to all of you who have worked with Lyndon Taylor from Agri Planz to help us better understand the irrigated area from the Maniototo Irrigation Scheme. The report is still in draft form but is already a hugely beneficial document that will have numerous uses as we discuss the scheme and continuously work on water consent security.

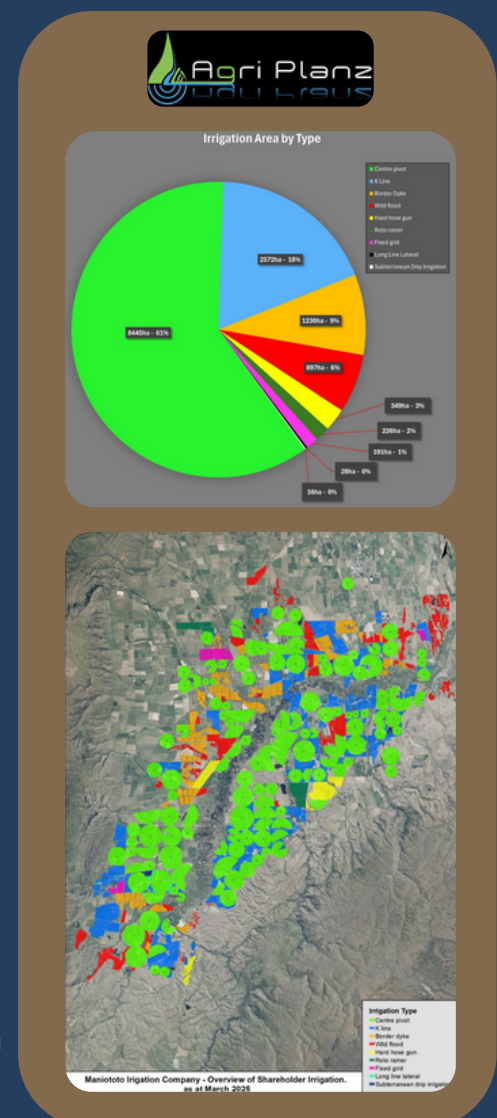
The irrigated area is considerably larger than past estimates that have been discussed over the years of 9,800ha.

The new draft MIC irrigated area has come in at around 14,000ha.

How we may use or interpret this information:

- Shows the efficiency 'good' story, more ha under irrigation with the same water allocation.
- Shows the commitment from you all to upgrading your infrastructure.
- Shows the economic input from farmers on dams & infrastructure.
- Enables us to discuss and if needed dispute assumptions being made for our scheme by ORC or other interested parties.

We will make your own map available to you all for you to check and approve. Then you can hold these for your own records and to use for your farm environmental planning purposes, such as FAP+ or other farm assurance programmes.



Reminders...

- If you are aware of anything requiring winter maintenance the budgets and workplans are being developed now, please let us know a.s.a.p.
- If you notice any H&S risks please reach out a.s.a.p.
- If you are planning fencing or any other work near or across races please remember to contact Brent and discuss your plans prior to carrying out anything.
- Please let Renee know if you have carried out any upgrades to your irrigation systems this year so she can include it in the efficiency report for our water consents with ORC.
- Please discuss irrigation designs of future upgrades on farm with Brent to see if he can help you out with his expertise.
- ***If selling, updating lease arrangements, refinancing etc. and are on East or Waipiata scheme please remind your legal representatives to start permission for caveator consents early. Often these are coming to us last minute (on settlement day) and we don't want to hold anything up for your transaction. We ensure two directors have signed these and this can take time.***

JOIN
NOW

Upper Taieri Wai

Catchment Group

Upper Taieri Wai Catchment group is doing a drive for new members.

MIC are supporting UTW and are planning on providing UTW with phone contact details of all of our shareholders. Their new administrator is going to be calling farmers in our area to invite you to join UTW. If you wish to be excluded from this phone list, please let Renee know by the end of the week.

to join email: uppertaierwai@gmail.com

Follow & Like Upper Taieri Wai on Facebook



OPERATION TEAM CONTACT

At this time there is no change as to who you contact in the operations team. Please continue to reach out to Brent & Robert as you usually would. We will inform you of any changes prior to the next irrigation season.

MIC STRATEGIC VISION

Late last year the MIC Board of Directors met in Oamaru for a strategy day facilitated by Elizabeth Soal, ex CEO of Irrigation NZ & current freshwater policy & governance specialist. The day was a chance for directors to refresh post the amalgamation and ensure that they had an identified common direction for the company.

The feedback from those of you who had partaken in the survey was analysed and appreciated; the points raised added to healthy discussions.

The outcomes from the day have been presented to the board from Elizabeth in a draft format which has since been presented in a visual representation. Attached to this newsletter you will find a high-level overview of the direction the board intends to follow.

The direction is not new or revolutionary as the core business remains the same, but it was an opportunity for directors to ensure that now and into the future the main purpose of the company is maintained and central to all decision making that is undertaken at board and management level.

As a brain break during the day we had a presentation from ORC's Chief Executive Richard Saunders, ORC GM Tom Dyre & Hydrologist Jason about determining the best way for us all to work together when looking at the minimum flow for the Taieri and reconsenting. The mutual feeling being we all need to be around the table together and share data and information to make this work well, as there is considerable gaps and assumptions being made.

Current Dam Level

59,985,000m³

62%

WATER RELEASE FOR POWER GENERATION

Post the email you received last week the first & second tranche of water was released. This was a great opportunity for us to all 'dip our toe in' & work out any teething issues around this arrangement to ensure both parties are satisfied should the opportunity arise again.



PURPOSE

Managing resources to deliver water to shareholders efficiently and reliably.

VISION

To lead sustainable water management, delivering reliable water that supports prosperity, enhances community resilience, and safeguards the Maniototo's natural resources for future generations.

MIC VALUES

Front Footing

Getting Ahead of Issues

- Proactive rather than reactive
- Confront challenges head-on
- Open & Transparent manner
- Active in Regional & National Policy Changes



Equity

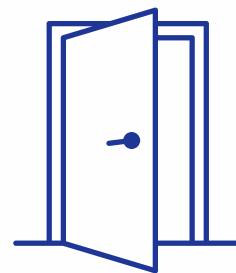
All Shareholders are Equally Important

- Seek to address issues & concerns in an equitable manner, considering the best interest of our catchment, our community & our company.

Open Door

MIC Seeks to Maintain an Open Door

- Our shareholders, stakeholders, and the wider community are able to engage directly with company staff & directors
- We welcome input & feedback



Sleeves Rolled Up

MIC's Team Gets Stuck in

- Actively engaging with our community, stakeholders, & shareholders to address issues quickly.
- We look for ways to develop new opportunities and ideas.

“We do what we say and we say what we mean”

People are at the center of everything that we do

People

How do we support the people involved within our company?

The people who contribute to our company are valued and important to the success of our outcomes

STAFFING

We will maintain a high performing team to ensure we can meet our strategic & business goals whilst delivering exceptional service to our shareholders.

- Careful Recruitment
- Balance of Skills
- Professional Development Plans



GOVERNANCE

Board succession will be an ongoing issue for the company. Ensuring skills are covered across the board is essential.

- Succession plan to be developed.
- Identify future directors from shareholders and wider irrigation community.
- Skills matrix
- Development plan for board training



HEALTH & SAFETY

Board and staff are committed to ensuring our people are healthy, safe, and well.

- Audit of the current H&S processes & paperwork
- Improvement to board reporting processes
- Continual improvement



KPI'S

Key performance indicators for each team member are developed and monitored.

- General Manager
- Operations Manager
- Operations Team
- Company Support



REMUNERATION

Remuneration packages are reviewed annually.

- Developed based on comparable position rates
- Inflation adjustments where suitable
- Performance base



Shareholders are at the heart of all we do

Shareholder Engagement

How do we support our shareholders to keep updated and current?

Our mission is to deliver shareholders water efficiently and reliably

EDUCATION

Support farmers to make good management decisions around the use of scheme water and farm management practices.

- Education workshops
- Information sent out on good management practices on farm
- practical information sessions



REGULAR UPDATES

Regularly update shareholders on company information, issues, changes and successes.

- Newsletters
- Website
- Emails
- Facebook



REGULATIONS

Provide regular information updates to shareholders on changes and proposed changes with in regulations.

- Actively engaging in regulatory changes, attending meetings, hearings and the likes.
- Feeding back to shareholders and supporting their interests



HUB DEVELOPMENT

Development of technology to help shareholders with self management of their water

- rain fall
- water remaining
- water tracking
- water totals
- water ordering
- mapping of irrigation



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Keeping shareholders up to date with the happenings in the wider catchment and irrigation space.

- Encourage membership and engagement in UTW
- Subscription to Irrigation New Zealand



Relationships with Stakeholders are Important to us

Advocacy & Relationships

How do we represent our community of irrigators?

The relationships we make with stakeholders are important to us as we work collaboratively for common goals.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

MIC will work openly & constructively with the ORC as the primary regulator for the region.

- submitting in formal processes (such as LWP)
- Developing relationships with staff and councilors.
- Working together in an open and transparent manner
- Representing the interests of shareholders whenever required.



KAITIAKI RUNANGA

Te kaitiaki runanga of the catchment have a critical role in supporting and sustaining the values of the Maniototo. We will take opportunities to build relationships, understand runaka aspirations & goals.

- Work together to achieve common goals for the catchment
- Work to develop relationships within Aukaha Consultancy.
- Discuss direction with iwi early and throughout consenting processes.



MP'S & MINISTERS

Where necessary we will engage with local MP's to discuss matters relating to irrigation in our area.

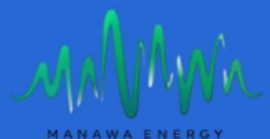
- Building relationships
- Lobbying for changes to regulation
- Sharing local knowledge and experiences.



MANAWA ENERGY

As partners of shared assets we work closely to ensure that the assets are well maintained and consent conditions are managed effectively.

- Future consenting
- Fish passage
- Infrastructure contributions



STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

We work closely with many stakeholder groups and are building relationships of trust and respect. Stakeholders offer differing views and opinions which we value and consider when making decisions.

- DoC
- F&G
- Other Irrigators
- CODC



Regulatory compliance is a key component to our work

Compliance

Are we doing all we can to protect the water availability for shareholders?

We need to ensure we meet our obligations to ensure we maintain water supply too our shareholders

METERING

MIC will work with shareholders to ensure that we have accurate and real time metering of all takes.

- Ensure deadlines are met for installation of meters & telemetry
- Support telemetry costs for transparency of usage
- Help with advice on design and install options for best outcomes longterm.
- Develop systems for easy record keeping of water usage



RESOURCE CONSENTS

Our resource consents are arguably the most critical intangible assets. Without consents we cannot operate and deliver water to shareholders. We ensure we meet the requirements of all consents, including providing the relevant council compliance reports.

- Annual water efficiency report lodged.
- 15 min logging of water release to ORC, with annual report.
- Verification reports etc. lodged to ORC



DAM SAFETY

We work with a registered and recognised Dam Engineer to ensure we meet requirements of the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022, which includes maintaining a certified safety assurance programme.

- NZSOLD
- Emergency Action Plan
- Intermediate Dam Safety Review
- Operation, Maintenance & Surveillance Manual
- Comprehensive Dam Safety Review
- Dam Safety Assurance Programme
- Monthly Dam Inspections



FINANCIAL REPORTING

We comply with all financial reporting and management requirements.

- GST
- Prov Tax Requirements
- Annual Accounts
- Board Meeting Reports
- Budgets
- Variance Reporting
- AGM
- Future Planning - Cash reserves



HEALTH & SAFETY

We will meet the requirements of the Healthy & Safety at Works Act 2015 as a minimum.

- Weekly H&S meeting with all staff
- Regular review of H&S documentation.
- Board reporting
- Pre Start Checks and Paperwork
- Protective Clothing
- Scheme Tours
- Reporting & Recording issues
- Auditing



Social License to Operate

Public Visibility

How do we give back to the community we operate in?

It is through positive interactions that the public perception of the benefit of irrigation can be raised.

RECREATION SITE

Taieri/Loganburn Confluence area to be developed in consultation with Tiaki Maniototo.

- Picnic Table
- Ongoing Weed Control
- Signage
- Parking



IMPROVED RECREATION

Improving the access to the dam for power boats.

- Boat ramp, concrete access and signage for safe use.
- Already improved foot access for fishermen across the dam wall



SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Sharing the benefits of irrigation to the wider community.

- Focus on positive messaging around the benefit for the area.
- Irrigation efficiency messaging.
- showcasing upgrades on scheme.



LOGANBURN HUT

Linking the Big Hut on the Rock & Pillar to the Loganburn Dam.

- A hut transported up the hill to the Loganburn via road.
- Used for stopping space for trampers, hunters, trail bikers, fishermen etc.
- Work in collaboration with DoC & Landowners.



CATCHMENT GROUP

Catchment Group Involvement to develop and represent the community of irrigators.

- Building relationships and contacts.
- In kind hours from staff.
- potential to join as a commercial member to help with facilitation costs.



COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

Supporting community events that are organised and sponsor local projects.

- prize money for fishing competitions.
- Prize money for winter crop competitions under irrigation
- Organise fishing comp for kids in storage dams.
- Sponsorship of teams or projects.



Resource consents are fundamental to the companies operations

Reconsenting Strategic Plan

How are we preparing to be ready for the reconsenting processes?

We need to continually improve our processes, data & relationships towards being ready for the reconsenting

RECONSENTING TIMELINE

All that we do has a long-term focus of reconsenting the scheme. A more structured plan is to be developed to ensure that all milestones are met.

- all consent expiry dates to be worked back from to develop a timeline.
- Determine key milestone dates to understand when pieces of work must commence & be completed.



INFORMATION & EVIDENCE

A more structured plan identifying what information & evidence is required will be developed. Some areas below:

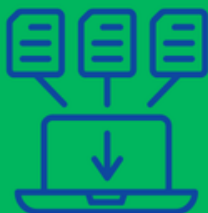
- Water use data from prior seasons
- Water use requirements for future seasons
- Dam Recharge
- Irrigation Area Mapping
- Areas for improving efficiency
- Economic benefit of the scheme
- Rain fall
- Fish Passage
- Community good



DATA COLLECTION

Further development of data collection and easy retrieval of data is required. Easy systems for data reading need to be developed.

- Irrigation Hub Work
- Graphing prior years data for future reference is required.
- Gathering and holding previous years data in house is essential.
- Real time systems for data storage & analysis
- Identify where the current data gaps are from prior years pre office establishment.



ANALYSIS

We will undertake investigations and analysis as required to fully understand catchment & scheme hydrology. There are acknowledged gaps in the catchments hydrology from ORC.

- Work with ORC & Manawa to better record an understanding of the hydrology
- Support ORC in their work, being transparent to ensure accuracy.
- Determine the needs for additional flow recorders on the scheme.



MODEL CATCHMENT FLOWS

Investigation and analysis of catchment flow levels is required in collaboration with ORC.

- Understanding of water usage across the whole catchment is important when looking at reconsenting and how we can work together for the best outcomes.
- Relationship building with those outside of the scheme is ongoing.
- Full catchment flow model is required.

