

MANIOTOTO IRRIGATION SCHEME UPDATE



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

After an exceptionally dry and warm Autumn and start of Winter we have hit a cold patch. Not as much moisture in the air as we would all like but hoping that this will follow over the next few months to ensure dams are full for spring.

The off season has not slowed down the workload at our end, with a large list of jobs ahead of us as we gather momentum and build the team that will work towards protection of the water consents for our scheme for the years to come.



LINNBURN GATES & LINNBURN SYPHON INSPECTIONS

The inspections of the Linnburn Gates and Linnburn Syphon have been completed. Some remedial work is underway at the Linnburn Gates including an Epoxy coating to prolong the life of the concrete on the structure and steps. With the link race being empty it has provided an opportunity for the first time in many years for a full inspection of the gates and concrete on the front side of the structure. Engineers are also replacing rubber seals around the gates and repairing the manual gate mechanisms.

Photo: Epoxy coating on stairs below Linnburn Gates – Main gates to the Westside and Waipiata Scheme



NIWA & DRC CATCHMENT HYDROLOGY HELI TIP

In preparation for the DRC Land and Water Plan NIWA has been engaged by DRC to carry out a study of the Hydrology of the Taieri FMU. As part of this process, they spent 6 hours flying the Taieri from the Loganburn, Canadian Flats, Trustpower locations, through the Maniototo, across the Hawken/Idaburn scheme, up the Kyeburn, down the Strath, and to Mahinerangi. DRC was very grateful to the local Maniototo and Strath farmers who shared their expertise and knowledge of the catchment and made comment on how wonderful it was to have insight from new and different people in our area. Thanks to all those involved!

Photo: Robert & James Paterson waiting to get picked up to tour the upper reaches of the Catchment with DRC and NIWA



WINTER MAINTENANCE

Alastair and Robert are busy completing and/or organising winter maintenance across the scheme. Some of these jobs include: Repairs to gatehouse shroud leak, Waipiata Gate flow sensors, Pendella automated gate repair, concrete edging to some main race weirs, install of a main race weir to prevent wastage, repair 5 leaks within races (clay and roll), culvert inspections under main road, safety fence & buoy installs, flood protection, concrete drain box maintenance, and office painting. Also as part of the efficiency improvement report that MIC provides to DRC each year (consent condition) a significant area of races on all schemes are to be scooped or/and sprayed, weed growth last season was high and choking has occurred in places.

Photo: Repairs by Alastair at the Waipiata Gate Siphon with a PF rod and Hume Bond

- Each of the distribution boards have discussed the need to gather data around the on-farm storage and irrigated areas within the MIC boundaries. This information is important to ensure that the work of NIWA is well informed and accurate, as well as for each company's own records. Currently DRC have provided NIWA with information from Google Earth around the storage locations and Irrigated areas of the catchment. As we all know not all the water irrigated or stored on farms comes from MIC water, there are many private rights as well as water from other companies in the Maniototo. To help ensure that accurate data is being used the distribution companies are sending out a survey through google forms for you to fill out. It is expected to take about 5-10 minutes to fill in. Please keep an eye on your emails for this form.
- MIC have obtained office space in the old Cooks Transport yard at 7 Granville Place in Ranfurly (behind the old Maniototo Engineers shop). After 20 years of empty vacancy the office is getting work done to it by Hedy and Fiona Cook, ready for MIC to be based there from the 4th of July. The office will be a base for Jeremy, Renee, and Alastair, with Robert and other directors coming and going as required. Please feel free to call in and see the space and introduce yourself or welcome Jeremy and the team when you are next passing.
- Our shared asset partners Trustpower have sold their retail business to Mercury Energy, they are keeping their power generation assets and have rebranded as Manawa Energy.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

From the 4th of July there will be a change in email addresses for MIC staff

jeremy@maniototoirrigation.co.nz Cell: 0272270999

renee@maniototoirrigation.co.nz Cell: 0276993422

racemen@maniototoirrigation.co.nz Cells: stay the same

SUPPLY AGREEMENT

The MIC Board have been working with Galloway Cook Allan to pull together the feedback from the three distribution boards. They have what they consider a final draft of the Supply Agreement. Each distribution board will look at this over the coming months and then share their recommendations with their wider shareholder groups before any commitment is made. Please watch out for this correspondence in due course, after three years it is timely to get it across the line!

Current Dam Level

922.56m (73% full)

Current Dam Release

Gate is closed and stoplog in, slight leakage occurring which is supporting fish spawning in creek.