
Material for this section has been provided mainly by Convergence Ltd and Byfield Budd.

In 2000 a joint committee was established by Selwyn District and Christchurch City Councils to investigate the opportunity to use water for the benefit of the wider community. As part of an initial feasibility study, the committee undertook extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholder groups.

One of the first initiatives by the Central Plains Water Steering Committee was to establish a potential water users group, following six woolshed meetings within the proposed scheme area. Consultation revealed strong interest within the area for the proposed scheme and this group later became the Ritso Society, which has continued to be instrumental in furthering the scheme.

Following consultation with other interested stakeholders a consultative working party was established in mid-2000. This included representatives of groups that included potential water users, conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts, township committees, host communities, existing irrigators, Tangata Whenua and people living to the east of the proposed scheme where aquifer recharge from the scheme could be an issue.

There were two strands to the consultation – one focused on the interest within the farming community for a community based water enhancement scheme and the principles on which such a scheme should be based. The other sought to identify potential issues and how those issues might be addressed in a sustainable way.

The consultative working party identified key issues from an environmental, social, economic and cultural perspective. These issues were fed back to the scheme's technical experts and the Steering Committee to assist in decisions on the development of the scheme.

In 2003 Central Plains Water Ltd sought to raise funds to enable the scheme to apply for the resource consents needed to proceed. This required further consultation with the farming community and involved numerous meetings and focus groups to clarify scheme details, funding options and other preferences.

Central Plains Water Limited was established in mid-2003 as a commercial entity to raise sufficient share capital to obtain the resource consents. In 2003, during the fund raising phase, members of the Central Plains Water Trust met with farmers in the Waianiwaniwa Valley to discuss the scheme and the potential impact it would have on their farms.

Moving into the resource consent process in 2005, Central Plains Water Limited has continued to consult with a variety of interest groups.

The ongoing technical investigations are addressing valid issues previously identified by key stakeholders. Central Plains Water technical representatives are attempting to mitigate concerns that have arisen as a result of consultation.

The objective of the consultation is to find a balance between enabling sustainable use of water supplied by the Scheme, while, where possible, avoiding or mitigating any adverse effects. Many of the scheme's principles have been influenced by the consultation process, for example:

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- The bottom of the storage dam will not be allowed to dry out to offset potential dust issues;
 - The principle of a Farm Management Accord that addresses potential water contamination issues;
 - The scheme proposals will work within the scope of the Rakaia National Water Conservation Order and the Waimakariri River Regional Plan; and
 - The use of gravity to move water wherever possible.

Other opportunities to mitigate the effects of the scheme include:

- Enhancement work at Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere);
- Introducing wetland areas;
- Establishing high environmental standards that require efficient use of water eg. spray irrigation rather than flood irrigation;
- Creating opportunities for water based recreation on the reservoir and on other structures associated with the scheme; and
- Establishing an ‘environmental trust’ concept to deliver other enhancement opportunities.

Consultation will continue throughout the consent process and there will be ongoing opportunities for Central Plains Water to meet with stakeholders to address issues and concerns prior to the hearing.

The tables below document the consultation that has been carried out in relation to the proposed central Plains Water Enhancement Scheme in two stages: the feasibility assessment phase, and the more recent phase associated with the development of the proposal to the present resource consent application stage.

GROUP	CONTACT	KEY ISSUES	COMMENTS
Feasibility Assessment Phase			
<p>Woolshed Meetings</p> <p>Six meetings to meet with potential interested water users.</p>	<p>August 2000</p> <p>October 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Concern that the water remained in community ownership</i> • <i>Community wanted control of water and management of scheme</i> • <i>Reliability of water / scheme reliability</i> 	<p>Attendees were asked to seek to identify interested parties within thier community who would be interested in the supply of the water.</p> <p>Information fed back to the Steering Committee.</p>
<p>Issues and outcomes meetings</p> <p>Over 15 meetings with stakeholder groups – commercial and environmental interest groups and the rural community.</p>	<p>September 2000</p> <p>October 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Effects on the takes of the rives</i> • <i>Land use intensification effects</i> 	<p>Opinions expressed drove initiatives such as the Farm Management Accord and certain aspect of the scheme design.</p> <p>Information fed back to the Steering Committee.</p>

<p>Consultative Working party formed</p> <p>20 meetings held</p>	<p>September 2000 December 2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Working party agreed that the following are the most important issues arising out of the feasibility study</i> • <i>Abstraction and diversion -The effects of abstraction from the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers</i> • <i>Logistics - Water transport and storage</i> • <i>Host communities - The impact of a scheme on the host community.</i> • <i>Secondary impact - The regional effects of the intensification of land use, including on the quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water, specifically on rivers, lowland streams and Te Waihora.</i> • <i>Economics - The cost of the water from the scheme to those who wish to use it.</i> 	<p>Included representatives from Dam Action Group, Salmon Anglers Group, Forrest and Bird, DOC, Fish and Game, Ngai Tahu, Risto Society, Irrigation Users, community members.</p> <p>Information fed back to the Steering Committee and technical team for consideration in the overall design and development of the proposed scheme.</p>
<p>Least Impact Option Group</p> <p>Combining groups who expressed a view that</p>	<p>November 2000 December 2000</p> <p>Three meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Effects of the takes on the two rivers</i> • <i>Effects of land use intensification on the environment</i> 	<p>Discussed principals and concepts and how major environmental impacts of the scheme could be addressed.</p> <p>Information fed back to the Steering Committee and technical team for consideration in the overall design and development of the proposed</p>

<p>land use intensification should be minimised – Dam Action Group, Forrest and Bird, DOC, Fish and Game, Nagai Tahu, Salmon Anglers</p>			<p>scheme.</p>
<p>Rural Township Meetings – Six meetings to communicate directly with communities in the scheme area.</p>	<p>March 2001 Sheffield/ Springfield. Glentunnell/ Coalgate. Glentunnell Hall Whitecliffs-old School Hall Darfield</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Concern over water quality</i> • <i>Groundwater contamination a major concern</i> • <i>Dam safety issues</i> • <i>Effects on the community on scheme infrastructure</i> 	<p>Information was given regarding the state of the allocations from the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers and that there was enough water to satisfy the requirements of the study area. The downstream effects of the scheme were discussed as forming an important part of the next phase of the process.</p> <p>The meeting were informed that much of the detail that was being sought was not yet available. It was acknowledged that while this was frustrating for some, it was important to determine what the scheme was before the in depth study began.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation and information with these groups.</p>
<p>Water storage options meeting Five meetings</p>	<p>April 2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental concerns, the effects of the storage and transport of water specific to their area.</i> 	<p><i>Ongoing consultation with community groups. Initiatives to come from these meetings included farm levys, environmental trusts – ideas currently being reviewed and considered.</i></p>

<p>Meeting to record the views of the Whitecliffs/Glentunnel/ Wairiri/ Russell's Flat / Windwhistle to Coalgate / Highpeak Station communities on the storage options for Central Plains Water.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Effects on ongoing farming operations</i> 	
<p>Consultation with Tangata Whenua</p> <p>Hui with five Rununga with a stake in the study area.</p>	<p>April 2001</p> <p>September 2001</p> <p>August 2005 – hui</p> <p>August 2005 – site visit</p> <p>November 2005 – hui</p>	<p><i>Key issues effects related to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>water abstractions</i> • <i>mixing of waters</i> • <i>the Waianiwaniwa storage reservior</i> • <i>the construction and use of canals</i> • <i>the use of water on the Central Plains</i> • <i>Effects of engineering works to affect cultural heritage sites of significance to Ngai tahu and development of protocols to</i> 	<p>Cultural Impact Assessment study commissioned by CPW.</p> <p>Protocols can be put in place.</p>

		<i>address discovering any cultural remnants.</i>	
Affected land owners Waianiwaniwa Farmers	August 2001 September 2003 October 2005 November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Uncertainty associated with the scheme proposal to farm management.</i> <i>Loss of farmland and requiring authority status</i> <i>Land acquisition process</i> 	<p><i>Considerable uncertainty with a scheme of this nature causing considerable concern</i></p> <p><i>Ongoing consultation throughout the entire scheme and will continue into 2006.</i></p>
Affected land owners Canal Meetings – meetings to inform property owners that water scheme canals could potentially affect their property.	<p>1-6 November 2000</p> <p>Four meetings were held, three on 1 November and one following on 6 November.</p> <p>Meeting at:</p> <p>A Campbell's (north side of the Hororata River)</p> <p>T Thwaites (south</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Those that see benefits are comfortable with the concept. They are prepared to make sacrifices to see this scheme go ahead. Comments include ;"This must happen, should of happened years ago."</i> <i>Those that don't see any benefit are very concerned about the effects of any scheme on them.</i> 	<p><i>Ongoing communications and consultation with these communities is important.</i></p>

	side of the river) Whitecliffs Hall G & D Innes (Longspur, Windwhistle)		
Lake Ellesmere River Rate and Drainage Committees – four separate meetings	August 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The effect on water tables, nitrate loading in ground water.</i> • <i>The opportunity to use bonds to gain certainty from consent holders.</i> • <i>Needs effective monitoring, benchmark now and then monitor changes.</i> • <i>Efficiency of use is a serious issue.</i> • <i>The effect on the spring zone, this is the distance spring sources can move from wet to dry years.</i> 	<i>Ongoing consultation with this group.</i>
Joint committee Councils Christchurch City	Ongoing meetings since commencement of feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Information flow and funding</i> 	Council are kept informed.

Council and Community Boards/ Selwyn District Council // Selwyn and Malvern Community Boards	study		
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<i>Resource Consent Phase 2005 - 2006</i>			
Department of Conservation	May 2005 July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DoC's four areas of interest are – native birds, invertebrates, fish vegetation</i> • <i>Conservation of natural remnants</i> 	Ongoing consultation has occurred, keeping DOC up to date on the scheme's progress. DOC staff and CPW's technical team met in November to discuss issues and mitigation. Ongoing consultation will continue to occur.
Fish and Game (Salmon Anglers part of some of this consultation)	May 2005 July 2005 September 2005 October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Statutory responsibility for the sports fisheries</i> • <i>Effects of takes on trout and salmon habitat</i> • <i>Salmon passage</i> • <i>Fishing days</i> 	Ongoing consultation has occurred, keeping F&G up to date on the scheme's progress. A technical meeting between the Nth Canterbury F&G Council and CPW technical staff occurred in October 2005.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fish screens</i> • <i>Land use intensification and the effect on groundwater quality, surface water quality and potable water supplies</i> • <i>Effects on lowland streams</i> 	<p>F&G has sent specific questions to the technical team for consideration. CPW will respond to the questions and continue to meet to ensure F&G's concerns are addressed. Briefing paper sent to head of F&G nationally.</p>
<p>Coalgate Residents Association – Bob Mugford</p>	<p>September 2005 November 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dam Safety</i> 	<p><i>Results of a residents survey reviewed</i></p> <p>General meetings to update the Association have taken place.</p> <p>Questions from association expected soon and further meeting to be arranged to answer these questions.</p>
<p>Glentunnel residents</p>	<p>November 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Scheme infrastructure</i> • <i>Imposition and benefits accruing elsewhere</i> 	<p><i>Range of resident views regarding the scheme.</i></p> <p>General meetings to update the Association have taken place.</p> <p>Feedback from consultation has seen the scheme place water in the bottom of the dam continually to avoid potential dust storms.</p> <p>Will continue to update this group and work to address valid concerns.</p>

<p>Malvern Hills Protection Society Inc (formerly known as the Dam Action Group)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Scheme infrastructure</i> • <i>Imposition and benefits accruing elsewhere</i> • <i>Dam Safety</i> 	<p><i>A community that sees costs on their local social and environmental well being.</i></p> <p>Have shown this group that the Dam is safe – will continue to update this group and work to address valid concerns.</p>
<p>Water Rights Trust</p>	<p>May 2005 July 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increased irrigation promotes intensive farming methods – more dairy conversions – increased environmental burden on streams, aquifers and downstream properties.</i> 	<p><i>Several meetings held to discuss the scheme and WRT's opinions. Information fed back to technical team.</i></p>
<p>Forest and Bird</p>	<p>October 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Impact on native birds</i> 	<p><i>Information on the technical experts retained and the reports that will be produced have been sent to F&B for their comment.</i></p>
<p>Consultation with Tangata Whenua – hui with five Rununga with a stake in the study area.</p>	<p>August 2005 – hui August 2005 – site visit November 2005 – hui</p>	<p>Key issues effects related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>water abstractions</i> • <i>mixing of waters</i> • <i>the Waianiwaniwa storage reservoir</i> • <i>the construction and use of canals</i> • <i>the use of water on the Central Plains</i> 	<p>Cultural Impact Assessment study commissioned by CPW, Report received and CPW technical experts working with Ngai Tahu on issues raised. A written report will go back to Ngai Tahu, followed by a hui to further discuss issues.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation throughout November and into 2006.</p>

Coalgate Community Group drop in	November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wanted information on the scheme</i> 	
Drainage committees	November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
Environment Canterbury	December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
Selwyn Central Community Board	December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
Malvern Area Community Board	December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
Ngai Tahu	December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
Selwyn District Councillors	February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
Ellesmere Trust	February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
500 groups ranging	February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Comprehensive update on the</i> 	

<p>from environmental groups. MPs/ community boards etc sent a 28 page briefing paper</p> <p>(distribution list available)</p>		<p><i>scheme</i></p>	
<p>Hon Jim Anderton</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
<p>Hon Ruth Dyson</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
<p>Hon Clayton Cosgrove</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
<p>Hon Jim Sutton</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
<p>Hon Lianne Dalziel</p>	<p>Sent information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
<p>Hon Tim Barnet</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
<p>Mr Gerry Brownlee</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
<p>Ms Nicky Wagner</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	

Ms Kate Wilkinson	March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
Ngai Tahu	March-May 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Three hui on impacts of draft Cultural Impact Assessment</i> 	
Hon David Carter	April 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
National MPs tour of the site	April 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on the scheme</i> 	
Community drop in meetings to consult over the distribution race locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glentunnel – Store, Library Post • Sheffield – Garage • Hororata – Hororata Motors, 	April 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To consult on the location of the distribution race canals</i> 	

<p><i>Café</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalgate – <i>Coalgate Motors</i> • Kirwee – <i>Kirwee Challenge Service Station</i> • Darfield – <i>Council Service Centre, Library, CRT, PGG Wrightson</i> • Dunsandel – <i>Tavern</i> 			
<p>Woolshed meeting</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For farmers affected by main headrace canal</i> 	
<p>Public meeting in Glentunnel to discuss dam safety</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Experts attended a public meeting arranged by CPW to talk to residents about the dam safety report</i> 	
<p>Woolshed meeting</p>	<p>April 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For farmers affected by main headrace canal</i> 	
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>About 200 individual meetings and telephone consultations since lodging consent applications</i> 	