

South Canterbury Irrigation Schemes

Existing Schemes

• Opuha	16,000
• Morven/Glenavy/Ikawai	24,000
• Benmore Scheme	4,000

Proposed

• Rangitata South	12,000
• Benmore	4,000
• Waihao Downs	6,800
• Hunter Downs	34,000
• Mackenzie Irrigation Company	25,000

Concept stage (Meridian)

• Opihi Valley <small>(In catchment and Waitaki Water)</small>	16,000
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Benmore Irrigation

4,000ha + 4,000ha

- Ohau River take
- Reticulated between Ruataniwha and Omarama
- Increased carrying capacity 0.25su – 20su ha
- MAF study \$8m to GDP
- About to apply for a further 4,000 ha
- All water is utilised no discharges
- High Reliability
- Privately funded
- Water Use effects main hurdle to development

Rangitata South

12,000 ha

- Water Harvest – High flows into storage ponds
- Augments 5,000ha and adds 7,000ha
- Fits within the Rangitata River management plan
- Includes a Salmon spawning ground
- Good community acceptance 3 years consultation
- Waiting Ecan consent decision

Hunter Downs

- Waimate District, 1972 to 1999, an average of 135 days deficit
- Farm production increasing in value by a factor of 3.4
- On-farm employment increasing by a factor of 2.6
- Value added increasing by a factor of 2.8.
- \$112 million increase of gross farm output pa
- \$377 million of total output p.a. in Timaru – Waimate districts
- An additional 450 FTE jobs

Hunter Downs

- The intake will be approximately 35km downstream of the Waitaki Dam.
- One of the longest canal systems in New Zealand, proposing to deliver water to an irrigable area of 40,000ha.
- It may also take in the proposed Waihao Downs Irrigation Scheme area and extends north across the Pareora River to Otipua.
- To use water for the irrigation of approximately 40,000ha.
- Consents lodged in 06 and ECAN decision expected in 09?
- Funded by Meridian Energy Limited

Mackenzie Water

An Anomaly

Mackenzie District Catchment sizes

Lake Tekapo	1448	Sq Km
Lake Pukaki	1372	Sq Km
Lake Ohau	1105	Sq Km

- The Waitaki system generates 20% of the country's energy and has 60% of the country's hydro storage
- Mean Annual Flow of the Waitaki system 373 cumecs
- Consented Water takes in the Mackenzie county 8 – 10 cumecs
- Mackenzie Irrigation Company has up to 25,000 ha to be consented (~12.5 cumecs)
- Water Use effects main hurdle to development
- Lower Catchment 90 cumecs allocated irrigation, 75 applied for granted

“ One of the driest regions in New Zealand and its is frustrating not being able to access the water ”

John O'Neil Mayor of Mackenzie District Council

South Canterbury Irrigation Future

- Low Rainfall Area 600mm
- Poor distribution reliability for Spring and Autumn
- Climate change – East Coast Drier
- Strong support for further development