



MHVwater Scheme News

Message from the CEO

Kia ora koutou

It is a busy time of year here with infrastructure projects and of course ECan's workstreams on the Regional Policy Statement. We know it is busy, or about to be busy on farm too, and the timing of ECan's ambitious programme to produce and notify a new Regional Policy Statement is frustrating.

You will have seen our recent email which details what is happening and we are actively engaging with ECan, however, whilst we can work with ECan on much of the Policy and Planning workstreams on your behalf we need the community to shape the vision.

The targets and objectives under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management are all set to achieve the vision.

Having a vision for our community, that reflects what we want as a community across the Environment,

Social, Cultural, Economic and Recreational is critical. We need our vision to be created and informed by our community.

We are working with other leaders across Mid Canterbury to give you the opportunity to be part of creating the vision in a way that will make a difference.

There will be upcoming small community meetings which will be short and targeted at enabling you to have your voice heard easily.

We are setting up a working group to collate these visions to present to ECan.

ECan are running a number of their own sessions, all detailed on their [website](#).

If you would like to talk about the process in more detail please give me a call, as there are plenty of moving parts and I'm happy to talk through that with you.



I am really buoyed by the way the Ag leaders have come together across Mid Canterbury to agree how we will approach the workstream and together prioritise actions in the best interest of the community.

Ngā mihi
Mel



Have you booked in your FEP update?

FEP updates occur every year.

We understand that certain times of the year are better than others for different land uses and hence we have prioritised dairy farmers to date and continue to provide times through until September.

Contact Nicole on 027 205 2355 or nicole@mhwaterr.nz to book your FEP time.

Bucket Testing

Bucket Testing continues to be the biggest contributing factor to B Audit grades last season.

We know that bucket testing is not front of mind at present, but to achieve an A grade all of your machines must be Bucket Tested at least every 3 years and must achieve a distribution uniformity of at least 0.8.

Many farmers have done great work this year to reduce nitrate leaching, but some have been awarded B grades due to not bucket testing.

Please ensure you are using the **CropX** Bucket Test app when bucket testing your irrigators as a previous versions no longer work.



Clay lined effluent ponds

To achieve a High Level of Confidence for the Effluent Storage target and an A audit grade, an **Effluent Seepage Test** is required for clay lined effluent ponds.

The effluent pond can only be tested when the pond is isolated (cows dried off).

Please contact Nicole if you would like more information or would like to be put in contact with providers who can carry out the test.



Winter Grazing Reminder

As part of the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater that came into effect in 2020, winter grazing is now limited to the maximum area used between 2014 – 2019 of fodder beet, kale, oats etc eaten May to September by an animal with a hoof (including sheep on oats). This area is defined in your Authorised Land Use.

Therefore, if you want to increase the intensive winter grazing area above the area included in your Authorised Land Use – a consent from Environment Canterbury may be required in the first instance as well as a Farm Activity Variation Application with MHV.

Intensive Winter Grazing (IWG)

Environment Canterbury have carried out their second Intensive Winter Grazing fly over last week, **the purpose of the flyovers is educating farmers not enforcement.**

Both flyovers have now been completed. In May, no major concerns were identified, but ECan staff were making contact with farmers directly where crop was observed to be planted too close to waterways.

The second flyover occurred late last week with ECan advising that follow-up of any concerns will be carried out with positive conversations and advice.

Please ensure you have;

- An Intensive Winter Grazing Management Plan (also required for sheep on crop or oats and transitional crops on dairy farms),
- Any crop planted within 5m of a water body will need to be lifted or cut and fed out,
- If you have a boggy corner or wet area, please fence it off.

MHV have submitted a resource consent to Environment Canterbury for landholdings with more than 50 ha of intensive winter grazing. All MHV Shareholders with greater than 50 ha of IWG have now met ECan's requirements under the National Environmental Standards, which were to have applied by 1 May 2023. We will share progress with the consent process as we go.



2023-24 Water Delivery Charges

Budgeting in a highly inflationary environment is challenging, especially as a cost recovery co-operative business.

We are incredibly mindful of the pressures our shareholders are facing and accordingly this year, as we assess our strategic objectives, we have focused intently on where we can trim our expenditure and maintain the level of service delivery and support for shareholders that we are known for.

We are fortunate that our treasury policy was well considered, and the risks of an increasing interest rate shock well understood, which means our increase in interest rates has been softened. The increasing interest rate environment will still impact on MHV, but to a much lesser extent than if we didn't have hedging in place.

We are pleased to confirm the water delivery and enviro charges for MHV Water for the 23/24 season.

Share Class	Charge	Change from FY23
V shares	\$3.70 per share \$370 per lps	No change*
M shares	\$1.75 per share \$175 per lps	No change**
M (R) shares	\$7.30 per share \$730 per lps	No change
Environmental Charge	\$9.00 per ha	\$0.50 per ha decrease (\$9.50 FY23)

*V Capacity charge will remain the same until the management accounts are finalised and we can review the ongoing charge for the new financial year.

**Harris Drain Special Infrastructure charges additional.

These annual charges are split equally across 11 months of the year, with a balancing payment in May. This is a result of how we have split the annual charge, because the charge isn't divisible by 12.

The annual charges for FY24 are as follows:-

- \$3.70 per litre per second for Valetta: \$0.30 per month for 11 months, then \$0.40 in May
- \$1.75 per litre per second for MH Open Race: \$0.14 per month for 11 months, then \$0.21 in May
- \$7.30 per litre per second for Ruapuna: \$0.60 per month for 11 months, then \$0.70 in May.

Interim Stockwater Delivery

At MHV we strive to deliver sustainable solutions for our community and we are currently engaged with Ashburton District Council (ADC) on discussions regarding the longer term stockwater delivery options for the District.

As part of that longer term view we have been reviewing races and you'll recall the joint survey we did with ADC last year on demand.

Recently the ADC Stockwater Ranger in the Mayfield Hinds area resigned, and given the longer term discussions, MHV has agreed to temporarily deliver stockwater on behalf of the ADC in the Mayfield Hinds area whilst we continue discussions on the longer term position.

Stockwater plays an important role in the district and we're pleased to have the opportunity to work collaboratively with the ADC for the benefit of the community.

If you have any queries please get in touch with Mel or Sam.



Limestone Creek Stockwater intake

Dead Stock Collection

Dead cow pickup will be operating in the MHV area.

One cow \$85

Two cows \$75 each

Three or more cows \$55 each

Calves \$12 each.

Contact Butch on 027 288 9319 for details.

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Rural Support Trusts

0800 787 254

(Calls are answered by your local Rural Support Trust)

www.rural-support.org.nz


RuralSupport



Valetta Ponds 1 & 2 Inlet Works



Work is well underway on the winter workstreams to upgrade Valetta Ponds 1 & 2 inlet infrastructure. The work is being undertaken to address asset and operational risks identified in the Valetta Masterplan.

The image above shows Valetta Pond 1 panel installation ahead of the steel pipeworks; and to the right, the concrete floor has been poured.

Pond 2 will have a similar inlet structure and new steel work and valves are currently being fabricated. These are due for installation in August.



Political engagements

We have recently proactively engaged with politicians and decision makers reinforcing to them, the importance of water and infrastructure for farming in Mid Canterbury along with the importance of realistic and practical policy decisions, and the significant onfarm changes to date.

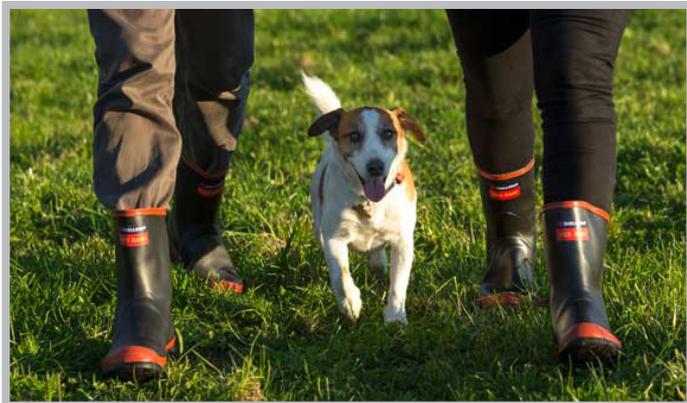
In May we jointly hosted visitors from MPI, MfE, the NZ Infrastructure Commission, and other Canterbury irrigation schemes (top).

In June, National Party members Todd McClay and James Meager joined us for a visit to the RDR Fish Screen and our Carew Storage ponds (below).

Key topics discussed included water storage and how reliable irrigation water is crucial to climate change resilience and continued efficient water use; how the scheme/catchment based approach has created effective change in Canterbury, including the rapid adoption of farm environment plans and reductions in Nitrogen loss; and how large scale infrastructure investment is required and has been made for the better of the community and requires similarly long term consents.



Do you have a new Manager?



Please let us know if you have a new manager on your property.

It is important to keep us updated on key contacts on your property.

Contact Sam on 027 435 6251 or sam@mhwwater.nz with full name, mobile number and email address.

We will also be offering new manager training again early in the irrigation season.

Podcasts

Are you looking for something to listen to in the tractor?

Tune in to our recently published series of podcasts. Learn about animal composting, incorporating Wagyu breeding into the dairy AI cycle, what's happening with the water below our feet, and new technology to improve use of nitrate-nitrogen.



Go to *Spotify* or *Apple Podcasts* and search MHV Voice to download or stream the podcasts.

We appreciate your feedback on these episodes, and we would also welcome suggestions of other topics that you may be interested in.

Introducing Louis

Louis Martin recently began his Master's with MHV.

His research project is to compare the different management practices along the Oakdale and Harris drains and reconcile these to waterway 'health' and by extension, help define what a Healthy Waterway might look like.

"This area of research is interesting to me as freshwater issues are highly contentious and are an unavoidable problem for New Zealand. I'd also like to think the work I'm doing means something and that I'm helping farmers out by finding out what they can do to improve drain water health".



Governance Development

Are you interested in developing your governance skills?

MHV is a member of Co-operative Business New Zealand and invites shareholders to apply to undertake the Governance Development Programme.

Up to 50% funding may be available through the Regional Business Partner Network for eligible businesses, but this funding is limited, so we encourage you to apply early. MHV may also be able to contribute a small portion to support shareholders.

Several shareholders have completed, or are currently completing this course and each has gained significant learnings from it.

From Roz Henry, Cooperative Business New Zealand:
Co-operative Business New Zealand is proud to partner with Mayfield Group to provide the Governance Development Programme.

This comprehensive programme is designed to support developing future governors operating within the cooperative and governance environments. The programme is open to all members of Co-operative Business New Zealand and their shareholders, designed specifically for aspiring directors and those that are new to boards.

Whilst the programme will have cooperative themes throughout, participants can expect to gain key transferrable knowledge around finance, effective board practice, communication, reputation, legal duties of directors and diversity. During the workshops you'll also engage with experienced directors who will share their experiences, including an interactive panel session.

**MAYFIELD
GOVERNANCE
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME**

Offering comprehensive solutions to individuals and boards

**Register now for the 6-month
Governance Development Programme**

Starting in October 2023, this executive programme includes workshops, 1:1 coaching and monthly tutorial Zooms.

OTHER OPTIONS

ONE DAY WORKSHOPS
Fundamentals of best practice governance.

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Our workshops are run throughout New Zealand for boards or individuals

TWO DAY ADVANCED GOVERNANCE
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Contact Jo or visit our website www.mayfieldgroup.co.nz

For initial enquiries, contact Jo Woolley at the Mayfield Group on 027 886 5700 or jo@mayfieldgroup.co.nz Or visit www.mayfieldgroup.co.nz for more information.