



Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme Overview

The Project

The Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme (RWSS) is a long-term sustainable water supply solution for Central Hawke’s Bay. It is part of a wider programme to better manage water resources in the Tukituki Catchment.

The scheme consists of a 93 million m³ storage reservoir located in the upper Makaroro river, storing water during periods of high flow and over winter. Water can then be released to improve river flows during summer for aquatic life and other river users, while at the same time providing secure water to irrigators. The scheme will be funded by both the public and private sector.

The Need

Hawke’s Bay’s agricultural advantage lies in its temperate climate, availability of productive land, and potentially abundant water supplies. However, the geography of the region is such that Hawke’s Bay is prone to drought. The region experienced four consecutive years of drought from 2006 to 2009, followed by further drought in 2012-13 all with significant negative economic impacts. There was more very dry weather in 2014-15 and a continuing drying trend predicted in the future. Coupled with this, current water allocation exceeds the limits. Consequently, the future is uncertain for consent holders. No new consents have been granted since 2007.

Increased Farm Productivity & Resilience

Farm productivity improves with a reliable water

supply, resulting in wider economic benefits for Hawke’s Bay. An on-farm feasibility study undertaken by Macfarlane Rural Business concluded that the scheme will enable land use intensification and conversions for a variety of farm types, resulting in more productive and resilient farms in the Ruataniwha Plains. In particular, sheep & beef, arable & process vegetable, dairy, and mixed arable farms with dairy support would benefit from reliable water. It is estimated that the scheme could irrigate 20-30,000ha of farmland, depending on the make-up of farm types.

Environmental Benefits

The use and protection of the Tukituki River has long been a topic of debate in Hawke’s Bay. Since 2008, Hawke’s Bay Regional Council has been working on a range of plans and actions in the catchment to provide positive environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes for the region, now and into the future.

A combination of water storage and higher minimum flows set by HBRC will release the potential for the Lower Tukituki River to be returned to more natural flows in summer, especially if current irrigators can be moved to storage.

A significant amount of work has gone into a wide range of investigations assessing the possibility of large-scale water storage in the Ruataniwha basin. The scheme, coupled with the Tukituki Plan Change aims to improve water security for farmers, unlock economic potential for Hawke’s Bay and improve water quality and quantity in the Tukituki River.

Fast Facts

Dam type:

Central Core Rockfill Dam (CCRD)

Dam height:

83 metres

Reservoir length:

7 kilometres

Storage volume:

93 million cubic metres

Surface area:

372 hectares

Irrigation footprint:

20,000 to 30,000 hectares

Area of influence:

Productivity increased for approx 42,000 hectares

Potential electricity generation:

6.5 megawatts

Estimated regional economic benefit:

- 4% GDP increase
- 3.5% increase in employment
- Improved resilience to drought

Information Sheet



Chairman
Dr Andy Pearce



Director
Mr Sam Robinson



Director
Mr Jim Scotland



Director
Ms Danelle Dinsdale



Director
Mr David Faulkner



Chief Executive
Mr Andrew Newman

HBRIC Ltd Directors and Advisors

Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company Ltd

The Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company Ltd (known as HBRIC) is the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's investment company, set up to manage some of HBRC's larger infrastructure investments around the region.

HBRIC Ltd Directors

Andy Pearce (HBRIC Chairman) has more than 40 years' experience in hydrology and catchment management science, and extensive experience in a wide range of directorships. He was the founding CEO of the Crown Research Institute Landcare Research, and has been Chairman of Environment Canterbury's Regional Water Management Committee for the Canterbury Water Management Strategy since 2010.

He is a director of Bank of New Zealand and Christchurch City Holdings Ltd, and Chairman of Focus Genetics Management Ltd.

Sam Robinson is a Hawke's Bay hill country sheep and beef farmer. He has had considerable experience in agribusiness and a range of directorships, including Chairman of Ag Research.

Jim Scotland has had a long career as a non-executive director, mainly in companies involved in agribusiness. He recently retired as Chairman of Napier Port.

Danelle Dinsdale has 14 years experience in a global law firm with a significant focus on change management, infrastructure and technology projects. She is also serving on a number of boards around New Zealand.

David Faulkner has extensive civil engineering and project management experience. He was Managing Director of Fulton Hogan. He now serves on a number of boards, including as Chairman of Port of Otago Ltd.

HBRIC Ltd Chief Executive

Andrew Newman is Chief Executive of HBRIC Ltd. He has been seconded into this role from his position as Chief Executive of Hawke's Bay Regional Council to manage the development of the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme.

HBRIC Ltd Advisors

Dave Roberts is working alongside BNZ Advisory to secure investors for the scheme. He has extensive experience in putting together financing for infrastructure projects.

Stephen Daysh has 30 years environmental consulting and management experience in New Zealand and Asia. He has been working on the environmental consenting side of the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme from its inception.

Andy MacFarlane is an expert in rural business management and has researched and prepared a report on the financial feasibility of the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme for various farming types.

Geoff Butcher has decades of experience in economic research and researched and prepared a report on the Regional Economic Impacts and Financial Cost Benefit Analysis of the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme.

Duncan MacLeod is leading the team working with farmers interested in buying water from the scheme. Duncan is from a Hawke's Bay farming family. He spent 12 years with BNZ, before returning home to take up the position of Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme Commercial Manager.



HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL
INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD



Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company Ltd is a
Council Controlled Trading Organisation of Hawke's Bay Regional Council