Prime opportunity to create employment in Hawke's Bay

RUATANIWHA
Water Storage

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD

The Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme is one of the best opportunities the region has to create employment and opportunities for our children, according to Hawke's Bay farmers Eliot & Mary Cooper.

The couple run a 290 hectare dairy operation on the south end of State Highway 50 in Central Hawke's Bay, milking 700 cows, and have signed up to take water from the Ruataniwha Scheme.

Eliot Cooper says, for their operation, the water will mean they'll be able to milk 1,100 cows and bring on an extra two full time employees.

"For us it's been a no-brainer from the start and I get incredibly frustrated with the negative people out there trying to discredit what could be a fantastic opportunity for our region," say Eliot.

He says the region needs to start getting behind the Ruataniwha Scheme and not allow a negative, vocal few to put it at risk.

"The public have not recognised the huge social and economic benefits of this project enough. There has been so much focus on the environmental side. And the reality is if the dam is consistently putting more water into the Tukituki River then it will be so much better than it is today."

The Coopers believe once the Ruataniwha Scheme is up and running people will really start to see the true value of a reliable irrigation water supply.

"I believe we'll see new crops grown in Central Hawke's Bay as well as apple orchards and grapes. In turn this will see more processing in the wider region and more produce through the Port."

For further information visit www.hbrc.govt.nz - keyword: Ruataniwha

Mary and Eliot Cooper

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