

AGRICULTURE

CENTRAL PLAINS WATER ENHANCEMENT



With interim approval of consents to take water from the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers, Central Plains Water will provide reliable irrigation to hundreds of farmers on

the Central Canterbury Plains.

With a current estimated construction cost of \$150 million, the Central Plains Water scheme will be one

of the largest current construction projects in the South Island. It will consist of a main headrace canal and distribution channels capable of irrigating 60,000ha of

land between the Waimakariri River, the Rakaia River, State Highway 1 and the Malvern foothills.



MISSION/VISION

The Central Plains Water scheme is a one-off opportunity to get things right for future generations. It is designed to meet the region's irrigation needs for the next 100 years and benefit the maximum number of farmers. This includes properties that could not realistically access reliable irrigation. It will also future-proof the region's economic base against climate change and drought.

CANTERBURY

The scheme will bring significant economic benefits to Canterbury, including thousands of new jobs. Certainty of water supply gives farmers and investors the confidence to build food processing plants or other related infrastructure to support changes in land use as a consequence of having reliable water.

BENEFITS/IMPACT

At full production regional direct and indirect agricultural output is expected to increase by \$263M per annum, boosting annual exports by \$328M, a combined increase of around \$591M per annum. This means that Christchurch and central Canterbury towns will benefit from the scheme as much as rural areas.

The Canterbury V5 initiative is supported by:



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