

Media Information

CPWL Stage 2 Ribbon cutting Ceremony

20 April 2017

Stage 2

Stage 2 construction is about to commence in the area between the Selwyn and Waimakariri Rivers. Construction will be carried out by Downer Ltd and will service another 20,000 Ha supplying pressurised water to the farm gates.

A key difference between Stages 1 and 2 is the Stage 2 use of a 23 km long large diameter (2.5m) GRP pipe, instead of continuing the canal, so that all infrastructure will be buried. This pipe is the largest used in irrigation in NZ to date. GRP Pipe is currently being manufactured in Australia and will arrive in 4 shipments to New Zealand with the first one having just arrived.

Around 220 construction and design staff will be working on the project with the site office being located at Darfield.

The Downer team will be laying around 180 km of pipe between May 2017 and May 2018 working in with over 150 farming families along the way.

This pipe will connect to the stage 1 canal and provide water by a fully underground system.

Total project costs for Stage 2 are expected to be close to \$200 million.

Sheffield Water Scheme

Sheffield Water Scheme irrigation area covers 4,300 Ha and will supply water to around 30 farms, it will supply irrigation water, stock water and potentially township water.

The Sheffield Water Scheme is physically separate from other stages of the CPW scheme and will use around 37 km of pipeline and contain 7 pump stations supplied from a new 2 million cubic metre storage reservoir under construction at Sheffield.

Fulton Hogan is the main contractor for this project and it is scheduled to be completed by October this year.

CPWL Background

Central Plains Water Limited (CPWL) was established in mid-2003 and is responsible for the scheme construction and scheme operations.

The Central Plains Water Trust was settled by the Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council in May 2000 and holds the consents for CPWL.

CPWL farmers have provided the funding for the \$450 Million scheme with \$88 Million of farmer equity and the balance funded by debt which will be repaid over 40 years.

While providing reliable water supply is the primary role of the scheme, considerable environmental, social and recreational opportunities will be available to address issues such as groundwater recharge, and community prosperity. All Stages of the scheme will be completed by the September 2018 summer season.

Stage 1

Covers 23,000 Ha of irrigable area and consists of a 17 km headrace canal that starts at the Rakaia River intake area and stops at Leaches Road. This canal has 4 lateral pipes totalling 130 km length that run off it to provide water to each property via on-farm turnouts.

The canal is 30 metres wide and 5 metres deep and is lined with 50 Ha of HDPE liner as well as 80 Ha of geotextile underlay.

Stage 1 has already completed its second successful irrigation season and is showing some exciting benefits such as existing groundwater irrigators switching off 75% of their groundwater abstraction during the 2015/16/17 season, leaving 80 million cubic metres of water in the aquifers.

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