



# Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme Update

Creating a bright future for their grandchildren



**When Jerry & Diana Greer's new grandchild arrives in a few weeks' time the couple will be hoping the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme goes ahead.**

As Central Hawke's Bay farmers they were one of the first to sign up to take water from the scheme, which they believe will provide a bright future for the region, especially their grandchildren's generation.

The couple run a beef finishing operation with their son James and daughter-in-law Kath. They farm three blocks, covering 720 hectares, and have signed up to irrigate 100 hectares under the Ruataniwha Scheme. They are also involved with a dairy farm in Norsewood, operated by their daughter and son-in-law, Charlotte and Russell Heald.

## New to irrigation

Jerry Greer says they're new to irrigation as they currently have no access to water.

"We have a lot to learn about irrigation, so we're starting out small, with a view to buying more once we get the hang of things because we know the water will open up plenty of options for our farming operation," says Jerry Greer. His wife Diana agrees and believes the scheme will have a snowball effect in the area.

"We will need to employ another staff member and that will probably mean another family to the area, who will use the local services and send their children to the local school," says Diana.

## Hawke's Bay-wide benefits

While she says the scheme will give Central Hawke's Bay a major boost, it will also have a flow on effect for the rest of the region.



*Jerry and Diana Greer*

**"It's incredibly stressful worrying about how to feed your stock and having to sell off stock. A reliable water supply will be good for the mental health of farmers as well."**

**Jerry Greer.**



"We will see the benefits filter through the region. For example any extra exports will be going out through Napier Port."

Jerry Greer says a reliable supply of irrigation water will mean they can guarantee feed for their stock in the increasing dry spells the region is experiencing.

"It's incredibly stressful worrying about how to feed your stock and having to sell off stock. A reliable water supply will be good for the mental health of farmers as well," says Jerry.

**For further information visit [www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz) - keyword: Ruataniwha**

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL  
INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD