

Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme Update

To sign or not?



Farmers in Hawke's Bay are making some big decisions as they consider signing up to take water from the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme.

The Scheme is one element of a long term water management strategy for the Tukituki Catchment in Hawke's Bay. It is aimed at delivering intergenerational environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits to a region where climate change forecasts predict a significant drying and warming trend.

With approximately 70% of the minimum threshold of water uptake required to build the scheme in the contracting phase, a range of farmers and horticulturists are signing up, reflecting a range of land uses.

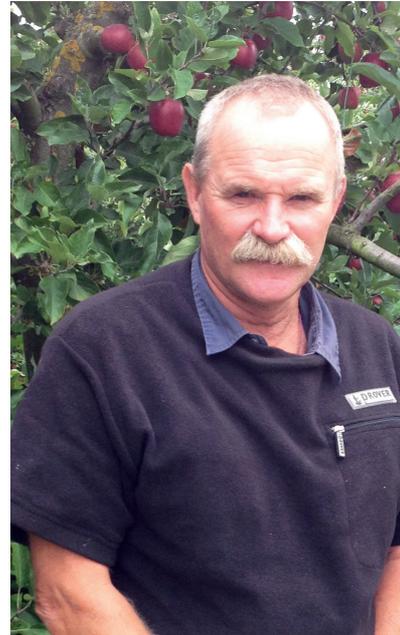
Ruataniwha Water offers orchardist an insurance policy

For Hawke's Bay orchardist Leon Stallard the Ruataniwha Water Storage scheme provides him with insurance for his successful apple exporting business.

He's signed up to take water from the scheme and while he says it's not a lot, it's enough to give him the security he needs to continue to grow apples on his Lower Tukituki Valley block under Tukituki Plan Change 6.

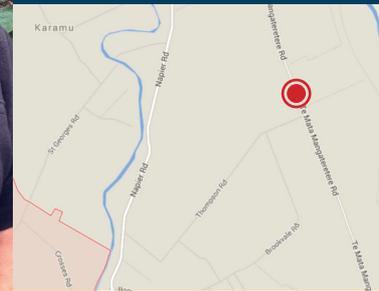
"If the dam doesn't go ahead, under Plan Change 6 the whole Tukituki Valley will change because if we don't have water what are our options," says Mr Stallard.

He says his decision to take water from the scheme wasn't taken lightly, weighing up the other options, such as drilling a new bore and hoping to find water, trying to develop a community irrigation scheme, or doing nothing and hope.



"If the dam doesn't go ahead, under Plan Change 6 the whole Tukituki Valley will change because if we don't have water what are our options?"

Leon Stallard.



Proposed irrigation site (Havelock North)

But he says having more water will improve efficiencies and provide certainty for his business.

Leon Stallard says he also sees the benefits for the region as a whole from the Ruataniwha Scheme.

"The dam is a long term infrastructure project. It's an inter generational project that will create jobs and opportunities that we haven't even thought about."

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

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL
INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD