
MCG Member Advisory

Fast Track Bill

Last month the Government signalled its intention to make consenting easier for significant regional and national infrastructure through the Fast Track Approvals Bill. Shortly after, it called for applications to have projects included in Schedule 2.

We have filed an application for the Manuherekia Catchment. This project takes a whole of catchment approach, focused on setting a new flow regime for the Manuherekia River as well as providing for the integrated management of existing storages within the Manuherekia Catchment. It includes upgrade or replacement of the existing Falls Dam as well as other water optimisation measures - including possible Clutha/Mata-Au augmentation - to support water use efficiency in the lower valley and additional catchment storage within the vicinity of Wades Creek in the Hawkdun/Idaburn Irrigation Company command area.

Applications will (eventually) be publicly available. We've avoided commenting on specific dam size, reservoir level, minimum flows etc as there has not been the time for detailed design and hydrological modelling.

We've spoken with affected landowners and engaged with interested parties. We feel this is a unique opportunity to achieve a sustainable water resource bringing economic and environmental benefits for the whole community. We know this may be the beginning of a long journey with a lot of unknowns at this stage – but a journey we need to start. We hope you'll feel the same.

It is likely to be some time before we know the outcome of this application. We'll keep you informed as we hear anything. This process is separate to the issue of funding and we'll be looking at all options for that.

If you have any questions on this, feel free to contact our General Manager, Clare Hadley – cvhadley@gmail.com or 0274 358 615.

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MCG committee

Andrew Paterson and Anna Gillespie - Co-Chairpersons

Ro McDiarmid – Treasurer

Josie Lake - Secretary

Mike Kelly

Ken Gillespie

Harriet Jopp

Stewart Craig

Mary Flannery

Phil Smith