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J.H. George, Esq., M.P.
Parliament House,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Mr George,

You will recall being present last May at Poolburn when I had discussions with members of the local branch of Federated Farmers concerning water supplies for the Ida Valley irrigation scheme and the proposed diversion of Hopes Creek into the Manorburn Dam.

At this meeting I agreed that an up-to date reassessment of the proposal would be made to see whether it could provide for additional area to be served and so reduce the cost per acre to the existing area.

This reappraisal has now been completed but unfortunately it only serves to substantiate the general findings of the 1954 investigations, i.e., that while diversion of Hopes Creek into the Manorburn Dam would provide Ida Valley farmers with a full 18" quota of water each season on the present area under agreement, there would not be sufficient water to guarantee the same quota to any significant extension of the present area.

The cost of the diversion proposal is now assessed at £515,000 and the annual charge required on the present area to cover the cost of this new work plus existing costs on the present scheme would be about 35/7d per acre.

Existing water supplies will provide a full 18" quota to about 85% of the present contract area so that the effect of bringing in Hopes Creek would be to provide full irrigation to the remaining 15%, i.e. to some 2100 acres at a capital cost of about £240 per acre. It is obvious therefore that such an expenditure is quite uneconomic and I could not even consider recommending the proposal to Government.

It would seem that there is no alternative but for Ida Valley irrigators to make the best use of present supplies. This means that on the average they can expect a full 18" quota on about 86% of their present contract area or alternatively about 15" over the whole of their present contract area.

The storage position at present is such that irrigators are being offered a full quota for the current season with a rebate of 50% of the value of all quota water not used.

The District Commissioner of Works, Dunedin, proposes to arrange a meeting with the irrigators shortly to present the above assessment of the situation. He is being asked to advise you of the date of this meeting so that you may attend if you so desire.

Yours sincerely,

RECORDED BY

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