



Media Release
Tuesday 6 May 2014

Central Plains Water Loans Repaid

Central Plains Water has repaid its loans to Selwyn District Council.

The Central Plains Water scheme concept was first developed in a joint study commissioned by Selwyn District Council and Christchurch City Council in 2000. Since that time, Selwyn District Council has been a funding supporter of the scheme which will ultimately see around 60,000 hectares of Selwyn District irrigated between the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers.

Selwyn District Council provided a total of \$5.84 million in loans to assist the Central Plains Water scheme. All loans have now been repaid with interest of \$1.21 million bringing the repayment sum the Council received to \$7.05 million.

Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe says that the loans were made by the Council as the scheme will provide a significant boost to the Selwyn economy and help to create more jobs and prosperity.

“The scheme will also help to relieve the pressure on the demand for groundwater for irrigation in Selwyn, thus improving flows in lowland streams,” he adds.

Construction of the scheme officially began last week with Prime Minister John Key and Doug Catherwood, the chairman of Central Plains Water, turning the first sod. The scheme will be developed in three stages. The first stage of construction covers around 20,000 hectares between the Rakaia and Hororata rivers and is expected to be completed by September 2015.

Ends

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