### CPWT Annual Sustainability Report 2020-21



### Outline

- Background
- 2020-21 Climate
- Summary of 2020-21 operations
- On-farm monitoring
- Environmental monitoring



# 2019-20 Rainfall

Annual rainfall close to average but unevenly distributed through the year

- Monthly rainfall consistently below average July 2020 to April 2021 (aside from November 2020)
- Large rainfall event in late-May 2021 (monthly rainfall >95<sup>th</sup> percentile\*)



## 2020-21 Rainfall

- Cumulative rainfall low throughout the year (similar to 2015-16)
- Annual rainfall close to average following the late May 2021 rainfall event



## 2020-21 Soil Moisture

- Average to above average July to Nov 2019
- Below average remainder of the 2019-20 season
- Similar temporal pattern to 2018-19, but dry 2 months earlier



# Hydrology

 2020-21 river flows remained well below average until the May 2021 rainfall event



 Groundwater levels declined throughout 2020-21 before recovering late in the year

# CPW 2020-21 Summary

	Key Statistics for the CPW 2020-21 Irrigation Season				
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Sheffield		
Number of Properties Supplied	98	130	31		
Number of Turnouts Supplied	133	135	37		
Farm Enterprise Property	30,300 Ha	32,000 Ha	<b>7,000 Ha</b>		
Irrigated area	22,500 Ha	18,200 Ha	<b>4,200 Ha</b>		
Total Volume of Water Delivered	107.8 million m <sup>3</sup>	73.6 million m <sup>3</sup>	11.2 million m <sup>3</sup>		
Total Volume of Run-of River Take	72.1 million m <sup>3</sup>	51.3 million m <sup>3</sup>	6.7 million m <sup>3</sup>		
Total Volume of Water from Storage	35.7 million m <sup>3</sup>	22.3 million m <sup>3</sup>	4.5 million m <sup>3</sup>		
Total Volume of Groundwater Used	19.3 million m <sup>3</sup>	27.3 million m <sup>3</sup>	1.5 million m <sup>3</sup>		
Length of 2017-18 Irrigation Season	273 days	273 days	273 days		
Available Surface Water Allocation Taken	38%	38%	11%		
Days with Partial or Full Restriction on Abstraction	126 days	126 days	0 days		

## 2020-21 Water Use

Total Water Use 2018-19 – 244.8 million m<sup>3</sup>

- Run-of River: 134.0 million  $m^3(55\%)$
- Stored Water: 62.7 million m<sup>3</sup>(25%)
- Total CPW Scheme 192.7 million m<sup>3</sup>
- Groundwater: 48.1 million m<sup>3</sup>(20%)



# **Stage 1 Water Use**



2020-21 highest water use to date

# Stage 1 & 2 2020-21

- Irrigation demand climbed steadily in late-September 2020
- Demand fluctuated in response to rainfall Nov-Dec 2020, peaked in late-January 2021 then gradually tapered off until mid-May
- Extensive use of stored water in December 2020 and through late summer/autumn 2021



## **Sheffield Scheme 2020-21**

- Variable demand in spring 2019
- Demand increased from late-October 2019 and remained high until tapering-off from early February 2020
- Limited restriction on run-of-river abstraction
- Pond storage used in early summer and autumn



# **Irrigation Types and Area**

	Farm Enterprise Area (ha)	CPW Irrigated Area (ha)		
Stage 1	30,300	22,500		80% 15%
Stage 2	32,000	18,200	Centre Pivot	
Sheffield	7,000	4,200	Travelling Irrigator	
Total	69,300	44,900	Sprayline and Solid Set	5%





# **On-Farm Monitoring**

#### Land Use Type – Whole Scheme

- Mix of land use types (land use categories from Overseer nutrient budgets)
- Two main farming systems = dairy (~40%) and mixed (sheep, beef, dairy grazing)
- Approximately 40% of properties have an interest in arable farming (60% in Stage 2/Sheffield)



### Land Use

#### Changes in Land Use

- Land use has remained relatively static since operations commenced
- Major changes: 7% increase in Dairy + Other enterprises balanced by a decline in Sheep + Arable and Beef/Dairy grazing + Other
- Approximately 40% of properties have an interest in arable farming (60% in Stage 2/Sheffield)



16 Additional Dairy platforms (8 Stage 1, 6 Stage 2, 2 in Sheffield)

2 properties converted from dairy to alternative land uses

# **On-Farm Monitoring**

#### 2020-21 Farm Environmental Plan (FEP) Audits

37 properties audited (determined by schedule for re-auditing)

Audit Grades

- A-grade 65%
- B-grade 30%







D-grades reflect properties where 2020-21 nutrient budget exceeded their baseline nitrogen discharge allowance (NDA)

## **Groundwater Abstraction**

- Consented volume ~200 million m<sup>3</sup> across whole scheme
- 2020-21 groundwater usage approximately 25% of the total volume allocated (slightly higher than the previous two seasons due to prolonged dry conditions)
- Groundwater usage has varied between 17 and 25% of total allocation since the full Scheme commenced operations in 2018-19.



The Selwyn-Waihora Zone ZIP Addendum has a target of a 80% reduction in groundwater use (i.e., for groundwater usage to be <20% of total allocation).

### **Nutrient Losses**

Total N allocation for CPW Scheme of 979 tonnes N/year specified in LWRP Includes allowance for:

- Existing irrigation
- Baseline dryland N loss
- Conversion of dryland to irrigated
- Farm enterprise areas not irrigated by CPW water

- Nutrient budget figures, catchment loads etc have changed significantly with different versions of OverseerFM
- Policy 11.4.16(1) of the LWRP requires a 14% reduction in N losses across the Scheme area by 1 January 2022

### **Nutrient Losses**

#### 2020-21 Nutrient Budgets

	Stage 1 kgN/year	Stage 2 kgN/year	Sheffield kgN/year	Scheme Total kgN/year
Baseline N Load	1,797,396	1,476,785	306,773	3,580,954
Top Up for New Irrigation	304,553	357,510	104,799	766,862
Total N Discharge Allowance	2,101,949	1,834,295	411,572	4,347,816
Current Load	1,385,023	1,346,522	332,306	3,063,851
Reduction below Total N Discharge Allowance	-34%	-27%	-19%	-30%
Reduction below Baseline Load	-23%	-9%	-8%	-14%

- 2020-21 N losses 30% below the LWPR Scheme Allowance
- Entire Scheme achieving cumulative N loss 14% lower than baseline (i.e., meeting the LWRP 2022 N-loss reduction target)

- Part 1 of the CPW GSWMP requires extensive monitoring including:
  - 29 surface water quality monitoring sites;
  - 4 lake water quality monitoring sites;
  - 20 groundwater quality monitoring sites; and
  - 12 groundwater level monitoring sites.
- Monitoring undertaken by CPW and Environment Canterbury
- Part 2 of the GSWMP establishes trigger levels for individual parameters and procedures to be followed if trigger levels exceeded

Surface water and lake water quality monitoring



Groundwater quality and levels



#### Environmental Baseline

- CPW scheme being developed in area with a long history of agricultural development.
- Significant lag between changes in land use and consequent effects on down-gradient groundwater and surface water resources
- Monitoring prior to Scheme commencement shows water quality does not meet trigger levels in many places and/or shows significant temporal trends

# Surface Water Quality

- Surface water nitrate triggers (annual median and 95<sup>th</sup> percentile) set for Hill-fed and Spring-fed rivers
- Triggers exceeded at 2 Hill-fed sites (2019-20 4 sites, 2018-19 1 site)
- Triggers exceeded at 5 Spring-fed sites (same as last 3 years)



#### Surface Water Quality

2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 2019-20 2020-21



### Surface Water Quality

Harts Creek downstream (T8) Annual Median

Harts Creek downstream (T8) 95th percentile



# Lake Water Quality

- Triggers set for Chlorophyll-a, Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus and TLI<sub>3</sub>
- Lake water quality triggers for TLI3 exceeded at all four monitoring sites in 2020-21. Results above the long-term average but well within historical range



## **Groundwater Quality**

- Triggers set for Nitrate-Nitrogen and E.coli
- Nitrate triggers exceeded in 12 of 20 CPW monitoring bores
- E.coli detected in 22.5% of samples (17 out of 20 monitoring bores), most detections in June 2021



#### **Groundwater Levels**





 In-Scheme – generally close to or below long-term median

 Lowland – well below triggers but recovered strongly in June 2021

# Targeted Stream Augmentation

- Selwyn Near-River Recharge Project commissioned April-May 2021
- Monitored while being run at a range of flow rates
- Operation during a period of low groundwater levels

## Environmental Enhancement Funds

 CPW Environmental Management Fund (EMF) generates approximately \$115,000/annum. To date a majority of funding (73%) utilised for native plantings.



 CPW Scheme contributed \$23,797 + GST to opening of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere in 2020-21.

## **Scheme Benefits**

- Growth in rural communities, school roles
- Upwards of 1,000 direct and indirect jobs in the wider Central Plains area
- \$592M pa increase in agricultural output
- Provision of opportunities for alternative, high value crops such as chrysanthemum, hemp, sunflower etc
- Provision of supplementary/backup water supplies to the Springfield and Sheffield communities
- Conversion of groundwater use to Scheme water Shareholder groundwater usage reduced by >60% compared to pre-Scheme
- Construction of 20 turnouts for fire-fighting as well as infrastructure for targeted stream augmentation
- Long-term environmental funding to ecological projects and programmes

# 2020-21 Summary

- Third season of full Scheme in operation (sixth year for Stage 1, 4<sup>th</sup> for Sheffield)
- 192.7 million m<sup>3</sup> of water delivered to 259 Shareholder properties
- Irrigation demand moderate during late spring/early summer but increased over the remainder of the year. Stage 1 water use was the highest in 6 years of operation
- A majority of properties achieved A or B grades on farm audits
- Nutrient losses from CPW Farm Enterprise Area meets 2022 LWRP reduction targets
- Environmental monitoring results significantly influenced by baseline water quality.