

## Oreti Catchment Liaison Committee

### Co Chairs annual report 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Despite what anyone does Mother nature will always have the final say. Our stop banking infrastructure was tested and passed with the large flood event of September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Lumsden gauge had the highest recorded level ever but the cumecs measure of volume was much lower than you would have expected. Some confusion reigned but thank goodness it did not overtop into my newly born lambs. The Wallacetown peak was 4.09 metres above normal. Following the event Dave and I met Randal, Paul and others to debrief. Learnings were around the accuracy of the electronic Floodwarning data (cumecs in particular need calibration), the need for a backup i.e. Wooden ruler gauges on all bridges (plan B when electronic goes down), and a need to focus on getting water Level data warnings publicised. On the day media focused on a emotive Matura story when the Aparima had one of the highest floods ever and it was lucky lives were not lost.

At last year' AGM we reported the truck crossing sediment trial was about to happen. However while being done without a consent ES still wanted approval from other parties. Apathy ruled and this lead to another year lost. However on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February this year it happened and the results look promising which Shannon will report on later in the meeting. Grant McGregor and Myself are also on the Gravel Working group (With Dave as reserve) to try and find a more common sense approach to gravel extraction which the community is demanding. We have had 2 meetings to date.

The last financial year ended with a June 30<sup>th</sup> increased credit balance of \$488,167 an increase of \$165,356. Our disaster reserve was \$1,679,904 and our lease reserves \$3,554,345. Our catchment is in a strong position but it is not by accident but the strong stewardship of this committee over the years working with ES.

Dave and I have been very busy attending Liaison Chairs meetings and 3 Council workshops on the LTP. We were very happy to be proactively involved in the Long Term Plan process to get a good outcome for our Catchment. We have also tried to keep you informed of how it was going with emails and a special Liaison meeting on the rating system review on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

However since then the main change in the LTP – a rating review gathered pace for Capital Value rating **being the only option**. We are concerned we will get less transparency and accountability and it is a logical conclusion that we end up with one Liaison committee and

one pot of reserves because “we are all in this together” and regionalisation is the flavour of the plan.

At the workshops even though the rating expert said council should narrow their options to 2 or 3 we only have one. We always wanted other options as consultation is about choices not a railroaded single option.

Dave and I are not happy of the little over 4 week window for submissions. Particularly when the new government is allowing for deferral of LTP's for a year so councils can take consideration of the changes they are making to the RMA and the need for councils to focus on core business . With such a huge change what is the rush!!

We would like to thank Ella for her passion to make things happen, Paul Pollard and Grant Gerrard for only being a phone call away and our positive interactions, Randal Beal and Paul Hulse for always being available for full and frank discussions.

Lastly for you our committee for you are our inspiration to try and make a difference .

We face a challenging year ahead.

David Rose and Dave Marshall