



2 May 2024

Richard Saunders
Chief Executive
Otago Regional Council
By email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Richard

RE: **FAST TRACK APPROVAL APPLICATION**

I'm following up from my phone message and advise the Manuherekia Catchment Group will be applying for inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Fast Track Approvals Bill.

The Manuherekia Catchment Project is a long running whole of catchment project, 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.

The timeframe for preparing the application has been very short; we have deliberately avoided commenting on specific dam size, reservoir level, minimum flows etc as there has not been the time for detailed design and hydrological modelling.

Criteria for inclusion in Schedule 2 includes the project having regionally significant benefits. It is hoped Otago Regional Council will recognise and support this application as providing regionally significant infrastructure which delivers significant benefits to the Central Otago district.

If the application is successful, it will be the beginning of a long journey for everyone involved.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Clare Hadley'.

Clare Hadley
General Manager