



Waimea Community Dam commences operations, April 2024

Message from CEO

Since the beginning of the year, our focus has been on completing the dam so it could provide water for the region during this very dry summer and autumn season. On Saturday 2 March the first water was released from the reservoir Te Kurawai o Pūhanga, curtailing water restrictions from that day on.

The last four months have been full of important milestones, starting with the reservoir reaching its full capacity on 21 January, with water flowing down the spillway into the Lee River. Final engineering analysis and verification of dam performance followed, with the dam and spillway then being commissioned.

The next stage was to remove the temporary pipework and hook up the permanent pipework, testing the pipes and the dispersing valves.

With the smaller of three permanent dispersing valves installed, water was able to be released from the reservoir through the valve on Saturday 2 March. Twenty percent of the reservoir water was released over March and early April during the region's very tough drought.

Successful testing of the two larger dispersing valves took place in early April, and water was released to supplement the river and aquifers as needed.

Without the dam, water restrictions would have been very harsh, had a significant impact on shareholders and the local economy, and likely dried up the Waimea River at the time.

Earlier in May, we had the pleasure of showing Prime Minister Rt Hon Chris Luxon around the Waimea Community Dam. He was extremely impressed with the project and the benefits it was already providing the region. See more later in this newsletter.

Aside from the five years it has taken to build the dam, the project has taken more than 20 years to complete. It was the 2000/2001 drought that forced the serious conversation of how to protect the region from water supply issues, which eventually led to the establishment of Waimea Water Ltd and the building of the Waimea Community Dam.

I would like to thank my team who have worked diligently to make this happen. We should also look back and be grateful to those who worked so hard for so many years to get the project over the line. Thanks to their passion and foresight, the region will now be able to use water to protect the environment and to support and grow the local community and economy for many generations to come.

Ngā mihi,

Mike Scott | Waimea Water Ltd CEO

“A great win-win-win all round for the region”

Prime Minister, Rt Hon Chris Luxon

We welcomed the Prime Minister Rt Hon Chris Luxon at the dam site on 9 May, shared with him the journey of the build, and discussed the challenges of delivering infrastructure in New Zealand. We were joined by West Coast Tasman MP Maureen Pugh, Kaikoura MP Stuart Smith, mayors Tim King and Nick Smith, and Waimea Irrigators Ltd and Waimea Water Ltd directors and staff.

Luxon said, “When you think about good infrastructure done well in New Zealand, it has economic benefits, social benefits and environmental benefits. The Waimea Dam is a great example of this, where there can be growth and housing because of this facility, where industry and our horticulturalists can have certainty to invest in or expand their own businesses, to add more economic value to the region. And the way it has been designed it has environmental benefits as well...It’s a great win-win-win all round for the region.”



The Rt Hon Chris Luxon (left) and WWL CEO Mike Scott



Speaking with irrigators about drought impacts and benefits of water security for the region



The Prime Minister, Government MPs, mayors, shareholders and staff on the dam crest

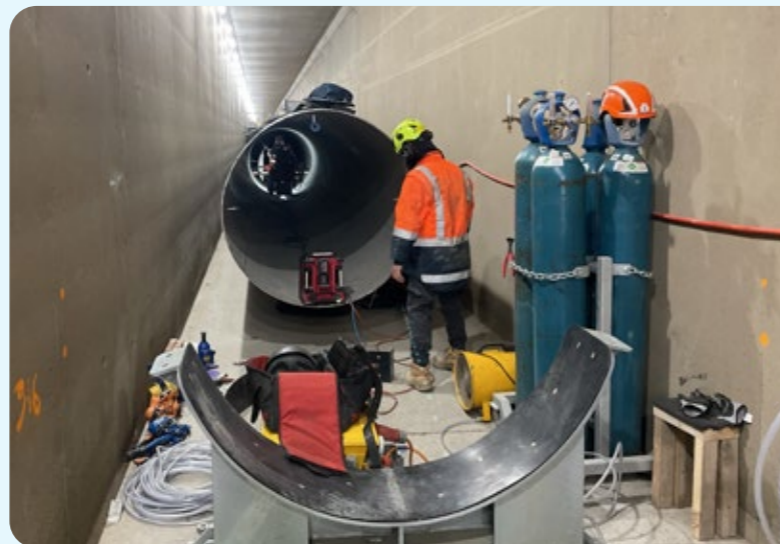
Te Kurawai o Pūhanga fills and water flows down the spillway

– January 2024



Permanent pipework in the culvert is installed

The downstream portion of the permanent 1.4-metre-diameter stainless steel pipe and valves were installed in February 2024.



Plunge pool completed

In February, the construction team finished the plunge pool and completed the treatments needed on the defects (shear zone) in the plunge pool.



Water released into the river

On Saturday 2 March 2024, water from the reservoir was released through the smaller of three permanent dispersing valves that release water from the reservoir in dry periods.



Successful testing of the two larger dispersing valves in early April meant the Waimea Community Dam was ready for operations from 10 April 2024, followed by its final commissioning.



Upstream of Te Kurawai o Pūhanga

| When full, Te Kurawai o Pūhanga holds approximately 13 billion litres of water

