



## CHB DISTRICT COUNCIL KEEN TO SUPPORT WATER STORAGE SOLUTIONS FOR CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY

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Central Hawke's Bay Mayor, Alex Walker describes it as "incredibly disappointing" that the Hawke's Bay Regional Council has decided to remove their investment from the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme and goes on to say that her district is now dealing with "a double-whammy" of disappointment as the HBRC appear to now be consumed with dealing with water issues on the Heretaunga Plains.

While those on the Heretaunga Plains are in the early stages of dealing with aquifer over-allocation and the possibility of a Water Conservation Order in one of its main catchments, Central Hawke's Bay has been trying to deal with similar issues for several years.

"What seems to have been forgotten is that the Tukituki catchment was identified as the priority area in the region for improving water quality and quantity – that's why the whole conversation about Plan Change 6 and the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme began several years ago."

Central Hawke's Bay district produces approximately one-quarter of primary produce exported from Hawke's Bay, and also accounts for 24% of the region's land area. Water-consents have been over-allocated in the district for several years now with no new consents considered by the HBRC in the catchment.

"Quite rightly, water storage was identified as a key to securing the future for water in our community and Central Hawke's Bay District Council will continue to support initiatives that have water storage at their core. This may be Ruataniwha, or it may be some other solutions."

"Water-users in the catchment (and beyond) are now faced with the short-term issue of restricted water takes as Plan Change 6 comes into effect in mid-2018. Because RWSS was promoted as the solution to this part of the Plan for so long, water-users are now having to think about water quantity solutions in another way – and quickly!".

Ends

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