1. CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM

- This is a grouping of the Canterbury territorial authorities and the Canterbury Regional Council, with the purpose of working through Canterbury-wide issues.
- The group has no legal status, and works by general agreement, with any positions subject to ratification by the individual Councils.
- The Canterbury Mayoral Forum recognises water as Canterbury's biggest issue
    - ➢ that the Canterbury Strategic Water Study (Stage I) was a starting point
    - ➢ that there needs to be leadership to consider options for development, to obtain optimal benefits
    - ➢ that the current allocation system may not give the most efficient returns
    - ➢ that solutions needed to be based on science rather than advocacy

In short, there has to be a better way. CMF became the sponsor for this project.

2. WATER

- the major issue for the Canterbury communities
- rural New Zealand accounts for 70% of our country's export earnings
    - ➢ major factor in our quality of life
- farming is highly technical, and continuing to advance
- like any business, right quality, right quantity, most efficient production
- water via irrigation is an essential element to success

3. CANTERBURY

- accounts for 70% of all irrigated land in New Zealand
- currently 560,000 hectares and growing
- of 'irrigable land' available of 1,000,000 hectares
- dairying accounts for approximately 1/3 of currently <u>irrigated</u> land
- dairying receives a lot of publicity
    - ➢ it is very visible
    - ➢ herd sizes in Canterbury tend to be larger
    - ➢ conversion is obvious with removal of shelter belts, large irrigation booms
- obvious benefits, particularly economic and social, but not just dairying.
  Irrigation provides many opportunities for other products
- Ashburton has had some major changes, but now accounts for about 20% of our arable area

4. IRRIGATION ECONOMIC BENEFITS — DIRECT

- Double the output of dry land farming
- Increased crop diversity, future versatility

- Develop niche markets, based on quality / quantity
  - seed
  - flowers
- Increased dairy payouts, additional $50 million generated within the Ashburton District
  Flow on for Christchurch / New Zealand economies
- Confidence / certainty to encourage investment

5. SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Population growth
- Rural school roles increasing. No threatened closures, schools important rural focal point
- Secured and enhanced hospital services
- Job creation → directly
  → indirectly

- Unemployment in Mid-Canterbury 0.5%. Associated reduction in social problems
- Increased opportunities for trades / linkages to education
- Confidence to develop recreation facilities (tennis, hockey, Lake Hood), Event Centre, Art Gallery & Heritage Centre)
- Health services

6. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Increasing lowland stream minimum flows
- Support ground water aquifers
- Through community schemes, develop best practice
  (water application, nutrients, environmental protection)
- Increased wealth supports science to mitigate effects
  (nitrate inhibiters, methane emissions)

7. CLIMATE CHANGE

- Predictions → wetter on West Coast, drier on East Coast
  → more rain in alps
  → less rain in foothills / plains
  → higher flows in main rivers, <u>but</u> not snowfed
- MAF analysis based on Canterbury farming
  → need water storage to provide economic resilience
- Increased risk of flooding
  → store peak flows

8. NEW ZEALAND ENERGY STRATEGY

- Need to increase renewable energy base load
  → water storage, irrigation provides this opportunity
  → storage / reticulation requires less energy than groundwater

9. CANTERBURY STRATEGIC WATER STUDY — NOW REFERRED TO AS STAGE 1

- Study commissioned by MAF, MfE, Ecan. Currently use about 8% of the water resource.
- Covered
  - supply of water
  - long term demand for water
  - matching the supply with demand
- Key findings
  - sufficient water to meet all reasonable future demands
  - not in the right place at the right time
  - need for storage for times of low natural river flows
  - transfer between catchments (major rivers) to meet full potential would require
    redistribution across catchments (Canterbury-wide approach – transferability)

10. COMPETING WATER DEMANDS

Stage II

- the analysis recognised all water demands including instream
- it recognised current minimum flow and flow sharing regimes
- to consider what is technically feasible, based on current rules and prescribed flow
  regimes
- of the available land capable of being irrigated, what could be reasonably covered

It is extremely disappointing when we read articles / letters in our papers referring to 'draining rivers'. Articles on threats to groundwater, and I refer specifically to the Central Plains proposals, and the link to the Christchurch City aquifers is not supported by fact, and goes largely unchallenged.

11. STAGE III ASSESSMENT OF STORAGE OPTIONS

- 2006—2007
- Given the options of Stage II, through multi-stakeholder groups, testing what storage and take options could be acceptable
- Included:
  - workshops on economic and social issues around land use intensification
  - workshops on environmental issues related to irrigation, including instream values and groundwater
  - recognised developing science including nitrate inhibitors, flow modelling on instream ecology
- With the background, multi-stakeholder groups then evaluated options with Hurunui, South Canterbury, then mid-central Canterbury
- The groups identified additional options to those identified in Stage II
- The option of no storage was considered

- Findings from the area group workshops brought back to the Canterbury interest groups and local councils
- I would note that while the groups composed of individuals from various backgrounds, they were there and participated as individuals rather than representatives of the organisations that they were affiliated with
- No technical analysis was undertaken of the options

12. STAGES I – III HAVE PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON ABILITY TO MAKE WATER AVAILABLE FOR ABSTRACTIVE USES

- The workshops in Stage III around the region however have focused also on issues of instream users and other waterway values. There has to be a balance between water quality and quantity, instream and extractive uses.
- While water quality is a prime importance, for this project, the initial focus has been on water quantity to enable an assessment of potential irrigation capacity. This can then enable a clearer idea of the potential increase in farming intensity, and then to assess the impact on quality.
- Considerations to date have been at a strategic level which can then be factored into further work.

As these are being concluded, then more detailed technical studies need to be undertaken to assess their physical and environmental feasibility.

13. STAGE IV

"Canterbury Water Management Strategy" (CWMS)

- Will seek to address issues identified through Stages I-III of CSWS using a web-based consultation tool called OPEN Strategy
  (Projects — Results — Uses — Benefits)

- Collaborative approach including:
  1. Broad stakeholder engagement
  2. The identification of community values and priorities to be considered in the formation of the overall strategy (what is important?)
  3. The development of a framework for assessing community outcomes for different strategic options for water management (where do we want to be?)
  4. Assessing the strategic options in relation to community outcomes (how do we get there?)
  5. To ensure informed debate and assessment, there is a need to incorporate various sub-strategies to address stakeholder concerns, including:
     - Water quality
     - Biodiversity
     - Tangata whenua
     - Recreation
     - Fishing

The process may require further strategy / sub-strategy refinement

Following this refinement, wider public engagement is proposed

Back in March 2008 when we announced the programme there were 7 milestones:

Milestone:

1. Being the announcement

2. Developing the programme outline and consulting during May

3. Stakeholder workshops on "uses" and "benefits" of water in 11 localities – July/August

4. Stakeholder and public reporting of uses and benefits including principles

The steering group has identified 10 principles it believes could underpin a strategy for water in Canterbury. These have been drawn from the recent stakeholder meeting, the earlier Strategic Water Study and from Steering Group discussion. Once finalised and agreed they would be "must have" requirements of a water management strategy.

The Draft Principles

(1) Sustainability

That Canterbury's water is used in such a way that its integrity is preserved for future generations.

(2) Kaitiakitanga

That the principle of traditional and cultural guardianship of the tangata whenua, in this case, Ngai Tahu, applies to all practices and uses of water and lakes, rivers, waterways and wetlands.

(3) Instream Values

That an integrated view is taken of water quality and water quantity and that both instream (including in-lakes, in-glaciers, in-lagoons, etc) and ground water are given equal importance in the protection of Canterbury's water resources.

(4) Region-wide
That the Canterbury Water Management Strategy is prepared with input from the whole Canterbury region and the support of all the local authorities in Canterbury, and that while being non-statutory, it is expected that the strategy will be implemented by the local authorities through their statutory processes.

(5) Non-abstractive uses
That non-abstractive uses of water have as much importance as abstractive uses. That standards of water quality and water quantity are created for the region's rivers, streams, lakes, waterways and wetlands to ensure safety from contamination for uses such as food gathering and swimming.

(6) Efficient and Effective Water and Land Management
That in all uses there is a strong emphasis on water and land management, biodiversity and water quality enhancement, not just management of adverse effects.

(7) Drinking Water
That all Cantabrians have access to high quality (untreated) drinking water.

(8) Maintenance of Essential Character
That the essential character of the region's rivers, streams, lakes, waterways and wetlands is maintained. This includes maintenance of the uniqueness of Canterbury's large braided rivers.

(9) Access
That public access to and along rivers, lakes, waterways and wetlands is safeguarded.

(10) Stock Management
That all agricultural stock is excluded from lowland waterbodies.

5. (a) Stakeholder workshops on 6 specific topics:
Energy Tourism Biosecurity
Land Use Water Quality Youth
currently taking place

(b) Stakeholder locality workshops on local strategies and projects planned for January-March 2009.

6. Public consultation on strategy options — April 2009.

7. Implementation — April 2009 onwards.
- Sign off by Mayoral Forum

- Present to authorities for inclusion in Statutory Plans
- On-going update and review

The Uses and Benefits report is a significant step towards the development of a management strategy that can be shared by communities throughout Canterbury, and implemented through the planning regulatory authorities.

The key issue at this stage of the process is whether the Uses and Benefits Report is a full and accurate summary of all the uses and benefits of water resources in Canterbury. In particular, the Steering Group wants to hear from anyone who believes any specific uses and benefits have been overlooked, or if any should be omitted.