

Water for Waimea Basin First Quarter Report 2006

31 March 2006

Water Needs and Demand Analysis

A technical workshop was held in February between Tonkin & Taylor, GNS, AgFirst and WWAC's project manager to agree on irrigation demand figures for input into the flow model and also for live storage sizing. Refinement of water demand has now been completed.

WWAC agreed to undertake modelling assuming two scenarios for instream requirements with residual flows of 600 & 1100 l/s in the lower part of the Waimea River.

Blue Duck Survey in the Upper Lee and Upper Wairoa

A technical group meeting was held in early January 2006 to assess the implications of the Cawthron Instream Report completed in the last quarter of 2005. Based on the report the Committee agreed to pursue flow modelling for two low flow scenarios in the lower river. WWAC also held a meeting with the residents of the Lee and Wairoa catchments in late February. This was to provide information on the project and answer any queries they had. There was interest expressed in the establishment of a liaison group to interact directly with WWAC. The project manager is co-coordinating the establishment of a liaison group from the catchments concerned. This liaison group is to enable a first point of contact for information dissemination and sharing with the valley residents as well as to provide feedback to WWAC for issues that may arise.

Water storage options and assessment

Field assessments have been carried out on preliminary dam break analysis for the two sites. Preliminary geological mapping of the sites has also been undertaken with preliminary scope of geotechnical investigation prepared for one of the sites.

The brief has been prepared for the ecological assessment of the catchments where the two storage sites have been identified in collaboration with the Department of Conservation (DOC). A preliminary field reconnaissance with DOC of the areas has been undertaken and a consultant ecologist will be carrying out this work during the second quarter of 2006.