HP Water Storages report - AGM 2021

This year has been another quite year for the water storages portfolio, which is a reward for the work we have put in over the last few years to improve the system.

We are in an excellent position for position for water this year, with all dams at full capacity, a situation that has been aided by the unexpected late spring rains and the increased water capture from improved drainage works of last year.

We started the winter by pumping water from 15 Mile creek which started in early August and was completed in early September. We had allowed for some additional filling capacity from the predicated rains but we had no idea how much water we would have to deal with as water continued to flow into our storages.

15 Mile creek Statistics:

Number of hours pumping	644
Fuel and consumable costs	$1658
Trips to site	7

Storage maintenance has been minimal, but both top and bottom dams have required attention when valves have been blocked with wildlife that has found its way into them. Only other problem for the year was the telemetry link failing when the battery failed.

Costs associated with the storage system have been much the same as last year, which are largely electricity costs for moving water around. The proposed installation of a solar system on the bottom dam has been postponed while the feed tariffs are low. Instead we are going to look at ways to move as much of the pumping to off peak times to reduce the costs.

We have been applying for grants to help with the cost of solar but have been unsuccessful so far.

Finally, our water system has been put to the test this year with so much water to manage.

Work untaken by Peter Ockendon several years ago to protect our storages has been put to the test and found to be successful in maintaining the storages at safe levels and preventing runoff from causing problems for residents.

Ian O’Brien

Water storages and Chair

.