

WRIGHTS ROAD WATER STORAGE PONDS

Community Information Booklet

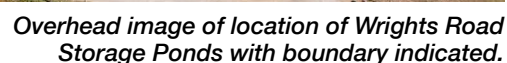
JANUARY 2026



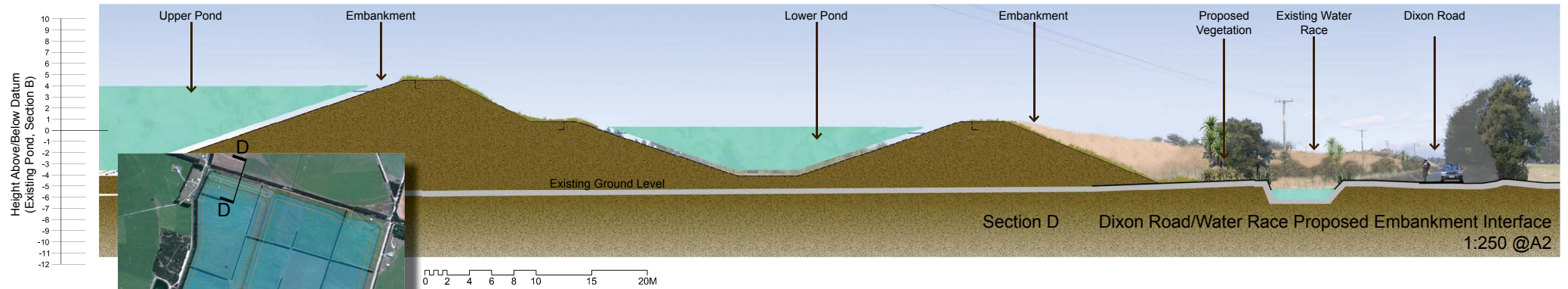


The water storage ponds are owned and operated by Burnt Hill Storage Limited (BHSL) using

The water storage ponds are expected to be operational for the 2029/2030 irrigation season.



Sectional view of Wrights Road Irrigation Ponds showing landscaping



Existing Landscape

Access to the existing pond and Irrigation control gates is via Dixon Road. This is flanked by the main water race heading east. A large Pine shelterbelt is located on the northern side of the gravel road. The agricultural land to the south and east is grazed with cows. The farmland to the north and west is also grazed with distant view toward the mountains.

Proposed Landscape

The current character of the Dixon Road landscape will remain to the north and west. The proposed embankment will rise to the south on the far side of the water race. The lower slopes of the proposed embankment will be revegetated with meadow grasses, Kanuka and other native species will be planted in drifts if possible along the southern side of the water race and along the roadside berm. The planting will help mitigate visual effects of the embankment.

Consent conditions and requirements

The storage ponds will be built and operated in accordance with all regulatory requirements including the resource consents issued by the Environment Court in 2020 and the building consents issued by the Canterbury Regional Council (as the building consent authority in relation to large dams).

The resource consents require ongoing compliance with the relevant NZSOLD Guidelines.

Operation of the storage ponds will also be required to comply with the requirements of the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022.

International peer review and construction oversight

As a part of the consenting process for the storage ponds an independent peer review panel (including three internationally regarded experts in dam engineering) undertook a review of the dam design.

The review included structural integrity, geotechnical stability, and operational safety. Their recommendations led to:

- Improved monitoring systems.
- Refined control gate mechanisms.
- Enhanced construction supervision protocols.

Multiple layers of oversight during the construction phase will ensure compliance with NZSOLD and consent requirements.

Design and environmental safeguards

The Wrights Road Storage Ponds Design Report Version 6, finalised in October 2021, outlines detailed engineering specifications and environmental safeguards. It includes seismic

resilience measures, dam safety protocols, and operational guidelines approved by Environment Canterbury.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and Emergency Evacuation Plan (EEP)

An Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and an Emergency Evacuation Plan (EEP) have been prepared.

The Court required these plans to be developed ahead of consent being granted (with ECESS member feedback being considered as a part of preparing the plans and wider consent conditions).

The EAP and EEP ensure public safety in the unlikely event of dam failure and include:

- Notification protocols for residents and emergency services.

- Evacuation routes and signage.
- Formation of a Community Liaison Group (CLG) prior to construction to ensure ongoing communication and engagement with affected residents.

These 'live' plans must be updated and reviewed in conjunction with the CLG and certified by Environment Canterbury (ECAN) before commissioning begins.

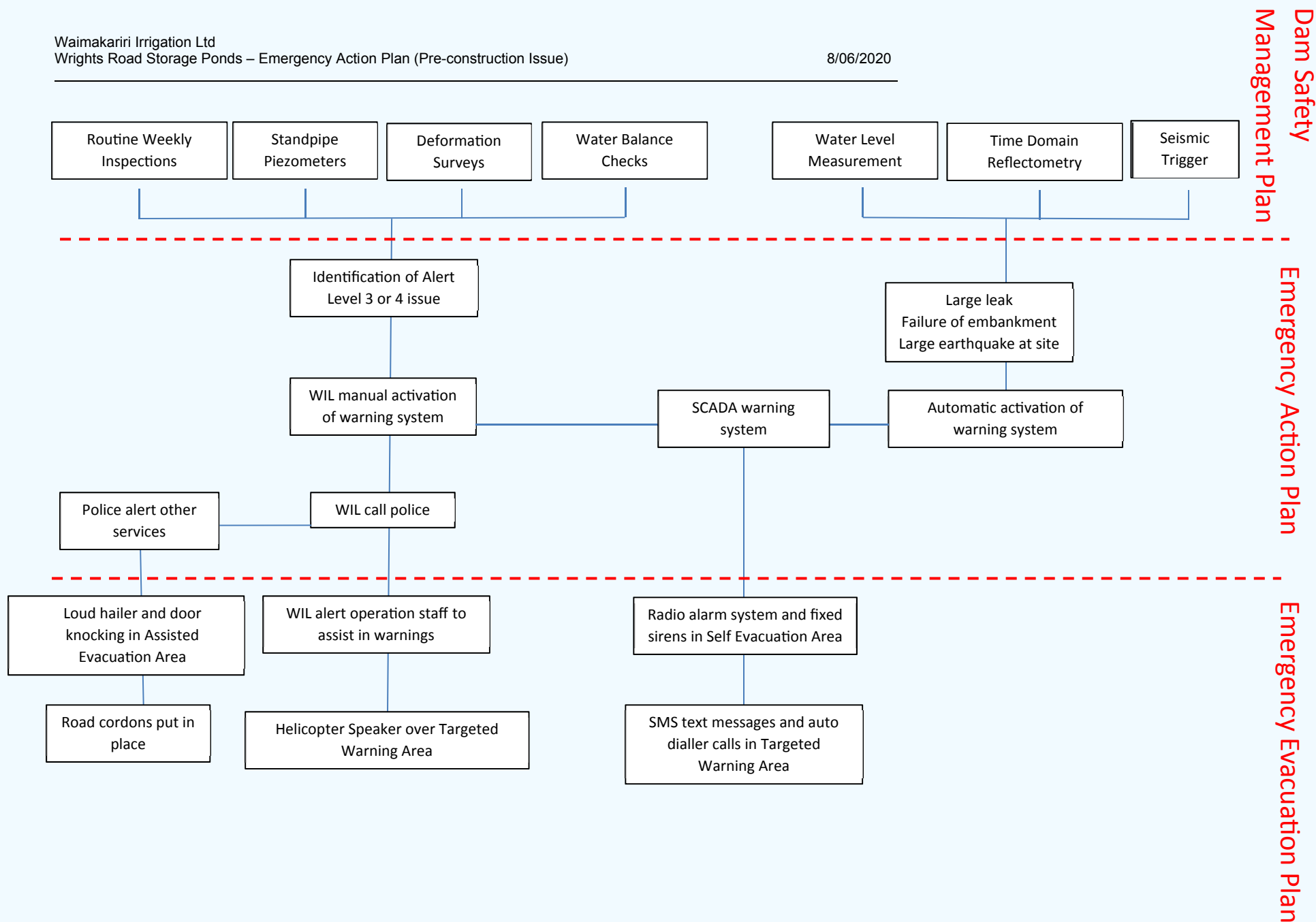


Figure Exec.1 - Links between the Dam Safety Management Plan, the Emergency Action Plan and the Emergency Evacuation Plan

BHSL's commitment to community engagement

Wrights Road Storage Ponds Community Meeting

BHSL invites residents living between the Waimakariri and Eyre Rivers, south of Wrights Road and north of the Eyre Diversion to attend a community information meeting on **Tuesday 24 February at 7pm at Oxford Workingmen's Club**.

The purpose of this community meeting is to provide residents with information regarding the Wrights Road Storage Ponds (to be located on the corner of Wrights and Dixons roads) and to facilitate the establishment of a Community Liaison Group (CLG).

Expressions of interest to join the CLG are welcome after the public meeting on **Wednesday 25 February 2026**.

Community Liaison Group (CLG)

The CLG exists to ensure your voice is heard and your concerns are addressed. BHSL is committed to being open, honest and transparent in its engagement and communication with residents.

Your concerns will be documented and responded to:

- The CLG can request independent reviews and escalate unresolved issues.
- Meeting agendas, minutes and monitoring results will be publicly available.
- We welcome constructive feedback and community oversight.

If you live downgradient of the site of Wrights Road Storage Ponds and/or represent a community group – **you are encouraged to submit an expression of interest to join the CLG**.

Proposed Community Liaison Group (CLG) structure

The proposed CLG structure is intended to align with the interests that the consent holder is required to invite to join the CLG under the consent conditions.

Stakeholder category	Member/s	Role/contribution
Community groups (e.g. ECESS)	3 x representatives	Represents collective interests and provides feedback and continuity
Local residents (living near the storage ponds)	3 x representatives	Represents the local community and provides feedback
Local government	2 x representatives (1 x WDC + 1 x ECan)	Provides regulatory oversight and technical input (local government)
Consent holder	2 x project team members	Provide updates, respond to feedback, ensure compliance (consent holder)
Construction company	1 x project team member	Provides updates and responds to feedback regarding construction of the storage ponds
Iwi	1 x iwi representative	Ensure cultural values and heritage are respected
Community Liaison Officer (CLO)	1 x project team member	Appointed by consent holder to facilitate engagement and communication between CLG + BHSL
Other specialists and advisors (as required)	As required	Sector-specific insights/independent expert advisors to attend meetings and provide information as required

How can you get involved?

Small group meetings

BHSL is providing small group meetings at WIL's Oxford offices on **Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 February 2026** to enable residents who live between the Waimakariri and Eyre Rivers, south of Wrights Road and north of the Eyre to discuss the Wrights Road Storage Ponds. These meetings are designed for residents who prefer to meet with BHSL on an individual or small group basis or for those unable to attend the community meeting.

- **Attend a small group meeting** at WIL's offices at **134 High Street in Oxford**:

Date	Time
Saturday 14 February 2026	10am – 11am
Saturday 14 February 2026	11am – 12pm
Saturday 14 February 2026	12.15pm – 1.15pm
Saturday 14 February 2026	1.15pm – 2.15pm
Sunday 15 February 2026	10am – 11am
Sunday 15 February 2026	11am – 12pm
Sunday 15 February 2026	12.15pm – 1.15pm
Sunday 15 February 2026	1.15pm – 2.15pm

Book a small group meeting

- **To register for a small group meeting**, please email names of attendees, time and date to admin@bhsl.co.nz. Feel free to make a group of up to six people and attend with your neighbours.

Learn more about the Wrights Road Storage Ponds

- **Visit the website** of BHSL for more information on the Wrights Road Storage Ponds – www.bhsl.co.nz
- **Contact WIL's CEO** Brent Walton at admin@bhsl.co.nz or on **022 086 9986** if you need further information about the Wrights Road Storage Ponds or if you have questions regarding the project.

Wrights Road Storage Ponds timeline



History of the Waimakariri Irrigation Scheme and the Wrights Road Storage Ponds

Origins: stock water races

The beginnings of the Waimakariri Irrigation Scheme originated in the late 1800s, when local farmers constructed water races to deliver water to the plains between the Waimakariri and Rakahuri/Ashley rivers. In 1892, the Waimakariri-Ashley Water Supply Board was formed to explore intake options at Ashley Gorge and Rockford. The Dixon family's private irrigation scheme at Browns Rock formed the foundation for future development due to its practicality and cost-effectiveness.

1980s – drought years

During the droughts of the 1980s, councillors and farmers worked together to secure a water supply for agricultural use.

Waimakariri Irrigation Limited (WIL) was established in 1999 as a cooperative company to manage irrigation across the Waimakariri and Ashley/Rakahuri plains. Built on the original stock water infrastructure, WIL supplies water to 163 shareholders and irrigates approximately 24,000 hectares of farmland.

Wrights Road Storage Ponds: acquisition and development

In 2007, WIL purchased a 120-hectare property at Wrights Road, Burnt Hill, to construct water storage ponds to improve irrigation reliability. The

need for storage was driven by increasing climate variability, potential changes to minimum river flow requirements, and more recently the desire to support environmental initiatives such as Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) and Targeted Stream Augmentation (TSA).

Building consent for the storage ponds was granted in June 2013, followed by resource consents in October 2014.

ECESS appeal and Environment Court process

The Eyre Community Environmental Safety Society (ECESS) appealed the 2014 resource consent, initiating a five-year legal process. This included two interim decisions and a lengthy adjournment, largely due to the release of updated New Zealand Society on Large Dams (NZSOLD) guidelines in 2015. The revised guidelines introduced more detailed safety and design requirements, in response to which WIL revised the design and documentation requirements.

In April 2019, the Environment Court signaled that consent was likely to be confirmed, pending the resolution of conditions and consultation with ECESS. Final consent (NZEnvC 138/2020) was granted in August 2020, with the Court acknowledging the robustness of the revised safety framework and the responsiveness to community concerns.



Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Contact information

If you have questions or would like to join the Wrights Road Storage Ponds mailing list, please contact:

WIL CEO: **Brent Walton**

Email: **admin@bhsl.co.nz**

Phone: 022 086 9986





 **BHSL**
Burnt Hill Storage Limited

www.bhsl.co.nz