

Rangitata Diversion Race Management Ltd (RDRML)

Sustainable Water Delivery

About RDRML



Rangitata Diversion Race Management Ltd (RDRML) owns and operates the Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR) to supply water for stockwater, irrigation and hydro-electricity generation.

RDRML is privately owned by four shareholding entities – MHV Water Ltd (MHV), Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd (ALIL), Trustpower (TPL) and Ashburton District Council (ADC). MHV has 40% shareholding (MHV is the amalgamation of two original RDR irrigation shareholding companies) and the others each have 20%. The Council also hold an additional secondary shareholding that, if required, can be used to give them majority shareholder rights – a provision that is linked to the central government origins of the RDR scheme and the critical importance of the scheme to the economy and wellbeing of the Ashburton District.

RDRML operates essentially as a co-operative company as all its shareholders are customers of the company, with a cost-recovery commercial model whereby the company's operating costs are recovered from the shareholders through annual charges set on the basis of the proportional water use of each shareholding entity. As well as a Constitution and

Shareholder Agreements that bind the entities, the key commercial contracts are the Water Supply Agreements that set out the water entitlements and requirement to pay annual charges set by RDRML. Commercial agreements are in place with other entities that access the Race with their charges also based on their water use.

The Board of RDRML comprises six directors – one each from ADC and ALIL and two each from MHV and Trustpower. The ALIL and MHV directors are also directors on their 'home' scheme Boards. The Board has a comprehensive set of policies relating to the governance role and activities and a Board Charter that guides the conduct of the directors. Board meetings are held monthly.

Tony McCormick is the Chief Executive of RDRML, having been appointed initially to the interim CEO role in July 2019.



The Race



The RDR is a 67km canal scheme starting at an intake off the Rangitata River and extending northward across the top of the mid-Canterbury plains to finish at Highbank Power Station adjacent to the Rakaia River. There are three main offtakes for supply to irrigation schemes and two hydro power stations integral with the RDR. There are also a number of smaller offtakes supplying stockwater and further irrigation sub-schemes. The RDR scheme's 30 cumec capacity provides for approximately 100,000 hectares of irrigation and annual generation from Trustpower's two hydro power stations averages 98GWh. There is also a facility owned by Trustpower to pump water from the Rakaia River back into the RDR for additional irrigation supply. The RDR scheme operates continuously throughout the year with an eight-month irrigation season (September to May) and a four-month generation season (May to September). The Race is operated at full capacity all the time and electricity is generated in the irrigation season with any surplus water remaining after irrigation demand has been met.

Our History

The Rangitata Diversion Race was a dream in the minds of the pioneering farmers in Mid-Canterbury in the mid-19th century. Regarded as the largest area of nearly flat land in New Zealand, all development was closely linked to water; water races to supply stock on light soils and water courses to drain heavy swamp lands. Despite high expectations of development, it took the massive unemployment of the 1930s depression to provide the catalyst to start work on what would become the Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR). Work began on the scheme in 1937 and it was completed in late 1944.



Further information on RDRML can be reviewed at www.rdrml.co.nz Please note our website is currently being redeveloped.



The RDR canal with Rangitata River, the shoulder of Mt Peel and the Tenehaun Conservation area in the background.

Position Description

Job Title:	Engineering Planning & Operations Support Manager
Reports to:	Chief Executive Officer
Based in:	Ashburton, New Zealand
Date:	August 2021
Functional Relationships:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO • Shareholders • Staff including Operators • Contractors and Consultants • Regulatory and legislative body representatives • Stakeholders including other Race users
Direct Reports:	Nil

Position Objective

The Engineering Planning & Operations Support Manager is a newly created role. Reporting to the CEO, the Engineering Planning & Operations Support Manager will work closely with the CEO in the management of the assets, operations planning and oversight, risk management, project and contract management, and compliance/regulatory management. The role will contribute useful, timely, innovative and accurate information to aid decision making.

The Engineering Planning & Operations Support Manager will also support the CEO in the development and implementation of strategy and financial management. They will establish and maintain effective functional relationships with key internal and external stakeholders.

The role requires highly developed reporting skills and comfort with analysis of data.

Key Areas of Accountability:

<i>Area of Accountability</i>	<i>Expected Results</i>
Operational Leadership Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, maintain and deliver an up-to-date and accurate work plan for preventative and regular maintenance works for the assets. • Ensure systems and processes are in place to maintain the safe and efficient delivery of water. • Provide a comprehensive written reports to the CEO on a regular basis (or as requested) detailing progress against the operational and work plans. • Present to the Board on progress to the work plan as required. • Work with the CEO to develop and deliver to the long term strategy. • Provide project management of projects as required.

Area of Accountability	Expected Results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide operational oversight to the various contracts and agreements to be completed by or for RDRML. • Ensure contract/project management processes are regularly reviewed and delivered, and meet industry best practice. • Provide engineering planning and delivery support to the Field Operators as required. • Champion operational improvement initiatives and support the CEO in building a culture of commitment, positivity and teamwork. • Manage onsite contractors as required. • Oversee effective delivery of projects and contracts in line with specification and/or contract delivery requirements. • Ensure appropriate documentation of operational and project deliverables is completed and filed.
Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the CEO, ensure the asset is managed in the most efficient and sustainable manner possible. • Develop and maintain accurate maintenance and capital expenditure plans relating to the asset. • With the CEO, prepare business cases for capital spend to maintain and/or improve the asset. • Provide regular feedback and formal reporting to the CEO on the status of the asset
Compliance, Regulatory and Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure compliance with all statutory, regulatory and legal requirements, including but not limited to the RMA and consents held. • Manage consenting processes as required for projects, ongoing organisational consents etc. • Maintain an up-to-date awareness of legislative changes at local, regional and Central Government level that will or may impact the business operations of RDRML. • Maintain effective relationships with legislative and regulatory bodies and ensure effective engagement is maintained. • Ensure quality standards and procedures are maintained at the highest practical level.. • Undertake accurate and timely reporting related to compliance, regulatory and HSE matters. • Identify and ensure the CEO is informed of areas of actual or possible business risk so it can be managed or mitigated as effectively as possible.

Area of Accountability	Expected Results
Financial and Administrative Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the prudent financial management of the business through effective cost management, budgeting, forecasting and reporting on variances. • Maintain quality, timely and accurate project reporting to the CEO as required.
Internal and External Stakeholder Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and maintain effective relationships with key internal and external stakeholders. • Maintain effective and collaborative relationships with customer irrigation and power companies, and other key stakeholders.
Health, Safety & Environmental Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive appropriate health & safety work practices and culture to ensure these are embedded across the company. • Take reasonable care that your own acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of others. • Recognise safety hazards and initiate appropriate corrective actions. • With the CEO, ensure best practice processes are in place and adhered to around environmental management responsibilities.
Other Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake other duties as reasonably required by the CEO from time to time. • Perform such duties in a timely, accurate manner and in accordance with company policies and procedures. • Maintain professional ethics, knowledge and standards consistent with operational requirements.

Limitations of Authority

The Engineering Planning & Operations Support Manager shall have such authority as may be delegated from time to time by the CEO in accordance with approved Board policy.

Company Structure

