



## 2021 IECA AUST ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### Waimea Community Dam Project – *The taming of the Lee River, Tasman District*

The Waimea Community Dam is one of the region's most important infrastructure projects ever and the largest dam built in New Zealand for over 30 years.

The dam will;

- secure the region's water supply for the next 100 years by;
  - capturing Lee River flows;
  - storing the water in a reservoir in the Lee Valley, and;
  - allowing controlled release of stored water into the river system during periods of high water demand and/or low natural river flows.
- improve water quality to provide a better environment for people, plants, fish and animals
- strengthen the economy through the success of primary industries and the subsequent growth of associated secondary and tertiary industries, and;
- provide an estimated economic benefit to the Tasman region of up to \$900m in the first 25 years.

The project has significant challenges, including a remote geographical location, steep terrain and significant earthworks all while working in a dynamic river environment. The project has set a new benchmark for works in waterways, with challenges being overcome in a collaborative manner, with the Fulton Hogan and Taylor's Joint Venture project team working closely with the Client (Waimea Water Ltd), Tasman District Council, engineering specialists, environmental advisors and erosion and sediment control practitioners to ensure cultural, ecological and environmental values are protected and enhanced.

