

IRRIGATION NEWS



Submission

Freshwater Package - What is intended?

The governments freshwater package has two main objectives:

To stop further degradation of waterways and start making immediate improvements so that water quality improves within the next five years.

To reverse past damage and bring waterways and ecosystems to a healthy state within a generation.

They are proposing an updated National Policy Statement, a National Environmental Standard and changes to the RMA to implement this.

Submission

Freshwater Package - What could it mean?

In the short term we will be able to continue to operate under our nutrient discharge consent.

We support the audited FEP approach but want to ensure it follows the Canterbury template.

The biggest concern for us is the National Bottom Line for Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN). Which is proposed for all rivers, even spring fed streams at 1mg/l. We do not believe this limit could be met in lowland streams without significant impacts on the community.

Submission

Freshwater package - Should I submit?

Yes. The package as proposed would have significant effects on farming in Mid Canterbury. The government are asking for feedback and it is important that we are heard.

What do I need to do?

Industry bodies are preparing submission templates for farmers to use. We will ensure background info and examples are circulated. Make sure to outline in your own words what you're already doing to improve water quality and what the impact will be on you.

We will submit on behalf of the scheme too.

Proposed National Policy Statement Highly Productive Land

The proposed NPS on Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL) was notified on 14 August.

The overall purpose of the proposed NPS-HPL is to improve the way highly productive land is managed:

- recognise the full range of values and benefits associated with its use for primary production
- maintain its availability for primary production for future generations
- protect it from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

We will be putting in a short submission in support of the NPS. Submissions close on 10 October.

Those areas shaded in green on the map below would be considered to be HPL by default until ECan makes a more detailed assessment and incorporates that assessment into the Regional Policy statement.



Stock Water

Ashburton District Council has agreed to permanently divert 79l/s of stockwater to ALIL and requested the RDRML redirect the water. We are currently awaiting confirmation from RDRML.

A trial is proposed to deliver stock water to shareholders through our network from 1 February 2020.

Due to the winterisation of our property offtakes, those wishing to take up the option of stockwater will be required to install a small flow meter, and where necessary, a small PRV. We will provide further details to shareholders on this once we have confirmation from RDRML.

New Manager

Do you have a new manager or change in staff duties? Please let us know if you want to add anyone to our email mail out list.

Upcoming Training

Look out for dates in upcoming newsletters



Irrigation Scheduling

Workshops.

Discuss how to get the most out of your tool with the provider.



Fert Spreader Calibration events



Bucket Testing

Irrigation Calibration and Maintenance



Aiming for an A Arable and

Dairy

Farmer focused field day to demonstrate Good Management Practice (GMP) in action, with case studies and guest speakers to showcase why GMP is just Good Farm Practice.

Update and Support

Discharge Consent

Our discharge consent which was lodged mid last year is still with ECan for processing. Following a number of further information requests, we are hopeful that Ecan have now been provided with the details they require to make a decision. You will be notified when this happens.

Dairy Storage Effluent

Calculation

Have you done your dairy storage calculation? Give the Enviro Team a call at Irrigo if you would like assistance with this.

Maintenance of Pressure

Relief Valves.

We have had confirmation from the contractors that the leaky pilots have now been corrected. We will audit this over the next two weeks. Please let us know if you still have a problem.

Dam Regulations

We submitted on the national dam regulations as a scheme. To date we have not had a response to this submission process.

Feedback on Shareholder survey

Stage 2 Contract

Finalisation

The retentions have been paid to Monadelphous with some funds retained.

An audit of pressures has been completed for the scheme.

Headwall on Thompsons

Track Pole Road

intersection.

Reflectors have been installed on the Thompsons Track / Pole Road intersection.

Duty Phone

The operational duty roster will be shared between Mike, Luke, Brett & Rachel. Call **027 FOR ALIL (027 367 2545)**. Use this number for any water issues/enquiries.

Message from the General Manager



We are easing into the irrigation season gently, with the odd shower and a bit of cooler weather keeping demand low at this stage. I'm sure you have all been busy on farm, and there has been a lot to keep an eye on outside the farm gate too. I would like to encourage you all to submit on the freshwater package that the government announced on 5 September. It is important to look after our environment and make changes to avoid or mitigate the effects our operations have.

It is also important to have resilient communities and sustainable businesses. The proposal currently before us has national bottom lines for Nitrate which if implemented would have devastating impacts on our communities. The Government is seeking feedback and it is our responsibility to help them understand the effects of the proposal. I will get more info to you on this shortly.

Rebecca Whillans - 027458197

When to start irrigating



At this time of year everyone is trying to decide when to start irrigating for the season. There are a number of factors to take into consideration.

Soil moisture is usually top of the list, but at this time of year it is important to consider the **soil temperature** first. Plant growth is slow below 10°C at 10cm depth. Drier soils warm quicker than wet soils and applying water can cool the soil further. A quick check of the soil moisture yesterday near Thompsons Tack showed the temp to be 8.3°C at 9am.

The next thing to consider is the **soil moisture status**. What does your probe/ soil moisture budget say? Check that your soil moisture is between refill point and field capacity (with room for irrigation and rainfall).

What is the **weather forecast**? Is it going to rain? What is the temperature doing? Later in the season it will be important to consider the evapotranspiration (ET) rate too so that you have an idea of how fast the moisture is being utilised.