

IRRIGATION NEWS



Reminder

Stock Water

ALIL have secured 79l/s of stock water from ADC for delivery within our scheme.

We will send out paperwork early in the new year for those of you wishing to register for stock water.

We have agreed with ADC that the initial provision of stock water will be completed as a trial. Stock water will continue to be rated by ADC through the trial period. ALIL will not charge for the delivery during the trial but there will be an upfront cost of the flow meter, pressure reducing device and black flow protection.

The costs are still being finalised and we will communicate these in the New Year.

Upcoming Training

Workshops.



Fert Spreader Calibration

Travis from Spread Test NZ will calibrate your fert spreader and to talk through how to identify and troubleshoot problems. Six places available, \$400 per spreader.

17 January 2020 – Methven Chertsey Road.

Email sarah@irrigo.co.nz to book. If you cannot make this date but you are interested in us running another event, please let Sarah know.

Upcoming Training

Bucket Testing

20th February, 1.30 – 4.30pm
- location to be advised

This hands-on workshop covers irrigation maintenance and demonstrates how you can bucket test your irrigator to maximise efficiency.

Effective Irrigation

Scheduling

Workshop with your irrigation provider about your existing tool. Hosted @ Irrigo

AgriOptics Thursday 30 January:
10.30am—12.30pm

WaterForce Thursday 30 January:
1pm—3pm

Aqualinc (Hydro Services) Friday
31 January: 10.30am—12.30pm

Aquaflex (On Farm Data) Tuesday
4 February: 9am—11am

Management of Restrictions



Photo credit: Upper Rangitata, Department of Conservation

As you know, we are a run-of-the-river scheme and as such we may have periods when we cannot meet the scheme demand, because we cannot get our full allocation out of the rivers. During these times we need to restrict usage to fairly distribute the water that we have available.

We are developing a rationing tool that will allow us to more efficiently allocate water. Rationing will continue to be based on orders, but there will be two options for how you will be rationed.

The first option is an ON/OFF scenario, where you will be asked to turn off for a day and then can turn back on again until it is your turn to turn off again. The system tracks how long-ago people were turned off and will not restrict someone a second time before everyone else has been restricted once.

The second option allows for a PERCENT RESTRICTION. In this scenario you will be asked to reduce your flow to match the reduction of water that we can get in. You will stay on a reduced flow for the duration of the water restriction. To be eligible for this option, you will need to be able to manage your system to achieve varying flows at your offtake point. Some options for doing this may be a VRI irrigator or a supplementary water source (pond, bore, etc.) We cannot manage irrigators running for partial days at full flow to achieve a reduction in that day's flow.

By default, everyone will be placed in the ON/OFF group. If you would prefer to be in the PERCENT RESTRICTION group, you will need to let us know. We will also need you to provide an explanation of how you plan to vary your flows to meet reduced flows. Please contact rachel@alil.co.nz.

At the time of writing this, both the Rangitata and the Ashburton Rivers are running with healthy flows, so no restrictions appear imminent. If we do go on restriction, notifications will be text out the evening before they come into effect, providing instructions to either reduce flows for the following day or to turn off for 24 hours, depending on which group you're in.

Message from the General Manager

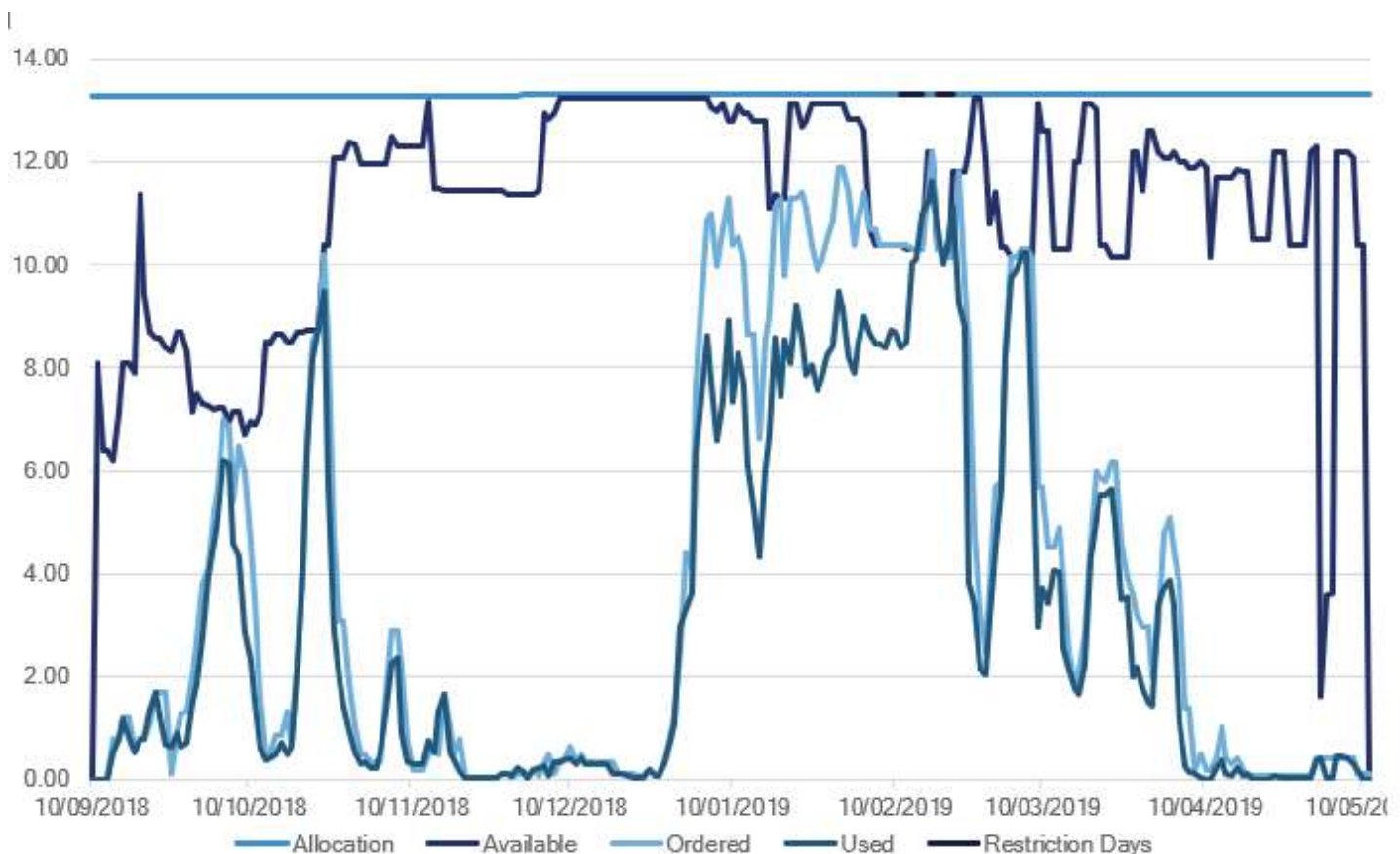


Christmas is upon us and soon we will be welcoming in 2020. The irrigation Season is progressing well, and I am thankful for the brilliant team we have here at ALIL who will keep the water flowing over the Christmas and New Year period.

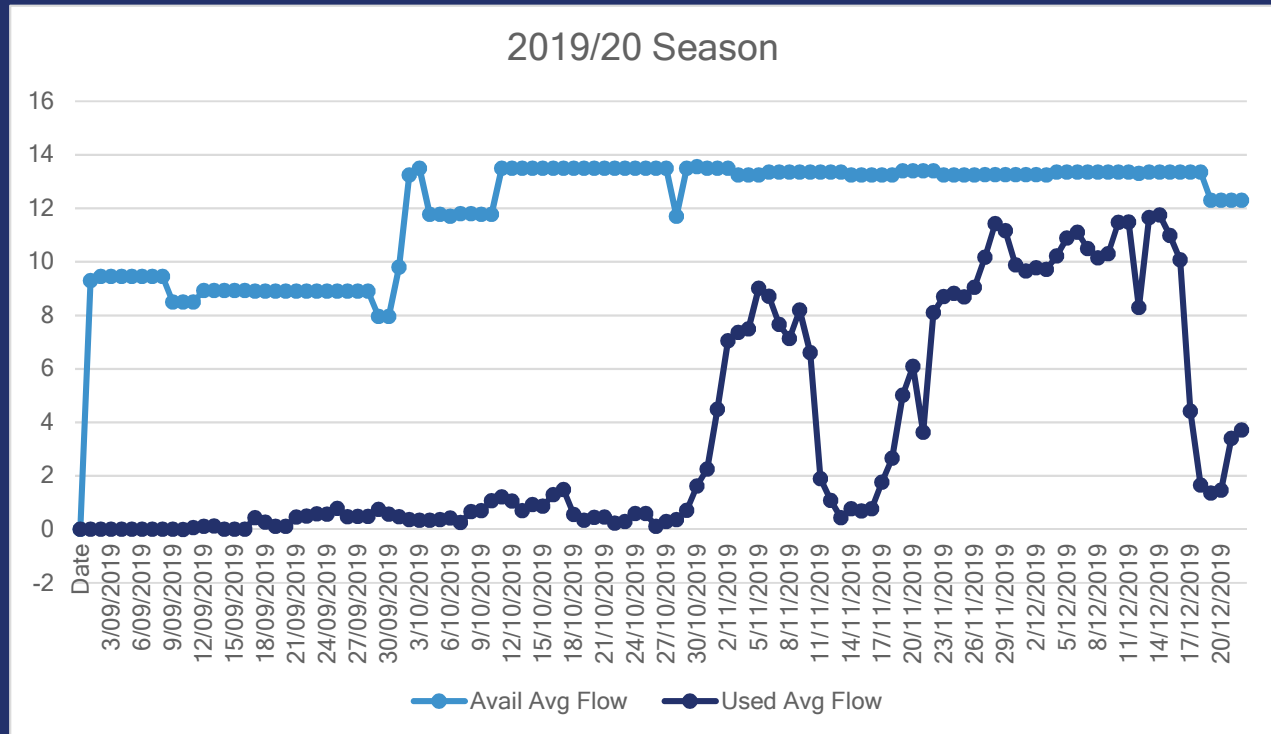
Looking back on the 18/19 season, the more efficient use of water through the piped scheme and spray irrigation has seen a significant reduction in irrigation demand.

Our average application was 207mm over the total scheme area, which was down from 279mm the season prior. This effective use of water helped the scheme manage its restrictions last year. As a scheme we had a level of restriction from RDR for 213 of the 243 days in the irrigation season, as shareholders these restrictions were only felt on 9 days of the season where our scheme demand was higher than the RDR's supply.

2018/19 Season Scheme water use graph



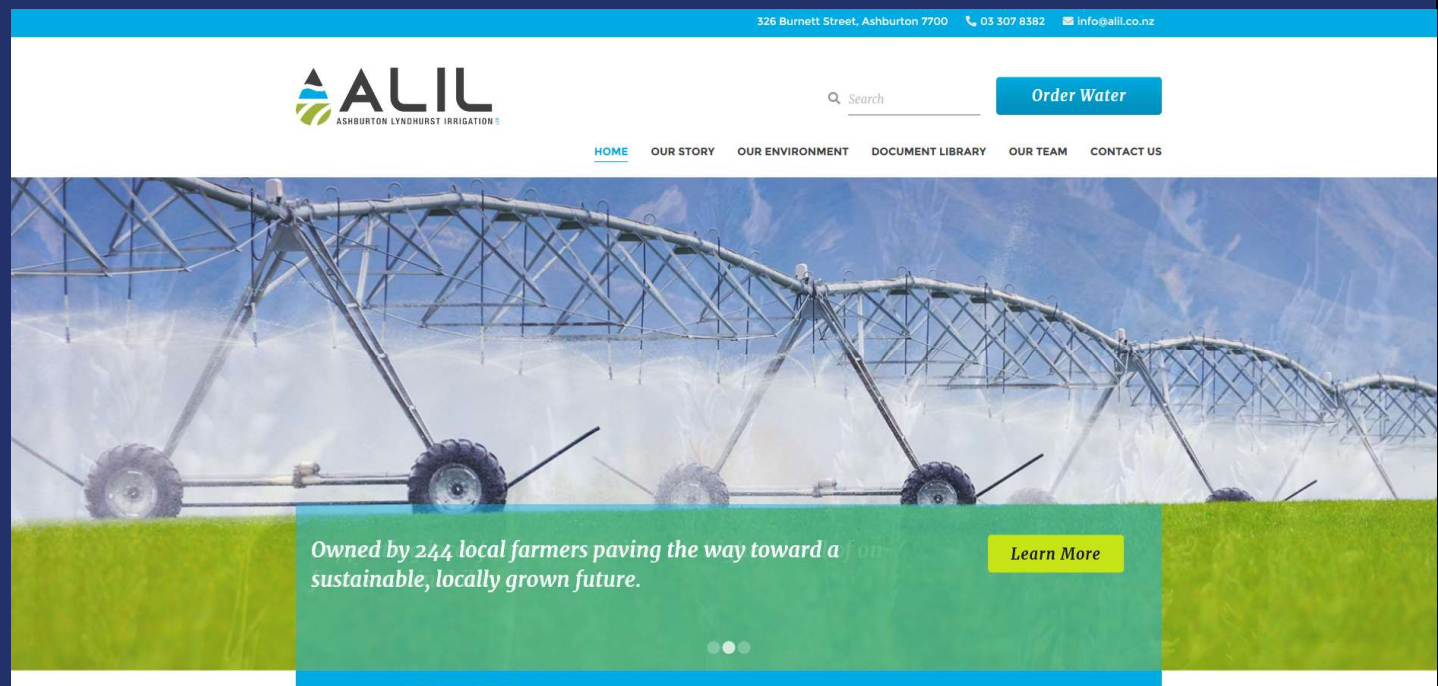
The 2019 /2020 Season is the third year of pressurised water supply to the majority of the Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Scheme. This season is progressing well with a slow start and high demand since mid-November. According to the RDR records we have yet to use more than 11.7cum/s of our available 13.35cum/s.



The RDR scheme fared well through the recent flood of the Rangitata River, that saw other intakes washed out. The flood water brought a higher than usual sediment load to the scheme and the Ops team have been kept busy managing the sediment and debris load on the intakes and filters.

It has been a big year for compliance changes, with several pieces of new legislation proposed at a national level, including the freshwater package. At a regional level we are still working with ECan to achieve a discharge consent for the scheme. Our existing discharge consent is held jointly with MHV Water. Our annual compliance report showed a pleasing trend with only 6.1% of the audited properties across the two schemes having an audit grade below a B. Our challenge going forward is to lift these grades, and those at a B grade, up to an A.

As a scheme we have been looking at our long term reliability and we think that access to some stored water will be necessary to achieve continued reliability, as we face restrictions on the supply from the Ashburton River in 2033 and potentially greater demand for water with climate change. For this season, we have put an agreement in place with BCI, to access water from Coleridge via the BCI agreements.



Another project that we have been working on in 2019 is an updated ALIL website which will be launched in mid-January. It is looking great and should make finding information about the scheme a bit easier for you and the wider public.

I am looking forward to working with you all in 2020. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Best Wishes

Rebecca Whillans

Upcoming Training

Water Use

Through the start of this 19/20 season we have been following up with shareholders who have been overusing water. We have contacted the shareholders who have been using too much and asked them to adjust their on-farm system to ensure that they manage their water take within the limits of the shareholding on the offtake.



We appreciate the proactive approach that we have received. Many shareholders are now working with their irrigation equipment suppliers to ensure that their systems are correctly designed for the water that they have available.

We will be following up again in the New Year.

How to

Checking Water Use

How do I check my water use?

You can check the water use on your offtake using the desktop online Water Order page (not the mobile phone one).

This link

<https://alil.co.nz/images/documents/2018-Ordering-Water-Waterline-Online-Mobile.pdf>

to our website will take you to the water order instructions. Section 3. will talk you through checking your flow rate.



IrrigationNZ

The Water for Life Conference

Did you know that all the shareholders of Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd are members of IrrigationNZ?

'The Water for Life' conference hosted by IrrigationNZ and will be held in Christchurch, 7-9 April 2020. This will bring together leaders and decision-makers from across the irrigation and the wider water sector, with both local and international experts.



Themes will include the importance of multi-benefit water infrastructure, the use of technology for enhanced decision-making, the future of farming, and water policy developments.

IrrigationNZ's conference always attracts a wide range of people with an interest in water management and this year will be no different. You can find out more by clicking on this [program link](#).

Message from the Ops Team

Keep an eye on your air valves and let us know if any are leaking. Call the duty phone 027 367 2545 if you need assistance over the holiday period. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mike, Rachel, Luke and Brett.