



## SUBMISSION

### He Pou a Rangi - Climate Change Commission

*2021 Draft Advice for Consultation*

*Date:* 26/03/2021

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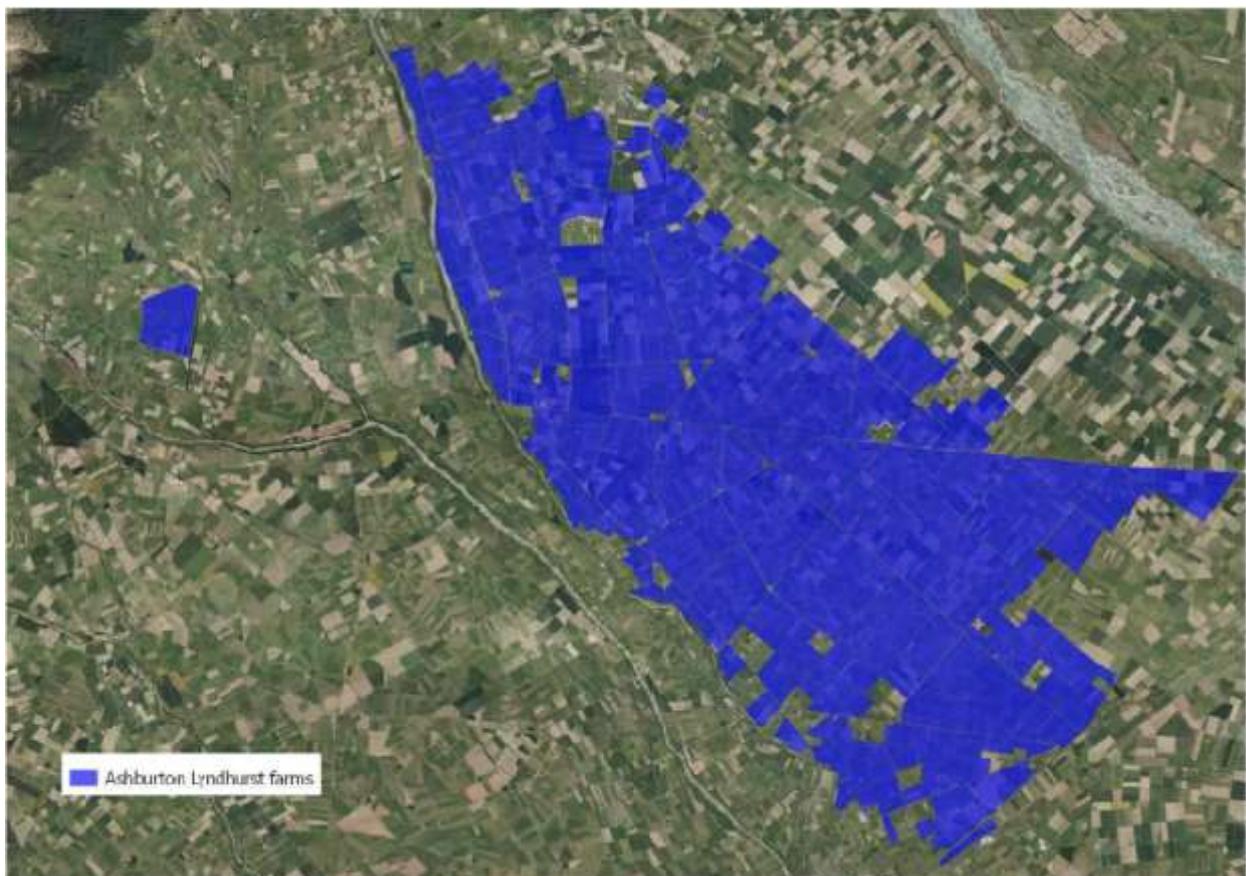
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## Company Description

Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation (ALIL) is a water supply management company receiving its allocation of water from the Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited and distributing it through a network of pipelines to its shareholder members who collectively farm close to 32,000 hectares. Water is sourced from the Rangitata and Ashburton Rivers.

The company's scheme area stretches from the Ashburton River in the south across toward the Rakaia River in the North.



The ALIL Scheme (The Scheme) was developed in the late 1940's to provide borderdyke irrigation supply via a gravity fed open channel system. In 2017 the scheme completed the major project of piping water to its shareholders. All shareholder now receive pressurised water to their gate at 40 meters of head.

The Scheme includes 236 shareholders who operate a mix of arable and livestock farms.

All ALIL shareholders have:

- had a Farm Environment Plan (FEP) in place since 2015
- had an on farm audit of their FEP
- been trained in what good management practise means on their farm
- had access to trained specialist to assist them with continuous improvement.

Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) are updated annually, and audited every 3-4 years.

## Introduction

The Climate Change Commission Report 2021 Draft Advice (the Report) contains draft advice of Heoua Rangi - the Climate Change Commission. It includes advice on the first three emissions budgets and the Government's first emissions reduction plan. Together, these lay out the course for reducing emissions in Aotearoa and set the direction of policy that Aotearoa takes to get there.

Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Limited is broadly supportive of the Reports vision of a *thriving, climate resilient and low emissions Aotearoa where our children thrive*.

Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation's submission focus on four key areas:

- The need for reliable irrigation to support farming adaptation.
- Support for multi-use water infrastructure and storage
- Investment in research and technologies; and
- The importance of certainty

## The need for reliable irrigation to support farming adaptation

Much of the Climate change approach to agriculture is based on improved productivity. Ashburton Lyndhurst supports the Repots recommendation that government provide policy support to make this happen.

On farm productivity increases when growth conditions are optimised. Reliable irrigation is a key ingredient to productive land use. Reliable irrigation also provides for optionality of land use and will create opportunities and support land use diversity. Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation believes that investing in water infrastructure, capture and storage should be a key part of the draft advice in the Report.

## Support for multi-use infrastructure and Storage

The Reports makes recommendations on the elimination of fossil fuels, and Necessary Action 5 recommends the maximum use of electricity as a low emission fuel. Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation would like to see the Report support investment into water infrastructure and storage to bolster the reliability of irrigation and provide new opportunities for low emissions energy sources.

## Investment in research and technologies

Ashburton Lyndhurst support the Reports advice to Government for a long -term plan for targeted research and development for New Zealand technologies to reduce emissions from agriculture. We believe that it is essential to extended the recommendation of *'a holistic approach across water, biodiversity and climate'* to the research and development that is undertaken in relation to the use and protection of our land.

## The Importance of clear consistent communication

Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation supports the recommendation to government to employ a cohesive strategy to how we protect and use our land. Engagement with our communities will be the key to success. We need to be able to clearly communicate the What, Why and When to keep communities engaged.