

Protection of Water Quality & Irrigation Scheme Infrastructure

ALIL recognises the important job spray contractors do in the district, especially for our farmer shareholders. However, we have some concerns about recent practices which have been observed being undertaken by spray contractors and we wanted to reaffirm our expectations to ensure that we can protect both the quality of the water in our races and our piped networks.

Across the Mid-Canterbury irrigation schemes, water from the irrigation networks is used for irrigation, stockwater, environmental flows to wetlands, managed aquifer recharge, near river recharge and emergency water supplies.

We are aware of three recent incidents where spray contractors have used irrigation scheme infrastructure.

Firstly, where a spray truck was flushed with water from an irrigation scheme race onto the road which subsequently drained back into an irrigation scheme race. This is NOT an acceptable or compliant practice, and it adds an unnecessary risk to the delivery of water.

Secondly, where a contractor was taking water from an irrigation scheme race without any backflow prevention.

Thirdly, where a spray truck filled up from an emergency water supply provided on a piped network without any backflow prevention.

It is essential that the emergency water supplies are in operating order when needed. Their use is restricted to ALIL's scheme operators and the Fire Service, to ensure they are kept in operating order.

Given the potential risk of contamination and that all of the water in our irrigation networks is allocated, please ensure that your spray contractor has access to water from your property, and that any waste is disposed of appropriately.

Backflow Prevention Survey

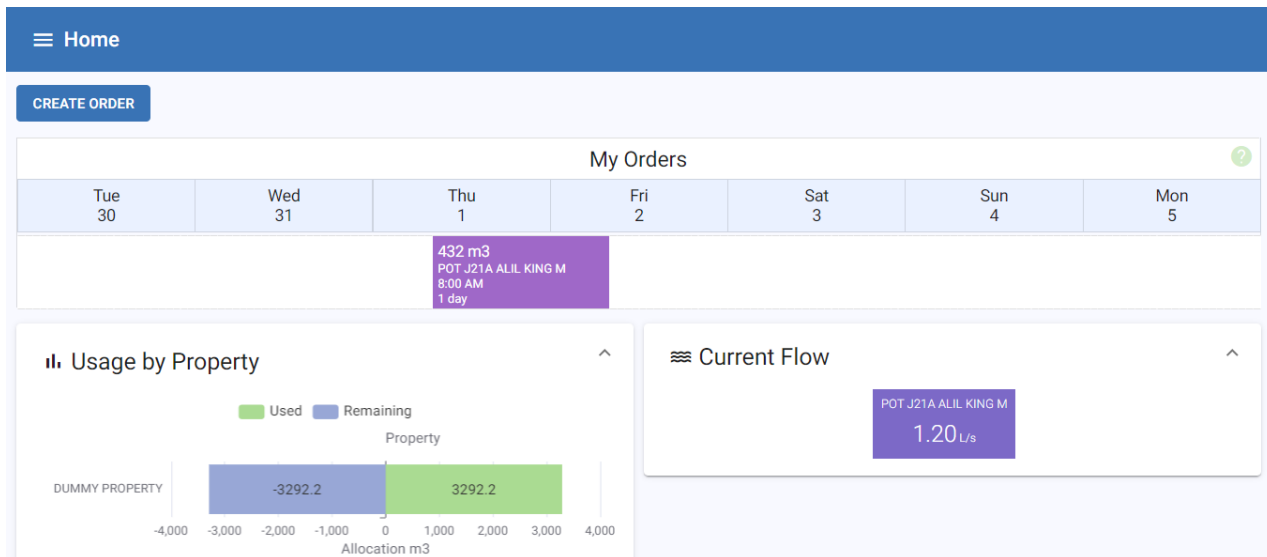
We will soon be contacting all shareholders requesting completion of a survey to record any effluent, chemigation or fertigation run through your irrigator/s & whether you have a backflow prevention device in place. The survey will present you with the recordkeeping and reporting requirements applicable to you based on the type of backflow prevention that you have installed. Please complete the survey even if you do not have backflow prevention on-farm.

Chemigation valves are now the only backflow prevention device permitted for new installations on the scheme. Double check valves installed after 1 March 2023 are not an acceptable backflow prevention method. Please use the following [link](#) to find out the installation, testing & compliance requirements.

Website Update – Shareholder Access Area

We are in the process of releasing a new shareholder area on the website. This will be a secure area where you will be able to order water using our new water ordering system. You will also be able to access your Water Agreement, Property Parameter Report and your latest Audit Report.

Keep an eye out for an email providing your login details to the page. These details will be progressively sent to shareholders. Once you have access you can use the new water ordering system or continue to order water on the old system for the remainder of the season.



Compliance Report

Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Ltd, the consulting entity for Arowhenua accepted this year's compliance report on our discharge consent (CRC185469) and asked that shareholders are reminded to keep a general awareness of the need to look out for Maori artifacts that may exist outside of the sites of cultural importance that have been identified within the scheme area. This is due to Ngai Tahu being transient across their takiwā (area).

Shareholder Interviews / Feedback

A series of one-on-one structured interviews will be held with shareholders during the year. The aim of the interviews will be to gauge feedback on the company's overall performance. The outcomes and or actions will then be conveyed to the wider shareholder base in our quarterly newsletters.



Bucket Testing

Do you have an outstanding bucket test action on your FEP or Audit Report? Do you have an Audit scheduled in 2024? We can provide a hassle-free service, and results via the CropX Bucket Test App. Records of the Bucket Test is the evidence you will require to prove the performance of the irrigator in your audit.

Audit grading shows that bucket testing is still an area we need to improve in. Please contact us on 03 307 8382 or via email at: info@alil.co.nz if you wish to book a Bucket Test.

Bucket tests must be above 0.8 for Distribution Uniformity **before** the property is audited. If a bucket test is completed and the Distribution Uniformity is below 0.8, please ensure issues are addressed and a retest is completed.

We have received some great feedback regarding our student Maddison, completing the bucket testing program for the scheme this season.

“When Maddison came on-farm she knew where she had to go & what she had to do. She was very mindful of the wind conditions & therefore I have no doubt that the integrity of the bucket test results/reports that have been produced, are an accurate representation of my irrigation system.”



Orders & Overuse of Water

Orders for water, must be placed by 1pm the day before you wish to irrigate. The operations team will be following up with those shareholders who do-not place an order, and you may be asked to turn-off.

The operations team have also been monitoring overuse. If the on-duty operator receives an overuse alarm, then that shareholder will be advised via text. If the overuse continues, then the shareholder will be called to determine what steps will be put in place to sort out the issue.

Where the overuse hasn't been addressed, then management, and ultimately the board will be advised, and the non-compliance will be formally addressed.

The shareholder non-compliance policy can be found on the schemes website [here](#).

Contact us

As always, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the ALIL team should you have any questions or concerns or require general scheme support. Our contact information can be found on the ALIL website (www.alil.co.nz), or by clicking the link [here](#).