

IRRIGATION NEWS

August 2024



Message from Colin Glass, Chair

Over this season, the board of Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd (ALIL) is providing updates in each newsletter, for individual directors to explain their involvement with the scheme & the issues they hold dear. This month, we would like to introduce Colin Glass, Chair.



I was fortunate to be elected to the board of ALIL in October 2012, after being involved in a sub-committee, which paved the way for the Stage 2 pressurised piping project and the issue of shares for approximately 2 cumecs of water, that made the successful pressurised scheme possible. I was appointed Chair in October 2017.

Paula & I farm with our two girls, Hannah & Olivia, three properties, in the upper reaches of the ALIL scheme, near Methven and beside the north branch of the Ashburton River. The property where we live was purchased in 2010 with a small shareholding in ALIL.

Since this time, we have participated in the sale of shares in December 2013, that enabled our two dairy support and bull beef farms to be irrigated across most of the area, when the RDR stage was completed in 2017.

In 2016 we purchased a neighboring dairy farm, took up further irrigation shares, and lifted stock numbers on this property.

Our farming operations have been closely aligned with the success of the ALIL scheme. Pressurised water is an invaluable resource, and the support provided through the scheme's nutrient discharge consent has provided us peace of mind and the opportunity to build a low-cost business.

As Chair of ALIL, there are two key areas that enables our scheme to support our farmers. Firstly, a low-cost reliable supply of irrigation and stock water to our shareholders. Secondly, the expansion of the scheme area to lower our costs in the future. This is a balance and has meant that small additional storage is required to bolster reliability so that further scheme expansion does not impact existing shareholders. To date, your board has been measured in considering scheme growth and capital projects.

Our farmers, having a positive outlook and the hope of a bright and exciting future is the greatest legacy a board can leave.

As we look to the future, managing the environmental impact within our catchment and achieving board succession will also be important for the scheme. Resolution of the ELI court case and further promotion of the Associate Director roles are imperative.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me, or a Director of the Board should you have any queries or concerns.

Director Vacancy

Randal Hanrahan has advised he will be stepping down from the board at this year's Annual Meeting, creating a director vacancy. Nominations for directors, will be called in the Preliminary Notice of Meeting which will be sent at the end of August.

At the 2022 Annual Meeting, Colin Glass signalled he would be standing down at the end of his three-year term, which will be October 2025.

The Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd Board has been focused on succession. To assist in raising governance awareness the Board has sponsored governance training for the last few years.

Those that have attended governance training have been

- Current Directors – Phil Lowe, Randal Hanrahan & Sue Duncan
- Associate Director (previously Board Observers) – George Lilley, Ali van Polanen & Johnny Rowe (scheduled to be completed in 2025)
- Sponsored Shareholders – James Anderson, Andrew Currie, Jude Henderson & Caro Letham

It is important that the company develops a pathway for succession of future governors. Shareholders have previously been made aware that the Associate Director role is an effective means of enabling as many shareholders as possible to gain an awareness of the companies governance processes & procedures.

We strongly encourage any shareholders or family members of shareholders to consider either Director or Associate Director roles.

Lease Water – 2024/25 Season



ALIL is proposing to lease its unallocated water for the 2024/25 season via an auction.

Following the last offer of shares ALIL has 361L/s of unallocated water for the 2024/25 season. The Board has decided to maximise the value of the unallocated water by leasing the water for the coming season. The lease term is limited to the 2024/25 irrigation season, whilst the Board works through expressions of interest for the sale of share related to this volume of water.

The lease of water will only be open to existing shareholders, and subject to a number of terms, including not exceeding the design flows on any offtake and not expanding the irrigated area on farm by more than 10ha from the area irrigated in 2020.

The Auction will be held on the evening of Wednesday 4th September, we will send out further details via email later this week.

Storage

The construction of the storage dam on McKendry's Road is progressing well. The precast panels for the outlet structure were installed on site last week and the steel work is being put in place prior to the in situ concrete work.

The road crossing to connect the pond outlet with the ALIL Open Race will commence in 10 days' time, with works in the race to be completed before the start of the irrigation season.



2024/25 Environmental Charge

The ALIL Environmental Charge for 2024/25 has been set at \$1,000 per FEP and \$10.40 per hectare over 50 hectares in area. For a 250-hectare property the Environmental Charge has risen from \$2,150 to \$3,080 for the year.

Cost increases in the Environmental Charge are related to additional environmental monitoring and legal costs associated with pursuing the High Court's decision on Environmental Law Initiative (ELI) v Canterbury Regional Council (ECan) and Anon to the Court of Appeal.

Signalled RMA Changes a Welcomed move

ALIL and ECan are welcoming the Government's move to clarify Resource Management Act (RMA) provisions for discharges under section 107 of the RMA.

[Cabinet has agreed to make urgent amendments](#) to section 107 of the RMA following a recognition of the wide-ranging impacts of the High Court's decision on applications for all types of discharge consents, including ALIL's.

We are pleased that the need and urgency of the matter has been recognised.

The clarification will allow a pathway for discharge consents to be granted with conditions that improve water quality outcomes. We will now work through our consenting pathway with ECan to achieve these improvements in the Ashburton catchment. Until a decision is reached on our application, we continue to operate under continuance with our discharge consent from 2014.

Environmental Update

[Situations Vacant – Casual Environmental Assistant \(Bucket Testing\)](#)



Applications are invited from individuals that would be interested in assisting with the co-ordination of our Bucket Testing Programme during the coming irrigation season. This casual role would suit either a Year 11/12 High School Student, or University Student.

No previous knowledge is required, but there will be the requirement to gain an understanding of irrigation systems and the use of the "Check-It Bucket Test App". A clean driver's license will also be required.

To apply, or for more information, please send a cover letter & current CV to: info@alil.co.nz before the end of August.

Riparian & Terrestrial Planting Workshop

A very successful Riparian & Terrestrial Planting Workshop was held in July. If you were unable to attend, and would like to know more, planting plan information is available on our website (FEP Audit Resources – Section 7) or by using this [link](#). Alternatively, please contact Sarah on 0272 966 444.



Scheme Operations Update

New Water Ordering System / Workshops

We will be rolling out a new ordering system for the 2024/25 irrigation season. You will soon receive an email with your username & password. In advance of the irrigation season, we will be holding two workshops to demonstrate access & how to order water. The workshops will be held on:-

- Tuesday 27th August, Hotel Ashburton (Gallery Room), 10.30am – 11.30am
- Wednesday 4th September, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall (Theatrette), 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Greenline Pipe Failure

Over the winter period we identified a leak in the Greenline pipe related to a faulty weld & upon excavation, we discovered that the pipe bedding was substandard, when compared to the Stage 2 pipeline requirements. This has caused the board to consider whether the repair costs on the Greenline in the future, should be included within the Greenline cost centre or the wider scheme (as is currently the case).



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](#).