IRRIGATION NEWS

November 2026

Message from Rebecca Whillans, Chief Executive



With a very strong El Niño underway, there is understandable interest in what this could mean for the irrigation season. El Niño typically brings more frequent westerly winds to New Zealand and can increase the likelihood of dry, warm conditions in eastern areas.

Current climate guidance also indicates soil moisture, and river flows may be near or below normal across much of the country.

I was recently asked what ALIL can do this season to improve reliability if conditions become particularly dry. It is a fair question, but an important distinction is that scheme reliability cannot simply be added when a dry season arrives. Storage, land, consents, infrastructure and funding can take years to plan and deliver. The work that protects shareholders during a difficult season is therefore largely the work undertaken in the years beforehand.

That long-term planning is already evident across the scheme. The completion of Palmer's Pond (Pond 3A) added 315,000m³ of in-scheme storage, specifically strengthening reliability and providing greater flexibility during dry periods. ALIL is continuing that programme. Current reliability modelling shows the scheme at approximately 99.6% average seasonal reliability, although dry-year exposure remains, particularly through January, February and March.

Proposed changes to the minimum flow regime on the Ashburton River in 2033 are predicated to impact our scheme's overall reliability, due to restriction on RDR's take from the Ashburton River and the corresponding reduction in available water to ALIL in low river flow periods. To ensure we're prepared we have started planning the next stage on in scheme storage at the Pond 4 site. This work includes securing land arrangements, completing design and geotechnical investigations, and obtaining the necessary consents. Once built, the new storage could add approximately 580,000m³ of capacity.

At the same time, ALIL via Mid Canterbury Water Storage Ltd continues to progress the longer-term Klondyke storage opportunity. The current staged approach contemplates an initial commitment of 1 million m³ of storage capacity at Klondyke, subject to final commercial and operating arrangements.

Reliability is not a one-season response to El Niño. It is a long-term investment programme. Each storage project, land purchase, consent and infrastructure decision is part of strengthening ALIL's resilience, so the scheme is better placed when increasingly challenging seasons do arrive.

AGM Outcomes & Director Changes

Thank you to all the shareholders who attended the Annual Meeting last month, the Board & Management appreciate your ongoing support. There was some great discussion and it's clear that we have an engaged shareholder base.

Following this year's AGM election, we are pleased to welcome George Lilley to the ALIL Board and congratulate Ali van Polanen on her re-election.

At the same time, we said farewell to Sue Duncan, who concluded her three-year term as a director. We thank Sue for her valuable contribution to the Board over her tenure. We would also like to thank Linda Rollinson for standing in this year's AGM election.

ALIL Associate Director Role

Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd (ALIL) seek Expressions of Interests for an Associate Director - giving the candidate an opportunity for personal and professional development, and an introduction to a governance role within ALIL.

This opportunity provides first-hand exposure to the role of the Board, its decision making and operations, as well as training and mentorship, designed to provide the Associate Director with important skills that they can carry through to their own development.

For 12 months from appointment, the Associate Director will participate in all aspects of the Board work without voting rights.

Associate Director will learn about:

- The fundamental principles of the work and function of the Board.
- The roles and responsibilities of Board members.
- Financial processes.
- Other governance priorities.

Person Specification:

- The opportunity is open to any ALIL shareholder who has an interest in assuming a governance role.
- The person should have an interest in the irrigation sector.
- The purpose of the Associate Director is to develop an individual's governance skills; therefore, the applicants need not have previously served in similar capacities.
- The person should bring knowledge and skills to be able to add to the views of the ALIL Board.

Selection Criteria:

- Willingness to bring their perspective to the deliberations of the ALIL Board.
- Aspirations for leadership in the irrigation and/or broader agriculture sector.
- Breadth of experience in complementary sectors.
- Availability to contribute to ALIL Board meetings.
- Demonstration of career progression.

Selection process:

A selection committee of two ALIL Board members will assess Expressions of Interest and then interview a shortlist of candidates. It is hoped an appointment will be made in December 2025, for an individual to attend ALIL Board meetings during 2027 however, ALIL reserves to the right to accept or decline any Expression of Interest.

Expenses:
Travel associated with training and other reasonable expenses will be covered by ALIL.

Term:
The term would be for one calendar year, starting on Wednesday 29th January 2025. During the term of the role the Associate Director would be offered the opportunity to attend Director training courses at ALIL expense unless this training has already been completed. There may be a requirement to repay training costs if the position is not upheld for the 12 months. The Associate Director would not be eligible to stand for election on the ALIL Board during the term of the Associate Director role but would be eligible at the following AGM.

Applications:
Those interested in applying should submit an Expression of Interest to Rebecca Whillans, Chief Executive, rebecca@alil.co.nz before 5.00pm **Friday 7th December 2026.** Expressions of Interest should include a summary of your career to date, how your skills, attitude, and experiences would benefit ALIL Board decision-making, why you would like the position, what you would hope to achieve, and how it fits with your future aspirations.

Timeline:
- 27th November - Call for applications
- 7th December - Applications close
- 10th December – Application review & selection for interview
- 16th - 17th December – Interview period
- 21st December - Selection made
- 27th January 2026 – Associate Director attends first meeting

Leighton Parker – 2026 Associate Director
Leighton Parker joined the Board as the 2026 Associate Director, as part of the Board's director succession planning. During his time on the Board he has also completed the Mayfield Group Governance Program, attended 12 months of Board meetings and discussions. Leighton's last Board meeting will be next week. On behalf of the Board, thank you to Leighton for his time and for providing his perspective to discussions. We wish him all the best.

Anyone seeking governance experience is encouraged to apply for the Associate Director role.

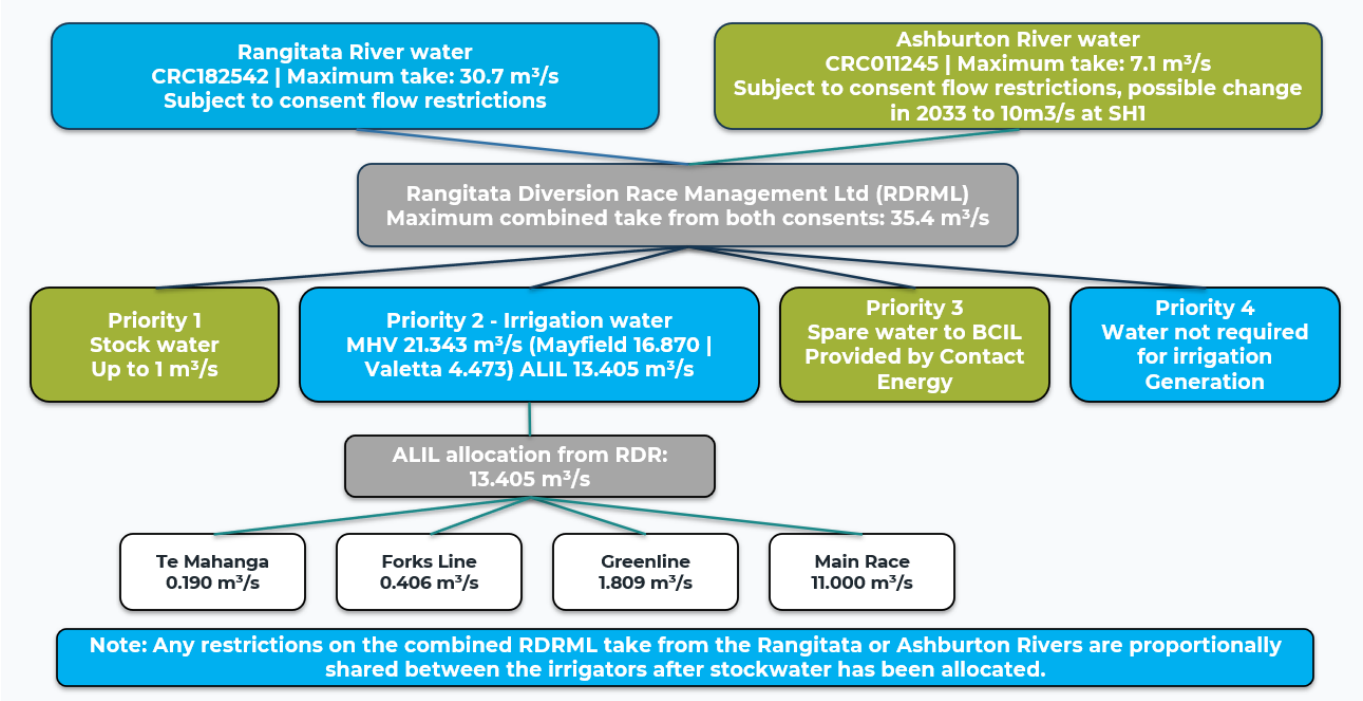
2027 Board Meetings
Meetings of the Board are held approximately every 6-weeks. FAVA Applications must be received no later than 20 working days before the Board meeting.



- 27th January
- 10th March
- 20th April
- 2nd June
- 14th July
- 1st September
- 28th October
- 24th November

RDR Water Allocation in the Irrigation Season

The consents supplying the Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR) are managed by Rangitata Diversion Race Management Ltd (RDRML). Maximum takes are shown below.



Management of Flows through Property Offtakes & Overuse

Last year, directors resolved that the maximum instantaneous flow for all shareholders be set at 18% above the Total Allocation of Water (L/s), and that the ALIL Policy on the Management of Flows through Property Offtakes was updated.

Under the policy, each ALIL share has a Water Entitlement of 0.01 litres per second, The policy recognises that irrigation demand can vary during the day, so it allows an 'instantaneous take' of up to 18% above the Water Entitlement, provided this does not exceed the Maximum Supply Rate for the offtake over a 24-hour period (Number of shares x 0.01 x24hrs).

What we are doing

We have reviewed scheme data from the 2025/26 season and identified periods where water taken through some property offtakes exceeded the level provided for under the property's water allocation. With irrigation demand also increasing, we will be monitoring this closely.

Shareholders where overuse has been identified are being contacted directly, with a graph showing the periods of overuse for their property. A member of the team will follow up to discuss these periods and support shareholders in considering options to better manage water use within their allocation.

Management of offtake flows and water allocations will be a particular focus for the Operations Team during the 2026/27 irrigation season. We ask that you actively monitor your water use and irrigation settings throughout the season to ensure your operation remains within your property's allocation.

Bucket Testing

A friendly reminder that bucket testing is an important part of achieving an A grade audit. We actively work with farmers to help improve on-farm standards, and we are always happy to support anyone who may have received a B grade to move to an A grade.

B grade audits are often due to a low level of confidence in irrigation distribution uniformity, which can happen when bucket tests have not been completed, or are completed too late to allow time for any maintenance that is needed.

Our Environmental Management Strategy (EMS), deals with non-compliance in relation to bucket testing. Under the EMS, where bucket tests are incomplete or have failed and have not yet been addressed, ALIL will arrange for the testing to be completed, with the associated costs on-charged to the shareholder.

Don't leave it till the minute before an audit. We have the staff available who will:-

- Provide a hassle-free service and results.
- Test result notification will determine the application rate, depth & distribution uniformity, which will assist with compliant irrigation systems.
- Full Irrigation System Performance Assessment also available by qualified technician.
- Bucket Tests are required for all irrigators and need to be completed **every three years**. The cost for Bucket Tests include:-

Pivots & Lateral:

- Up to 9 spans - $150 per irrigator
- 10 spans or more - $175 per irrigator
- Corner Arm - $25 (additional charge)

Other Irrigators:

- Hard Hose Guns, Rotary & Linear Booms - $175 per irrigator
- K-Lines - $5 per pod, minimum $50

Please contact Chloe Meadows on 0274 152 540 or via email: chloe@alil.co.nz if you wish to book in your Irrigators for Bucket Testing.

Scheme Spraying

We have begun the annual spraying around the scheme. You may see Gilbert Murdoch (Gillie) out & about in the scheme's spray truck. He will mainly be spraying the scheme offtakes.

Please contact Mike on 0276 008 556 if you have any concerns.



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.