



Welcome and Best Wishes

In this month's newsletter we thank everyone involved in the expansion project; we invite you to use a lease agreement template we have loaded onto our website; we detail our requirements about meter readings; give you an update on farm plan audits; and offer a case study on winter grazing.

From the staff and Board of NOIC we want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe, successful and productive New Year.

Expansion Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who, over the last three years, contributed to the successful conclusion of the expansion project. Thank you to all the landowners, shareholder and non-shareholder alike who gave us access to install the pipes, pump stations and auxiliary equipment. Thank you to all the shareholders for your patience and understanding through very trying times. Thank you to those who formed part of the delivery team for your determination and commitment. The conclusion of the project marks an end to the separation between Stage One and Stage Two and we will now be referring to the scheme by area and lines rather than timing, stage or section. We look forward to taking the business forward and delivering to the expectations of all stakeholders as best as we can as we enter 2018.

Holiday Office Hours

This year the office will close at midday on Friday 22 December and will be closed for the statutory holidays and for the three days in between Christmas and New Year. We have an emergency number which is 0800 333 437. This number goes to an offsite answering service with messages being sent directly through to the Operations Team.

The office will re-open on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 with limited office personnel. The majority of staff will be returning Monday 8th January 2018.

Leasing Shares

NOIC supports shareholders using leasing to get the most value from their shares. Leasing shares or land and shares between farmers allows flexibility and use of water to suit the needs of both parties.

NOIC has a template lease agreement that Shareholders can use located on our web page. This provides for the lessee making payments by direct debit and agreeing to environmental standards which are a requirement of the encumbrance and NOIC's own ORC water consent.

It also sets out that Shareholder retains primary responsibility for all payments and obligations under the Water Supply Agreement if there is a default. The template lease agreement is available in the Shareholders' area on NOIC's website. Its NOIC's policy that a lease is put in place and the Office is notified so that changes to billing and at the offtake can be arranged.

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NOIC SHAREHOLDER TEMPLATES

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Meter Readings

A reminder to all Shareholders to please send in their readings each month.

Even if you have not yet connected your on-farm infrastructure or did not use water during the month, we still need a reading so that monthly accounts are accurate.

Please send the reading together with your offtake number in by

- Logging in to the Shareholders' areas of the website
- Text to 0274 815 2845
- Email to office@noic.co.nz, or
- By phone to 03 433 1201

We require that the reading is in by the 2nd of the month. If you're going to be away, then it is OK to send them early (thank you to those that did this this month). If you have any problems obtaining a reading or accessing the website let the office know and they will help.

Where meter readings are not supplied NOIC will read them at a charge of \$125+GST. Its NOIC's preference that readings are supplied by the Shareholders. This allows the Operations Team to focus on the important business of maintaining supply and responding as quickly as possible to issues.

Shares for Sale

Up to 50 NOIC Shares available for immediate Sale (subject to hydraulic check with Ben Stratford)

Contact: Shaun Wilson

General Manager Craigmore Farming

027 4826600

Farm Plan Audits 2017-18: Update

NOIC's Farm Plan auditor Ian Brown has already completed around 30 audits this season and has noticed some great

practices and ideas being used to make the best use of water and nutrients. We expect to have somewhat lower grades this year as we have introduced some “non-negotiables” such as fencing all cattle and deer out of waterways; knowledge of application depth per irrigation; keeping effluent out of water; and ensuring monitoring of soil moisture adequate to the level of irrigation intensity.

NOIC took this approach based on the feedback from shareholders in our Environmental Strategy discussions earlier this year, where strong feedback from shareholders was that clear guidelines on the “must do’s” and “should do’s” was needed based on what would really make a difference environmentally. The advice for those being audited this year is: make sure you address the above “must do’s” so that you can ensure a smooth audit result based on a high probability that the outcomes we all want will be achieved.

For any advice, Environmental Manager Dylan Robertson is happy to help; mobile 021 0486 253.

Case Study – Ian Caldwell by Dylan Robertson

As I drive to work each day I go past the small dairy support property of Ian and Eleanor Caldwell just north of Herbert.

The Caldwell’s winter approximately 200-250 cattle of mixed ages and I have been really impressed by the attention to detail in the grazing regime.

The property has a small, permanently fenced stream running the length of it but also has various tiny gullies entering off SH1 from culverts under the road.

Ian says, “while the culverts are a pain for diverting water onto my paddock, there’s not much I can do about that, the best thing I can do is keep the cattle off the wet spots to look after my soil”

He thinks that if he grazes through these wet spots he will just pug up the soil and cause the wet spots to increase in width. This just leads to more problems, less growth and makes it hard to sow in spring.

“It’s pretty easy to put a tape around these areas and just graze them when it dries up”



Using this approach keeps the soil in the paddock, looks after water quality and ensures manure isn’t directly washed into creeks.

Thanks Ian and we hope your shoulder heals well so you can get back to farming and looking after the land and water.

Relief Valves on Off-takes

We have had some calls about suspected leaks on farm that are related to a relief valve located in the off-take box. The photo below is an example. We always want to know if you suspect a leak, please call, but also note that it may be just

water from the valve doing its job so a watch and wait approach may also be appropriate.



Helpful Hints

During handover of the oftakes to new shareholders we have noted a number of items for consideration between on-farm infrastructure and the NOIC system:

1. The NOIC hydrometer has a pressure reducing functionality so it can be set lower to suit on-farm pipe and equipment ratings.
2. NOIC restricts flow according to the number of shares purchased therefore on-farm infrastructure operating should match this flow or you may see poor performance through sprinklers. Consider the following:
 - a. Do I have too many k-line pods or sprinklers operating?
 - b. Is my pivot end gun or sprinkler nozzle the correct size?
 - c. Can I run one or two pivots, plus k-lines or hard hose traveller together?
 - d. Is my on-farm system commissioned and signed off to deliver the flow and application rates I specified?
 - e. Note that travelling sprinklers (pivot, hard hose etc.) may change in elevation, resulting in higher flow rates through the nozzle (flow/pressure relationship) than expected.
3. Evidence of excessive flow conditions at the oftake include:
 - a. A higher pitched control noise from the valve.
 - b. Lower pressure than expected on-farm. Note this could also be the PRV setting or a blocked strainer so confirm with NOIC ops after the strainer is cleared.
4. Pressure oscillations have been seen between the NOIC hydrometer and on-farm flow/pressure control valves, particularly the Nelson valves at the base of pivots. Consider needle valve or equivalent control on the valve to allow actuation rates to be adjusted so that “tuning” can be done between the hydrometer and the on-farm control valve.

NOIC hydrometers are calibrated and tested regularly, if there are concerns that the on-farm system is not meeting your expectations with the NOIC delivery parameters please have your designer contact Ben Stratford at the office.

Office Entrance

Please note that our office entrance has moved. We now come into the office from a sliding glass door on Thames Street rather than Coquet Street. Otherwise we are still at the same place!

With kind regards from the NOIC team