



Welcome

Important Notices

Irrigation Season 2019-20

If you require assistance with water supply, environmental plans or account matters please don't hesitate to call us on 03 433-1201.

General News

The start of a new year is a good time to review what you are doing, how you are doing it and how you might do it better. That has certainly been the case at NOIC, where we have developed and signed off our Environmental Strategy and our Company Strategy (2020-2025), been involved in the strategic reviews of NOSLaM (whom we have funded for several years now) and of WIC.

These processes help remind us why we are here, what we are doing and who we are doing it for. We will put a copy of our Strategic Plan up on our website soon but in the meantime, these key statements should tell you clearly what our focus is:

Vision:

To be a strong, adaptable water infrastructure company.

Mission:

To deliver cost-effective, reliable water; be committed to environmental leadership and enable positive social and economic outcomes.

Strategic Priorities (Pillars):

1. Shareholder value
 - a. Water security
 - b. Scheme integrity
 - c. Economic sustainability
2. Environmental leadership
3. Staff development
4. Community engagement (social capital/thriving Waitaki)

All of our planning and daily activities will be directed to meeting these statements. The relationships we have with the Regional Council, with the Waitaki District Council, with NOSLaM and WIC and others are all intended to help us achieve one or more of these outcomes.

If we succeed in our goals, you will have reliable water at your farm and, with that, the ability to make decisions about how and what you farm irrespective of changing climatic conditions. Ideally, that will result in prosperity for you, the sector and our community.

Easements – thank you for your support

NOIC is in the process of registering easements, agreed to prior to the stage 2 expansion, over land holding NOIC infrastructure. This is necessary to protect equipment and ensure access for R&M. You should have received a letter from Berry & Co that explains the process. If you haven't, please call us.

NOIC will provide the opportunity to answer questions and sign off the necessary paperwork. Alternatively, please make an appointment at the NOIC office or one of our staff will come to your home. There has been a great response so far with several easements signed off and ready for the next stage.

If you have any questions at any time, please contact the Office, Nicky Elliot at Berry & Co or your legal advisor. Thank you for your support as we complete this important process. Also, a reminder that there is NO cost for this to you.

Rebate of Charges

Having reached a settlement with McConnell Dowell (MCD) in respect of construction work deficiencies, the NOIC Board has determined to rebate \$300,000 of a budgeted provision for leak repairs to shareholders. This is consistent with the Company's approach to always return surplus funds to shareholders.

The result is a one-off reduction of \$17.52 (+GST) per share, reflected in the monthly fixed charges in your February 2020 invoice.

While this concludes all contractual matters with MCD, this settlement does not preclude the Company from seeking remedies from them for any significant failures in the Scheme, should they arise.

Supply Charges and Water Use

Supply Charges per m³ for irrigation water this season have been the lowest in NOIC's history, as have recent stockwater charges which, at \$0.128 per m³, were also below the summer rate of \$0.30 per m³.

Over the rest of the season supply charges will fluctuate with demand but are expected to be below the historic average.

Operations Update

Transpower

Please note that the annual 5-day Transpower outage is set for May 11-15 this year. We are putting in place provision to maintain stockwater flows, but there will be NO capacity for irrigation during this period.

Operations

As irrigation demands reduce and you start to turn your systems on and off more frequently, please ensure all valves are open and closed slowly to avoid pressure spikes on-farm and through the offtake. We have noticed a number of stalled hydrometers which appear to be caused by rapid valve actuation on farm.

A couple of offtakes continue to see stickers and plastic material on a regular basis, however generally we have seen a significant reduction in these issues across the wider scheme. We have also seen a reduction in the number and severity of pipeline leaks. Both issues were expected to decrease over time, and it is pleasing to see the benefits of this in reliability of supply through the season to date.

Environmental Update

I have now been in my role of Environmental Manager at NOIC for 5 months and I am continually impressed with the quality of management practices I am seeing amongst the North Otago farmers

I want to showcase some of the great practices I have seen in **Critical Source Area (CSA) Management** – fencing of swales, run-off areas and wet areas and plan to include photos of these in each Newsletter. Below is a swale that has been fenced off and planted by a farmer who was reluctant for me to include his name. Even though this swale doesn't flow permanently it has been fenced and planted to catch any run-off (nutrients and sediment) during wet periods.

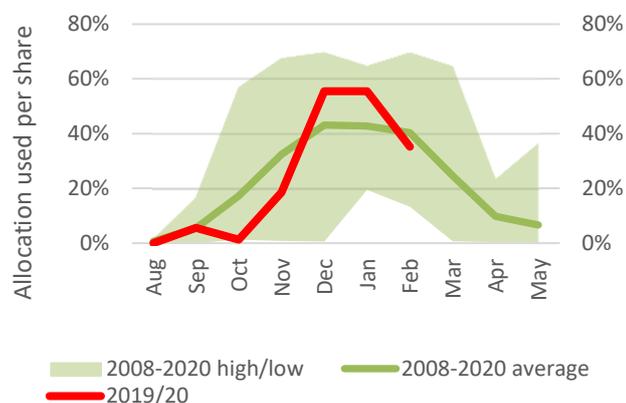


Irrigation Supply Charges (\$ per m³)



After relatively low volumes in the spring, the summer period has seen the second highest total volume of water delivered in NOIC's history with high levels of demand per share.

Irrigation demand per share



Your Admin

Meter Readings – thanks for a good response to meter readings in February. Remember the new cut-off date is the last day of the month. Putting this simple task in your phone calendar for the 28th of every month will ensure you get a reminder and avoid having a NOIC operator coming and reading it for you....and avoiding that \$125+GST charge that comes with this! 😊

Please send in the reading, **along with your offtake number**, by any of the following methods:

- Logging in to the Shareholders' area of the website www.noic.co.nz/shareholders; or
- Texting - 027 815 2845; or
- Emailing - office@noic.co.nz; or
- Phoning - 03 433 1201

Early readings are welcome any time before the end of the month.

If you have not used any water, we still need to know this. Send your reading in as "Nil Used" and **remember to write in the offtake number.**

If you have any problems reading the meter or accessing the website, let the office know and the team will be glad to help.

Up and Coming ORC Plan Changes

The Otago Regional Council is planning a **Water Quality Plan Change (WQPC)**. This plan change may influence farming practices around effluent management, grazing of forage crops and stock exclusion.

This plan change is being notified (released for consultation) on the 31st March. We will send you information on the rules (what it may mean to you) and on how to have your say through the submission process.

Public Consultation for the ORC Regional Policy Statement

6.30-8pm 17 March Oamaru, Brydone Hotel

The ORC Regional Policy Statement sets the direction for natural and physical resource management in Otago. It will be notified later in the year. ORC councillors will be in Oamaru on the 17th of March to discuss community ideas and issues regarding the management of our resources. This Regional Policy Statement will influence future water quality rules and major plans. Please come along to listen to what they have to say and provide any input you may have.

Some final comments

Something that may interest you are the results of a study undertaken recently by WIC, titled **SFF 407984 Results 2019: Stimulating pasture production by increasing earthworm functional diversity**

A copy of the report is on our website.

Celebrating success! Our own Stephen Craig-Pearson achieved an outstanding 2nd place in the 2,000m indoor rowing event at the recent Masters Games in Dunedin. This was even more impressive when you consider the winner set a NZ record! Fantastic, Stephen.

Happy Easter and best wishes from the NOIC team

Shares Available

Up to 80 Shares available for sale and/or lease

Contact: Derek Chalmers

027 496 7177

Shares to Lease:

Brenda McLeod 100-130 shares please call 027 513 1100

22 shares for sale

Contact: Doug Rodgers 027 609 9071

5 Shares for lease

**Contact Kieran McNamara +61 4385 00117 or email
kandkmac@yahoo.com.au**