

DRIP FEED

Irrigation NZ Inc

Edition No. 61

22nd December 2009

INZ recognises that regular work activity updates with its members are essential. The goal is to do this on a monthly basis, covering a few initiatives and updating the more pertinent ones each time. Feedback is much appreciated, as it helps us to ensure we are representing all our member's interests.

Advocacy & Leadership

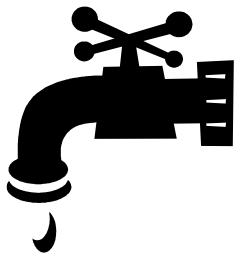
ECan Water Management Charges – INZ encourages its Canterbury members to give ECan feedback on the proposed water charges. The following are some thoughts for you to contemplate (these are useful thoughts for consent holders in other regions facing S36 charges as well!) -

1. If we have direct charges placed upon us accountability is vital – monitoring and investigation programs need to be cost effective and deliver on-time.
2. We need clarity around the proposed zonal committee make up and its interaction with ECan governance functions for accountability -
 - ECan need to empower the community, delegating authority to the committees to make informed choices. In the current proposal the committees 'power of recommendation' could be over turned by Council – this is a risk. As a concession to the delegation of power, rules will need establishing to stop a committee going feral.
 - Appointment vs. election – the latter is the best and fairer way forward and gives a more reflective representation of the community values, i.e. doesn't get captured by a minority value.
3. Fit with CWMS - Why not wait and align with the CWMS process – there is a concern we are creating a structure that may change again after a year?
4. What about the extra general rate component already being paid (based on capital value) how is this taken into account? Irrigators already pay a premium.
5. There are numerous consent anomalies that need addressing before charges are put in place, for example, multiple consents over the same land area – double charging?
6. Reliability of supply (for surface takes) - this has to be considered. It is not equitable to charge the same for a similar size take but one on A and the other on B water?
7. How do the current consent compliance monitoring requirements fit with SoE monitoring – are we doubling up? Before the water charges are introduced many consent conditions need revisiting, assessing and aligning with SoE monitoring to streamline costs. Times are tight and margins are decreasing, the 'efficiency' concept needs to apply to all!
8. Should investigation and monitoring components be treated in the same fashion? Many investigations are for regional benefit undertaken once in detail and then learning's applied to other areas, as opposed to monitoring which is zone specific?
9. Toxicity rating for discharges – is it defensible?

Workshops & Conference

Governance Training for Scheme Board Members – Look for the confirmed date of our next course in the INZ New Year DripFeed. If you wish to make an expression of interest early please do so by contacting Chris (ccoughlan@irrigationnz.co.nz). We have some bookings already and will notify these people directly once the course date has been confirmed. Remember this is about building the leadership capability now and for the future – so identify those young ones in your community and get them involved! Ideal for the governance of schemes and developing user groups.

Conference – Our program is printed and ready for viewing – please look for our conference insert in your December issue of IrrigationNZ News. It should be with you now! A special note of thanks to MAF, Meridian and



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Hynds for becoming Principal Partners. All other sponsorships and exhibition sites are NOW available and selling fast so please ...check it out at www.irrigationnz.co.nz

Finally, please remember this conference is *FOR YOU* our INZ members. We have a great venue and a great programme lined up with lots of good practical information for you so please note now INZ conference, 26th to the 28th April 2010 in your diaries as this will be a conference not to miss. You can now register on line at www.irrigationnz.co.nz

Courses - Pilot Centre Pivot & Lateral Move Operator Training

Two successful pilot courses were held on the 18th & 19th December. The feedback, particularly from irrigators, has been very positive, with both the experienced and converting gaining much useful information. As a result INZ will aim to hold more courses later this winter, that's subject to us negotiating access to the course material with Co-operative Research Centre - Irrigation Futures, Australia.

Website

The website update is almost there and it's looking good. However, we've decided we'll launch it in the New Year when it's 100%! One added feature of the new website is that we can create secure web pages that can be managed remotely. This opens up opportunities for schemes or irrigator user groups without a website to have their own pages within the INZ website for their members..... and control the content and who has access to it themselves! If any scheme/user group wants to pilot this concept with us contact Chris ccoughlan@irrigationnz.co.nz.

Projects

All four of our project funding applications lodged with SFF made it through to Phase II; Decision Support System for Fish Screen Installations; Irrigator Operator Training; A 'How to' Guide for Irrigator User Group Establishment; Collaborative Water Management for the Rakaia-Selwyn. That means Chris and I will have our heads down during January putting together detailed funding applications and budgets.

And lastly.....

INZ wishes all members a 'wondrous' Christmas and 'bloody marvellous' New Year - with no mechanical breakdowns during the festive season! Pat, Chris and I will be back in the office on the 5th January and we're looking forward to an extremely productive 2010 for the irrigation industry.

Andrew Curtis
Chief Executive

Any queries:

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