

# IrrigationNZ is working for you



## MEMBERSHIP

**3500 members.**

### Quarterly forums

hosted for irrigation schemes, user groups and industry. Forums help us understand and act upon our members' concerns and needs.



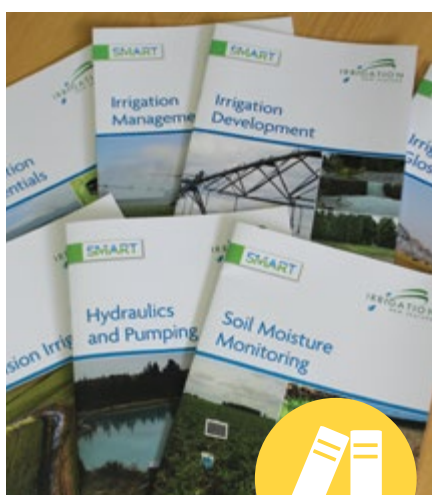
## ADVOCACY

IrrigationNZ meets regularly with Ministers and their advisors, opposition party representatives, environmental lobby groups, regional councils and primary sector member organisations to raise issues and seek collaborative actions and solutions.

In 2017 we were very active during the election campaign. IrrigationNZ met with political party representatives, and carried out a media and social media campaign highlighting the adverse effects a water tax could have and the difficulties associated with this proposal. We also invited the major parties to attend meetings with our members, which saw both the National Party and NZ First state they opposed a water tax at the events. The successful campaign IrrigationNZ ran saw our members save an average of \$24,000–\$29,000 per year (at a 2 cent tax rate) which can now be invested on farms. We continue to work with the new government through the Land and Water Forum and are currently preparing a submission to the tax working party discussion document.

There are still many challenges for irrigators ahead including:

- More stringent environmental regulations regarding water proposed by the new government and regional councils.
- The removal of government loan funding for irrigation development.
- The need to better communicate the economic, social, and environmental benefits of irrigation to the public, politicians and media and the importance of irrigation to food security.
- The possibility of a water tax being introduced at a later time.



## KNOWLEDGE

We have a suite of 30 knowledge resources to support our members covering a range of topics.

**“Regular meetings with Ministers and politicians gives IrrigationNZ the opportunity to engage at the highest political level on behalf of our members.”**

– IrrigationNZ Chairwoman Nicky Hyslop

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## TRAINING

**780 people**  
attended **45 training courses**  
held around New Zealand.

**35 workshops**  
were held to upskill farmers,  
farm managers and staff about  
irrigation, good management practice,  
and risk advice.

**7 workshops** were held to  
upskill industry professionals.

### Establishing a Profession

We hosted our third intake of  
Irrigation Design Qualification  
students and NZQA has  
registered our new Irrigation  
Apprenticeship Qualification.

“The design course is a good way  
to ensure designers offer the best  
possible solutions to our clients  
while giving us credibility within  
the irrigation industry.”

– Feedback from 2018 Design  
Qualification student



## PROJECTS

We started work on a  
**SMART Tips & Tools** project.  
The first stage of the project has  
been completed which was to  
identify barriers to good irrigation  
management practice on farm.  
Next we will be piloting a range of  
actions to improve the uptake of  
good management practice. As part  
of this project we will also develop  
an online training system to allow  
more people to participate in training  
opportunities. The development of  
the first training module is underway  
and will cover irrigation scheduling.

**We tested the efficiency of  
over 100 irrigation systems**  
in Selwyn district and provided  
recommendations to farmers  
on improving their efficiency.  
We also assisted with an irrigation  
check programme run by  
Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

“It is estimated that \$1.5bn in farm  
gate value could be created from  
the successful implementation  
of Irrigation Good Management  
Practice (GMP). The 'SMART Tips &  
Tools' project has a significant role  
in helping to achieve this.”

– IrrigationNZ CEO, Andrew Curtis

## LOOKING AHEAD

Looking to the future IrrigationNZ  
plans to:

- Continue to upskill and train irrigators to use water efficiently and develop training options for the irrigation service sector.
- Continue to support irrigation developments that grow the well-being of provincial New Zealand communities and improve the health of our rivers.
- Encourage and support new technologies and initiatives that improve the environmental performance of irrigated agriculture.
- Increase awareness of the role irrigation plays in food production and food security, and how it contributes to wellbeing in provincial communities.
- Support Māori to realise the potential of their land through irrigation development.

