

National advocacy update

Election 2020 nears!



Irrigation New Zealand represents our members on the Food and Fibre Leaders Forum which is made up of the Chairs of the various primary sector industry bodies. Our Chair, Keri Johnston, sits on this group and it regularly meets with the Prime Minister and other Ministers to discuss national policy and legislation. Irrigation New Zealand Chief Executive, Elizabeth Soal, sits on the equivalent Chief Executive's group. The last gathering with the PM and four senior cabinet ministers was in July, attended in person by our chair, Keri Johnston.

We regularly engage with all political parties, Ministers, and officials from key government ministries and departments. Through July we spent time sharing our [2020 Election Manifesto](#) with various political [representatives](#). The manifesto can be found [here](#).

As part of this, we met with the Minister for the Environment, David Parker, and his advisors, to share our '[Know your Catchment](#)' project, and discuss issues and opportunities for our sector. Similarly, we met with Scott Simpson, National Party spokesperson for the Environment. The meeting with Scott followed on from a presentation Elizabeth gave to the National Party Agricultural Caucus, led by the new spokesperson for agriculture, David Bennett, on water storage in June.

While sharing the election manifesto, Elizabeth caught up with Fletcher Tabuteau, the Under Secretary for Regional Economic Development and the NZ First spokesperson for water. Fletcher recognises the need for water storage as part of leading our regions into the future and ensuring we are climate change resilient.

IrrigationNZ continues to have discussions across the political spectrum regarding how we progress water storage as a country - and while there is agreement it is necessary, views on the mechanisms and funding to facilitate it do differ. Interestingly, this week, the National Party released a document on their concept for an [Infrastructure Bank](#), which posed a possible solution. IrrigationNZ remains aligned with WaterNZ and InfrastructureNZ on progressing these issues.





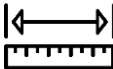
Next week our **Election 2020 Magazine** issue will be out. We have canvassed views on water from the Labour Party, National Party, Green Party, NZ First, ACT, Fish and Game, and Forest and Bird. We hope you enjoy reading the varied views!!


Together with Wairarapa Water, Elizabeth shared the 'Know your Catchment' project with the Greater Wellington Regional Council, which was very interested in the level of transparency this portal can offer stakeholders in an 'at risk' catchment. We will soon be sharing this with the Ministry for Primary Industries.




As an organisation we were **invited to provide comment to the Ministry for the Environment on the draft *Action for Healthy Waterways* regulations and new National Policy Statement for Freshwater management**. Our feedback focused on areas of key concern for the irrigation sector. We had two meetings with officials at the Ministry of the Environment to share our experiences with Farm Environmental Plans and allocation frameworks. It's great that Irrigation New Zealand continues to be recognised as the expert on these issues and that the government seeks our input for this reason. While we may not all agree on certain aspects, what is important is that we share our knowledge and expertise to achieve the balance and positive outcomes we are all seeking.

Updates on other areas of policy development are set out below.

Government process		National Environmental Standards		Resource Management Act		National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management		Regulations	
--------------------	---	----------------------------------	---	-------------------------	---	---	---	-------------	---

	Name	Details	Future dates
	Dam Safety Regulations	<p>Draft regulations on dam safety are being developed by the Ministry for Business, Innovation, and Employment, following on from public consultation undertaken last year. These were due to go before Cabinet before the election but were deferred due to COVID-19.</p> <p>The proposed regulations will have a significant impact on irrigation storage dams, ponds, and races.</p> <p>More information on the proposed regulations can be found at: https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/proposed-regulations-for-dam-safety/</p> <p>We will provide an update on the regulations once they go before Cabinet.</p>	Unknown



	Opportunity Grows Here initiative	<p>IrrigationNZ is in discussions with MPI about linking irrigation sector jobs with the Opportunity Grows Here site which has been developed to promote the primary sector for New Zealanders looking for work or a career change.</p> <p>More information on Opportunity Grows Here can be found at the website: https://www.opportunitygrowshere.nz/ </p>	Work in progress
	Climate Change Commission	<p>The Climate Change Commission will be making recommendations to Government in May 2021 on steps that should be taken to achieve greenhouse gas emissions target. We met with the Commission in August to discuss the role irrigation can play in land use flexibility and supporting diversification. We will continue to engage with the Commission as it continues its work.</p>	Ongoing

