

# 2024 INNOVATION IN IRRIGATION AWARD

A \$2,500 cash prize will be awarded for 'The Best Innovation, Discovery or Achievement that makes a positive contribution, impact or benefit to irrigation in New Zealand'.

This Award is to celebrate, encourage and promote innovation, and the positive things being undertaken in our communities with, and as a result of irrigation. It's about ordinary people doing extra ordinary things on – farms, schemes, in business or supporting service industries.

## SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU THINKING!

- Technical Innovation – farm, orchard, vineyard or scheme technical advances in irrigation that add value to the process of 'doing business'
- Irrigation Enhancing the Environment – projects and research that will lead to environmental improvements
- Resilient Communities – projects and research inclusive of people and society, cultural, economic and infrastructure benefits of irrigation

Take a look [here](#) at previous winners and finalists to get you thinking

## ELIGIBILITY

- The prize can be awarded to an individual or team. Only one entry is permitted per person / team
- We encourage entries and nominations from irrigators, schemes, user groups, environmental groups, industry, and university students
- The innovation may be new or a reinvention or reapplication of an old technology
- The innovation must demonstrate a clear, recent (last 5 years) or potential impact to irrigation in New Zealand
- The individual or nominated team representative must be either a New Zealand citizen or a New Zealand permanent resident
- For team entries one person must be nominated as the team representative. This person will be the public face for the innovation
- The winning entrant will be expected to attend the Awards dinner, receiving the award at the Irrigation New Zealand Awards Dinner and speaking with media
- The innovation must meet current ethical practice and have been carried out largely in New Zealand

# SELECTION CRITERIA

The merit of each entry will be assessed by a judging panel and will be based on 'Innovation in Irrigation'

This is the potential for the new knowledge to have a positive impact on irrigation through technology development or in a manner that will enhance the economic, social, cultural or environmental aspects of irrigation.

For queries phone 04 595 6848 or e-mail [admin@irrigationnz.co.nz](mailto:admin@irrigationnz.co.nz)

## KEY DATES:

**1<sup>st</sup> April** Entries & Nominations open: Download entry form [here](#)

**10<sup>th</sup> July** Nominations close

**31<sup>st</sup> July** Entries close

**1<sup>st</sup> August** Entrants notified by email that entry has been received

**8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August** Judges meet and review entrants

View and determine any question (if any) of entrants

**19<sup>th</sup> August** Questions sent to entrants as appropriate

**26<sup>th</sup> August** Deadline for questions answered and returned for judging

**27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August** Judging for shortlist

**2<sup>nd</sup> September** Shortlisted entrants to go to poster stage notified

**27<sup>th</sup> September** Poster summary supplied to Irrigation New Zealand in PDF format

**4<sup>th</sup> October** Panel judging completed

**7<sup>th</sup> October** Notification of top three shortlisted candidates

**October/November** Editorial coordination with shortlisted candidates for IrrigationNZ News magazine content

**November** Poster display of shortlisted entries at the Irrigation New Zealand Awards Dinner

**November** Announcement of winner & presentation of award at Irrigation New Zealand Awards Dinner

## REQUIREMENTS:

**Entries** - Up to 500 words maximum. Photos, pictures, diagrams are also encouraged however, the full entry should comprise of no more than 2 full A4 pages including the 500-word summary.

**Short-listed Entries** - Short-listed entries will be asked to submit a poster for further judging. The poster should successfully communicate the innovation to the wider community.

The origin of the images used must be acknowledged

- The work must be your own – any assistance must be acknowledged on the entry
- The poster is to arrive in PDF format and must be able to be printed as A1 (594mm x 840mm) for display at the award ceremony

- Posters will be uploaded onto the competition webpage
- Judges will view the posters as A3

**Finalists** – The top 3 finalists will be invited to attend the Irrigation New Zealand Awards Ceremony to be held in November (date and location TBC); travel and accommodation costs will be covered up to the value of \$500

**Winner** - The winner must receive the award in person at the Irrigation New Zealand Awards Ceremony in November (date and location TBC). The winner will be invited at this time to present their innovation with a five-minute presentation (optional).