

Personal Profile – Randal Hanrahan

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I am standing for the position of director of Irrigation NZ as I believe that it is of fundamental importance that there is a strong representative presence on the Board from irrigators, and in particular from the Canterbury Region, being the largest area of irrigators contributing to Irrigation NZ.

I believe that the current Strategic priorities are taking Irrigation NZ in the right direction, but in my view focusing on Advocacy, Innovation and Communication are critical as we move forward in the current challenging environment of proposed changes that have the potential to severely impact all of our businesses. We must seek to reinforce, and communicate to the wider public, the positive work and significant change that has already occurred within our industry.

I am an arable and beef finishing farmer with 307 hectares under irrigation at Ashburton. Along with Louise we have a family of four children. We also operate an Agricultural Contracting business and own a pre-school in Ashburton. On our property I have had involvement in the evolution from some dry land to border dyke, wide borders and the transformation to overhead irrigation, which now encompasses our entire effective area. We have been early adopters of soil moisture monitoring, VRI and fertigation – technologies that are now foremost in our farming operation.

I have been on the Board of Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd (ALIL) since 2016 including being a member of RDRML's Audited Self Management (ASM) committee that was integral in establishing and implementing the FEP (Farm environment plan) dashboard. I have completed an Institute of Directors governance course that was focused on irrigation scheme directorship. I am also a Director of a number of other agricultural based companies, and have been on the Board of Trustees at my children's school for 7 years. I have found my time on the various Boards to be very interesting, challenging and a great learning experience. I have a desire for more involvement in governance, especially within the rural sector. I believe that I have the knowledge and skills to contribute to the effective function of the Irrigation NZ Board.