



# ALIL Land Use Change Process





# Background

- May 2014, RDRML granted short term consent by ECan to irrigate between the rivers, the foothills and the sea. This consent expires in 2019.
- Consent introduced nutrient limits for existing irrigators (as at Dec 2013) and new irrigators, to be managed collectively by RDRML through Farm Environment Plans (FEP's) and associated auditing process.
- Water supply agreements between RDRML and ALIL, MHIL and VIL have made water and nutrients available.
- RDRML nutrient loads for both P and N have been agreed to be allocated to three schemes based on analysis completed by Stuart Ford in support of the original consent application for the existing irrigators.



- Nutrient limits currently determined by Stuart Ford's 2014 work which was based on assumed N loss for different land use and soil types.
- In 2013, ALIL were 38% Borderdyke, and so the conversion to spray alone since then, has created significant reductions in N loss.
- This has put ALIL in quite a strong position in terms of potential headroom for development when compared to other schemes, who had already converted most of their land to spray by 2013.
- If ALIL had not undertaken scheme upgrade, the N loss position would be quite different, a lot worse.



- Stuart's 2014 work used Overseer version 6.0.3 which provided the original figures.
- At the end of 2015, Stuart recalculated the figures using the same inputs and assumptions but using the latest version 6.2.1.
- This resulted in the N loss limit figures increasing, largely due to differences in how irrigation inputs are modelled in the later version.



However, we must be vigilant....

- We know N losses will be required to reduce over time but we think we are currently in a good position.
- As FEP/Nutrient Budget numbers are collated for 2015-16 season, we can establish where we are in comparison to the Stuart Ford calculations.
- Notwithstanding there is a degree of uncertainty until this work is completed, we still think we are in a good position.



# ALIL Land Use Policy

- Since June 2014, anyone planning on intensification has required approval from the ALIL Board.
- Some applications have already been granted
  - Arable to Dairy Unit
  - Arable to Dairy Support
- Same basis for all shareholders
- For example; Arable land use change to dairy support would be approved on the basis that the dairy support unit would need to operate under the same limits (both current and future) as all dairy support units in ALIL.



## FEP Process

- Opportunity to focus on farming operation
- Identify current practice and plans for change
- Corrective actions identified
- Need to make sure these actions are implemented

## ALIL need to be informed

- Would like to be in a position where all changes are captured through application process.
- Don't want to be in a position where a farm needs to operate within a lower level because ALIL have not had application.



- We know that some have made significant land use change without approval.
- Very important that these changes are captured.

Completing your FEP → Not an application

- Want to encourage shareholders to be pro-active in this area, we don't want to be acting like FEP Police.
- Important to seek permission, if in doubt, ask.



# What change triggers an application?

- Policy is clear – any intensification requires an application.
- Applications likely to be approved, we haven't turned anyone down yet but this may change after the FEP/NB process completed.
- **MUST** capture larger land use changes
- Approval avoids trying to operate under a lower limit
- If in doubt – ask.



# Next steps

## Opportunities

- One of most powerful tools to reduce N loss is to increase irrigation efficiency;

1. B/D → Spray → Centre Pivot/Lateral

2. Irrigate “just in time”, rather than “just in case”



Improved soil moisture monitoring and stop/start decisions



Large N Loss reductions



- Water reliability drives efficient irrigation

ALIL Board looking at options to improve reliability

- Klondyke
- Lake Coleridge



# What does the future look like?

- Outcomes from Hinds Plains zone likely to impact the outcomes in our area.
- Not expecting to start zonal process until after ECan elections in October 2016, but not sure how much later?
- However, Plan Change 5 under way



ALIL will be operating at or below Good Management Practice (GMP) by 2020.

- Either way we will be captured, and at this stage we can't be sure exactly what that will mean, but reductions in N loss will be required.