



Water Management Policy

Water Metering & Telemetry

PURPOSE OF POLICY

This policy describes the requirements for water meters to be fitted to all irrigation water takes on the Maniototo Irrigation scheme.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that water use within the scheme can be accurately accounted for through water metering that is consistent with the NZ Regulations on Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes.

The policy provides for Maniototo Irrigation Company Ltd (MIC) to have timely access to water meter data for operational and water accounting purposes.

The policy also describes the financial assistance being offered by the company to assist individual shareholders with the installation or upgrading of water telemetry units.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all MIC shareholders and irrigators.

All water takes within the MIC scheme are required to have compliant water meters and associated telemetry systems within the timeframe indicated in this policy.

This policy is intended to be consistent with the terms and conditions of the Water Supply Agreement that applies to all MIC shareholders.

DEFINITIONS

<i>Regulations</i>	The Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010.
<i>Sub Schemes</i>	The three distribution races, West, East & Waipiata

POLICY

Introduction

The 2010 Regulations are issued under the Resource Management Act 1991 and apply to all consents allowing freshwater to be taken.

Shareholders irrigating within the Maniototo scheme have access to water where the consent is held by MIC. The Regulations apply for the main water take for the scheme, but do not require the individual takes within the scheme to be metered.

The Regulations require water meter data to be provided on an annual basis in an electronic format to the regional council.

The position of the MIC Board is that water use by individual shareholders should be measured and verifiable.

There are three basic premises for this position:

- Shareholders have a limited entitlement of water (volume) based on the number of water shares they hold with 10% available each 20-day period. It is therefore fundamentally important that the amount of water used by individuals in each 20-day period can be verified so that all shareholders have confidence that water is allocated fairly and equitably amongst individual water users. This is especially significant in periods of limited water availability and restriction regimes.
- Operational water distribution efficiency can be significantly improved through the availability of timely and accurate water use data. Water losses occur within the sub schemes from both channel leakage and distribution losses. Accurate measurement of water used from the schemes by irrigators enables distribution losses to be reduced and areas of channel leakage can be identified and rectified. Improving distribution efficiency will ultimately increase the amount of stored water retained in the Dam and thereby increase overall supply reliability.

- The current direction of regional water management policy is based on implementation of industry standard ‘good management practices’ relating to on-farm land and water use. Under the range of future scenarios envisaged by MIC for the Otago region, irrigators will require accurate information of actual water use on their properties to meet conditions specified in regulatory plans, such as Land & Water Plan, freshwater farm plans, and potentially for MIC consent conditions in the future.

Policy Requirements

General

- The target date for completion of installation or upgrade of installations is 31st December 2024.
- MIC retains the right to limit or refuse to supply water to irrigators who do not meet the requirements of this policy.

Design

- Design of metering and telemetry installations shall meet current industry standards.
- The engagement of approved designers and installers is required to ensure that the works are completed to current industry standards. Irrigation New Zealand has produced Codes of Practice and an accreditation scheme for designers and installers (Blue Tick Accreditation) which has established recognised industry standards.
- The telemetry units will be installed by MIC to maintain consistency across the scheme.
- It is the responsibility of the irrigator to check that a Harvest telemetry unit can communicate with your current meter.
- In many instances it may prove beneficial to the irrigator to install a smart gate with metering capabilities. MIC strongly encourage you to investigate the benefits of this for your site if looking at upgrading or replacing takes or meters.

Operational

- Individual irrigators are responsible for the maintenance of their meters including required calibration and/or verification checks for meters.
- MIC will hold a register of all meters on the scheme, they will send reminders to shareholders when they are required to have their meters calibrated and/or verified.
- MIC will be able to assist with organising the calibration/verification for the irrigator if requested to.
- Individual irrigators will be required to send proof of calibration/verification to MIC within 14 days of scheduled inspection.

Commercial

- The irrigator is responsible for the cost of the water meter installation and for the on-going operational and maintenance costs. Ownership of the metering equipment remains with the irrigator.
- MIC will cover the costs for the installation and annual subscription fees associated with the telemetry units attached to the irrigators meter.
- If an irrigator elects to install a smart gate or other similar option, please discuss with MIC management as a contribution to the value of the telemetry may be available.
- MIC will offer support for meter calibrations through commissioning an expert to carry out these inspections on a three yearly cycle, aiming for bulk discounts and reduced travel cost. MIC will on charge this to the irrigator.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually as per the boards policy review cycle.

Version Control

Version	Prepared by	Date Prepared	Reviewed by	Date Adopted by Board
V1	Renee	14/12/2023	Board	1 st August 2024