

## NEW REGULATION TO REQUIRE WATER METERS

A new regulation to be implemented under the Resource Management Act will require water flow meters for all existing and new irrigation systems.

The water flow meters will need to be installed over the next five years for existing systems, and will be immediately installed on all new systems.

It is expected that the new regulation will come into force in the next six months.

Environment Canterbury has established a new Water Metering Team to work with farmers and members of the irrigation industry in the Canterbury region to provide them with information and advice about the new regulation. In other regions, the relevant regional council will perform that role.

John Young, Manager Water Metering Environment Canterbury, says the primary objective of this new regulation is to ensure consistency at national, regional and catchment levels for measuring and reporting of actual water taken.

"What is never measured is never managed," he says.

"The up side to this is that this information is equally invaluable to the farmer in terms of helping them operate more efficiently and ultimately improve productivity," says John.

The meters will need to be fit for purpose, sealed and secure, and John's advice is that farmers ensure the systems are future proof, so that they can fit with additional technology they might implement on the farm in the future.

Plains Irrigators are fully qualified and able to install the meters on existing and new systems.

For further information, contact your local regional council, or contact John Young on 03 308 7682 or 0274 362345 or email [john.young@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:john.young@ecan.govt.nz).



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### Welcome to the first edition of Plains Irrigators' newsletter.

The newsletter has been developed to bring you the latest information about irrigation, servicing tips and advice, and the latest innovations to help your business. Each issue will feature different topics relating to irrigation and agriculture.

In this issue we're bringing you an article on some new technology relating to corner systems, our increasing focus on the servicing side of our business and an overview of the recently announced Resource Management Amendment bill. We will also bring you the latest updates from Plains Irrigators and our team of experienced engineers, designers

and technicians. This month we include a profile on our new General Manager, Brent Walton.

As many of you will know, Plains Irrigators have been operating in Ashburton and the wider Canterbury region for the past 14 years and we provide the full range of installation and servicing of Zimmatic and other irrigation systems. We have more than a decade's experience on the ground around Canterbury and have the expertise to provide you with the right solution and ongoing service for your property and agricultural business.

If you have any feedback about this newsletter or information you would like to see, please don't hesitate to contact us on 03 307 2027 or free phone on 0800 ZIMMATIC (94662842)



**0800ZIMMATIC (94662842)**

# RMA AMENDMENT Aims to Cut Red Tape

The Government has announced changes to the Resource Management Act that are aimed at simplifying and streamlining the act for the benefit of farmers, businesses and homeowners, while protecting the environment. Announced by Environment Minister Nick Smith in mid-February, the Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Bill is the biggest overhaul of the act since its introduction in 1991.

"These reforms address the costs, delays and uncertainties of the current Act," says Dr Smith.

"They will remove slow and overly bureaucratic processes that do little for growth or the environment. At a time of economic difficulty these reforms take away barriers that stand in the way of helping our country's future prosperity."

The proposed changes have been welcomed in the Canterbury region, but Federated Farmers says the amendments may not go far enough, and any changes must "put an end to farmers being farmed by councils, consultants, planners and lawyers".

The bill has been sent to the local government and environment select committee for public submissions. Public submissions are now being invited on the bill and the closing date is Friday 3 April, 2009.

For further information on making a submission, check out: <http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/SC/SubmCalled/1/6/e/49SCLGEResourcemanagement200904031-ResourceManagement-Simplifying.htm>



Dan Stephens - Sales and Design Engineer

## Maxfield Corners Takes Zimmatic To New Level

After thousands of hours of vigorous testing, Zimmatic's MAXfield Custom corner system has just been launched in New Zealand and Australia.

The MAXfield Custom corner system can be included in new installations, but more importantly, it can be retro-fitted to existing and older models. Plains Irrigators' sales and design engineer, Dan Stephens, says the system actually "learns" the unique characteristics of a field, ensuring the best possible application rates.

"Once the system's modelling software has mapped the area, it adjusts its application rate according to every variation in the field."

The MAXfield Custom's steerable corner arm has a maximum extended reach of 88 metres.

"Depending on the field shape, this allows irrigation of an additional nine to 21 hectares.

"The benefits are obvious – you can increase production simply by operating irrigation more effectively, without needing to increase the land area," says Dan.

To find out more about the MAXfield Custom corner system and how it can add value to a new or existing installation, contact Plains Irrigators on 03 307 2027.

# New GM joins the Plains Irrigators Team



After more than 25 years experience in the ski and tourism industries, Brent Walton is combining his passion for technology and innovation, with an upbringing on a Manawatu farm with his new role at Plains Irrigators.

Plains Irrigators director Graeme Cooper says after a period of strong growth, Plains Irrigators is moving into a new phase of development that requires another pair of hands.

"Brent has extensive management and operational experience and will provide us with the support we need to take the business, and our service, to a new level," says Graeme.

"We're delighted to have Brent on board. He has the right combination of business and technical know-how, and a passion for the land and the businesses that depend on it."

Brent says he is relishing the challenge of his new role and he's determined he won't spend his working week behind a desk.

"I have always been extremely hands on with whatever business I'm involved with, and Plains Irrigators is no exception.

"I've already spent many hours literally out in the field, getting to know our systems, our team and our clients, and I will continue to get out and about the wider Canterbury and Otago areas."

He says a key focus for the next 12 months will be on the servicing side of the business, ensuring the systems and processes are in place in order to meet the needs of its clients.

## Service goes beyond installation



At the heart of Plains Irrigators' business is a focus on delivering service that is second to none.

"An irrigation system is only going to be as good as the person who installs it," says company director Graeme Cooper

"As a result, we have placed a high emphasis on ensuring we have an experienced, committed team of engineers and maintenance crew who go above and beyond the call of duty to get the job done – a service that is available 24 hours a day.

"Particularly in today's economic climate, our farmers cannot afford to have a machine out of operation.

The Plains Irrigators' team have the knowledge and expertise to work with any irrigation system, as well as the Zimmatic brand that the company specialises in.



"It doesn't matter if we didn't install the system – if it's not working, we can fix it. Our priority is the same as the farmer – to get the system operating again as quickly as possible," he says.

"We also specialise in insurance jobs and are able to get a crashed machine up and running quickly to avoid costly down time. We stock our own full list of parts enabling us to service and fix a system without waiting around for parts.

"It's our job to get it fixed right, first time, every time and at any time." For 24hr service contact Plains Irrigators' service team on 0800 PLAINS. You will immediately be connected to the duty serviceman, who will put the best team in place to fix the problem.

