

Irrigation Responsibilities

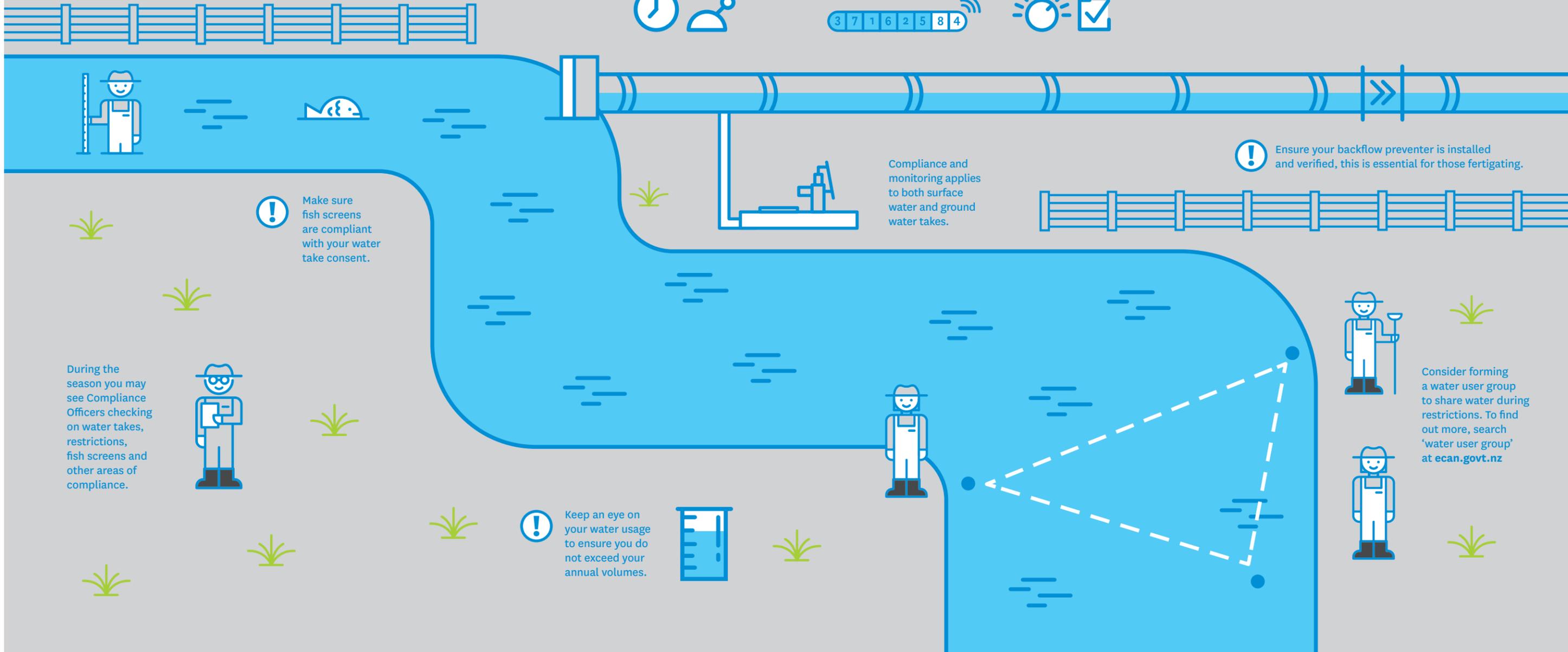
Know the minimum flow restrictions of your consent. Search 'irrigation' at ecan.govt.nz or call 0800 324 636.

Restrictions apply for a 24 hour period. e.g. if you shut off at 8am, you can't take again until 8am the following day.

Make sure you are recording data 365 days of the year. If you don't send your data via telemetry, then your data must be sent to Environment Canterbury by 31 July each year.

Ensure your service providers are BlueTick accredited. Your meter needs to be verified and the certificate sent to Environment Canterbury.

NIWA's Seasonal Climate Outlook can help you forecast and plan your water take. niwa.co.nz/climate/seasonal-climate-outlook



Make sure fish screens are compliant with your water take consent.

During the season you may see Compliance Officers checking on water takes, restrictions, fish screens and other areas of compliance.



Keep an eye on your water usage to ensure you do not exceed your annual volumes.



Ensure your backflow preventer is installed and verified, this is essential for those fertigating.

Compliance and monitoring applies to both surface water and ground water takes.



Consider forming a water user group to share water during restrictions. To find out more, search 'water user group' at ecan.govt.nz



Responsibilities for Water Consent Holders



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Water taken from ground water and surface water sources enables our economy to thrive year-round. To ensure that water is used responsibly, and that it continues to be a plentiful resource, consent holders have several responsibilities to be aware of.

Consent responsibilities

Careful use of the water resource is something that Environment Canterbury takes very seriously.

It is your responsibility to meet the terms of your consent. You can do this by ensuring you supply your water data when it is due and by avoiding taking more water than is allowed under your resource consent (including taking water when rivers are on restriction), to avoid enforcement action being taken.

What do I have to do?

As a consent holder, you are responsible for:

- Compliance with all your consent conditions.
- Ensuring all water takes over 5 litres per second have a verified water meter and data logger installed which is continuously recording actual daily water use.
- Only taking water according to the specified volumes of your consent, including maximum flow rates, annual volumes and changes in permitted levels during periods of restriction.
- Submitting actual water use data daily via telemetry, or annually by 31 July each year.

Monitoring your water use

Your water takes are monitored through automated systems as well as proactive desktop monitoring, and site inspections. During the irrigation season you're likely to see Resource Management Officers out and about checking on water takes.

Minimum flow restrictions

Many resource consents contain a condition limiting the taking of water when a river or waterway is on restriction. As the consent holder, it is your responsibility to understand your minimum flow conditions by checking online.

If minimum flows have been reached, you must restrict your water take in accordance with your consent condition. You must also report any errors or any breaches that you observe.

Manual shut off?

If you have an irrigation device that requires a manual shut off, and a water restriction starts at midnight, you no longer have to get up at midnight to turn off your irrigator.

Instead, you can continue to irrigate until as late as 9am even though technically your water take is on restriction from midnight. This enables you to safely get out and turn off the device anytime between midnight and 9am.

If you choose to do this, then when the irrigation restriction ceases, you must not turn your irrigation on again until the time you turned it off.

For example, if you turned your device off at 6am on a restriction day, you must wait until 6am on a non-restriction day to turn it on.

Information on irrigation restrictions

Environment Canterbury's website and customer service centre are the only places to find irrigation restriction information.

The Irrigation Restriction webpage contains up to date irrigation restrictions for your area, and relating to your consent (**search for 'irrigation' at ecan.govt.nz**)

This website is updated between 4pm and 7pm each day, with the restrictions being effective from 9am the following day.

You can also call Customer Services on **0800 324 636**.

Fish screens

A fish screen is a structure intended to harmlessly divert fish away from water takes used for irrigation, stock-water, community supplies or hydro-electric power generation.

If you have a water take that requires a fish screen, you can find out more about their efficiency, and how they are monitored, on our website.

Weather – planning ahead

Plan your water use for the coming months by using NIWA's useful Seasonal Climate Outlook. Careful planning can ensure that your water take doesn't run out in the hot dry months.

To see the latest Seasonal Climate Outlook, go to **niwa.co.nz/climate/seasonal-climate-outlook**

Water user groups

Working with your neighbours year-round can provide benefits when water is restricted. As part of a water user group, consent holders can share water during times of restriction.

Members of water user groups each have existing consents to take water, and collectively manage the water resource allocated to them, during times of restriction.

Find out about starting a water user group by searching for 'water user group' at **ecan.govt.nz**

Backflow prevention

Many farmers use their irrigation systems for fertigation. If you do so, you must have a backflow preventer so that contaminants cannot enter the groundwater.

Your backflow preventer must be tested annually, and a copy of the test certificate sent to Environment Canterbury. Any backflow preventer which fails the test must be repaired or replaced and then re-tested. Find out which backflow preventers are recommended, and read all about the requirements by searching for 'backflow prevention' at **ecan.govt.nz**

Need a hand? No worries!

For more information about your irrigation responsibilities, please contact us on

0800 324 636

www.ecan.govt.nz