

WATERMETRICS CASE STUDY

Customer

Rakaia River Irrigation Association

Issue

When water restrictions are applied to the Rakaia River, consent holders are unable to draw water from the river

Solution

Watermetrics Water Ordering Service

Outcome

RRIA members have the ability to order Stored Water from Lake Coleridge and use this water for irrigation when the river is on restriction

Stored Water access: An essential safeguard

The Background

The Rakaia River Irrigation Association (RRIA), whose members rely on water extraction from the Rakaia River for irrigation, were looking at ways of providing supplementary irrigation when restrictions were applied to the river.

Dairying is a predominant farming activity in the area, so water is an essential element for irrigation and wash down processes for RRIA members. River restrictions can place considerable pressure on RRIA farmers during the dry summer periods without access to additional water.

The Solution

The Watermetrics solution went live with as part of the 2014/15 irrigation system. It reduced significant complexity for RRIA members by enabling them to order water from Lake Coleridge based on their consented allocations.

RRIA members login into the Water Ordering website and order water (generally for the next day). When an order is placed, the system checks RRIA members available allocated stored water balance, then checks the consent data to ensure members are not ordering more water than they are allocated. If the checks return as OK, then the member can proceed with their order.

“Without the Water Ordering Service and the support from Watermetrics, our farms could have gone dry with significant financial ramifications and implications for stock health”

Colin Glass, CEO of Dairy Holdings

The available remaining water balance is shown along with past ordered water volumes.

Order water from RRIA				
Water Balance and Consented Take				
Current Stored Water				
Opening Balance	Used:	=	Remaining Balance	Over Ordered Water
87,811.00 m3	00.00 m3		87,811.00 m3	None
Water Consent Conditions (ECAN)				
Average Instantaneous Flow	Average Daily Volume			
138.89 l/sec	12,000.00 m3			
Orders				
No Orders have been made for the future.				
+ Create				

An extra level of complexity was the requirement to supply consented water data and usage to Trustpower, as the organisation managing the stored water supply in Lake Coleridge. This data had to show the previous 24 hours of water usage plus aggregated ordered water for the following 24 hours.

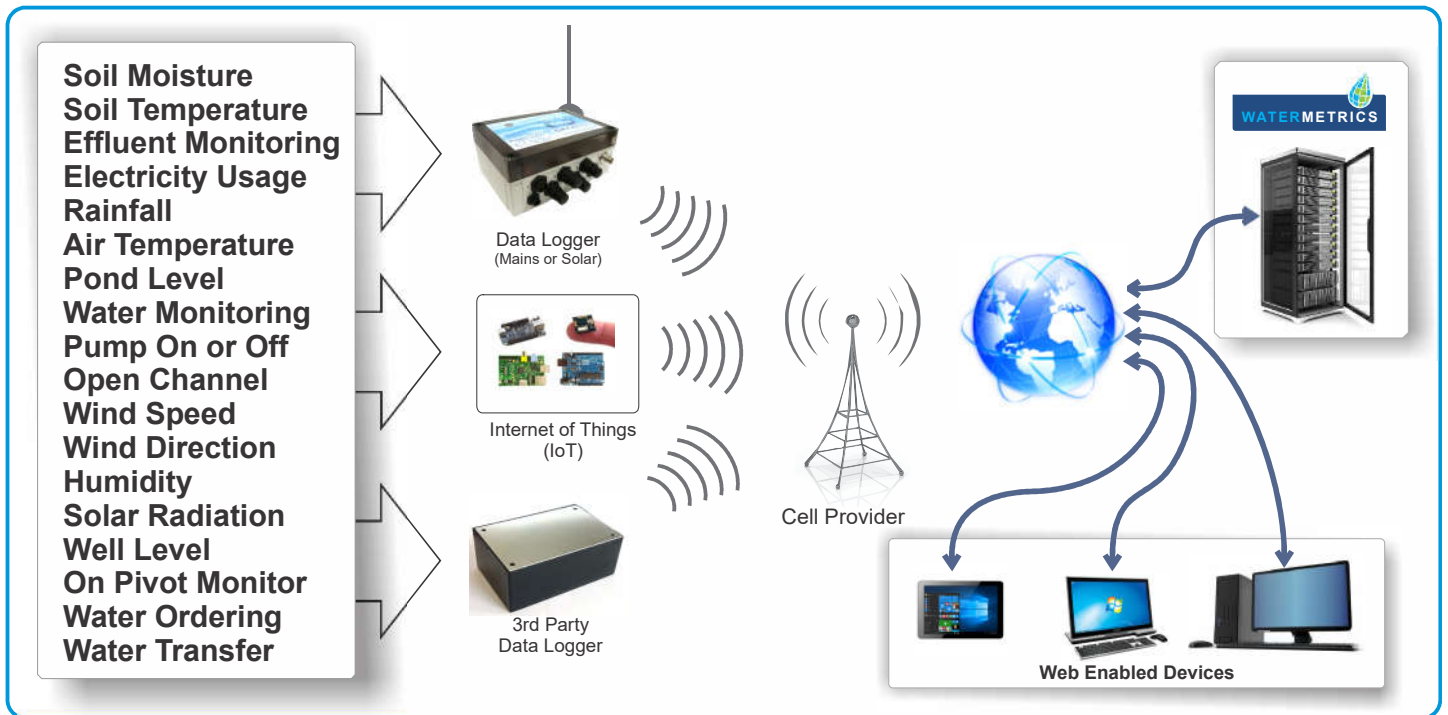
Orders have to be placed by 18:00 hours each day with data and required water for the following day sent to Trustpower. By 21:00, Trustpower will acknowledge the order with a Water Order successful notification displayed on the website. This gives the assurance to farmers that water will be available for the following day on a use it or lose it basis.



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www.watermetrics.co.nz



As well as providing data to Trustpower, Watermetrics also provides the usage information to the farmer's data providers. This ensures that applied stored water and consented water, (when the river is on restriction), does not breach the consent conditions.

Key Features

- The service allows supplementary water to be used (like a bank account) on days when restrictions come into force
- Users order water online via web interface
- Allows streamlined approach to water ordering
- Users have clear visibility of ordered water and any limits that may be imposed
- Scheduling and volumes of water order clearly visible
- Individual ordered water data is sent to data providers following water release for consent compliance
- Scheme/user group management visibility of water orders and remaining available water

The Benefits

RRIA members now have the flexibility to order and apply stored water when river levels are such that allowable water extraction does not provide the required water usage on farm.

The stored water enables RRIA members to carry on farming knowing that they have a balance of water in

their 'bank account' for use throughout the season. In the words of one farmer;

“It's an essential safeguard”

“The stored water is like an insurance policy for the association. Without it and the Watermetrics system, many of our members would have been in strife. It worked very well and even when we had to change suppliers in the Christmas break, Watermetrics staff ensured the transition worked smoothly”.

Marv Pangborn, Committee Member and Dairy Farmer

About Watermetrics

Watermetrics industry experience and knowledge (via DataCol) sets it apart from other providers. Established in 1999, DataCol grew to over 200 employees and contractors, and gained widespread recognition for its service commitment and levels of innovation. It expanded into the agricultural monitoring space in 2012 and continued this expansion purchasing the assets of Watermetrics in 2015. All DataCol's Agri business now operates under the Watermetrics banner

In Oct 2017, DataCol was purchased by Arthur D Riley & Co Ltd which started in 1909. The company has been a wholly New Zealand owned Company. For many years, it has concentrated on supply and service to the Utility Industry with special emphasis on Electricity, Water Meter and Metering as well as High Voltage equipment for the distribution network.

With over 100 years of activity, the company takes pride in the ongoing representation of a select group of manufacturers from across the globe and in the knowledge and competence of its technical personnel supplying solutions to the Industry in New Zealand and throughout the Pacific Islands.



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