



AMURI IRRIGATION CO

# IRRIGATING ON ROAD POLICY

Reviewed December 2021

## Introduction

- A. This policy was introduced after the continued observation of irrigators watering onto nearby roads. AIC would like its farmers to be responsible water users who value water as a precious resource and seek to use it in the most efficient way possible.
- B. Clause 5.1(v) of AIC's Water Supply Agreement states that irrigators "do not at any time spray water onto a public road or other public way". Applying water to roads breaches the AIC Water Supply Agreement.
- C. Watering on the road is also a significant health and safety risk as it can make affect a driver's visibility. It is also concerning to roading authorities as it causes damage the road surface requiring more frequent repair. Farmers may be found liable for any damage or accident that occurs.

## Policy

1. Irrigating on the road is defined as any water that directly hits the road from an irrigator. This is the actual road surface and does not include the road reserve, thereby providing some leeway for difficult weather conditions. A light mist falling on the road is not considered a direct hit.
2. Roadside plantings or shelterbelts are encouraged to provide some tolerance for farmers and to reduce the risk to the public.
3. Farmers should take a conservative approach when setting irrigators to ensure that water does not reach the road. New irrigation should be built with some tolerance for windy conditions and existing irrigators should be retrospectively modified to prevent further breaches.
4. Farmers must check irrigators at the start of each season to check performance. A further check is to be repeated during the first windy conditions of the season. Records should be kept of both these checks.
5. Farmers should monitor weather conditions and turn off irrigators immediately upwind of a road in windy conditions.
6. AIC team members will keep a vigilant watch for any instances of irrigating on the road during the irrigation season. Members of the public may notify AIC of instances which are then followed up by AIC staff.
7. Warnings issued under this policy will be recorded on a register maintained by AIC.

8. Once a warning has been given, it will remain on the register for the rest of the irrigation season. At the end of the irrigation season all accumulated warnings will be wiped and all shareholders will begin the next irrigation season with a 'clean slate'.
9. Any warnings given will only affect the property that the warning applies to (i.e. will not affect other properties owned by that shareholder). However, it will include all offtakes at that property.
10. Any costs incurred by AIC because of a shareholder applying water onto the road will be recovered from the shareholder. These costs may include, but are not limited to, fines and defence costs.

## **Notification Process**

### **First Warning**

11. If a shareholder's irrigator is sighted by an AIC team member or a member of the public while irrigating directly on a road, they will receive a warning from an AIC team member advising of this and the need to adjust their irrigation system. For reports received from a member of the public, an AIC team member will verify this incident first.
12. A warning will be by phone call with a follow up text or email to the shareholder or manager and will be accompanied by a photo or video (where possible) to assist in identification.
13. The Shareholder will be instructed to turn off the offending irrigator and remedy the issue as soon as possible before resuming irrigation with that irrigator. The Shareholder must also contact their on-farm irrigation supplier to advise of the incident and request possible remediation options. The Shareholder will provide information on the possible options to AIC within two weeks of the incident.

### **Second Warning**

14. If one of the shareholder's irrigators is sighted applying water directly onto the road for a second time during the same irrigation season, the Shareholder will receive a warning from an AIC team member advising of this. If it is the same irrigator that has already received a warning, then the Shareholder will be asked to confirm what action (if any) has been taken.
15. The Shareholder will be instructed to stop taking water from that property for 48 hours or until they can provide confirmation to AIC with written confirmation or a plan:
  - a. outlining the proposed upgrade, modification and/or application of technology required; or
  - b. outlining an appropriate wind management plan for operating the offending irrigator.

**Third Warning**

16. If a shareholder's irrigator is sighted applying water directly onto the road for a third time during the same irrigation season having already received two warnings. They will receive a phone call from the CEO advising of this.
17. The Shareholder will stop taking water from all offtakes on that property until such time as AIC can be confident that action has been taken which prevents this happening again.
18. Notice of this warning will be taken to the next Board meeting for consideration of further remedies as a breach of clause 5.1(v) of the Water Supply Agreement.  
This includes, but is not limited to, scheduling an on-farm audit of the farm's irrigation system at the shareholder's cost.