



IRRIGATION RESEARCH & EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Guidelines for authors

Thank you for considering submitting an article to the IREC *Farmers' Newsletter*.

The publication

The *Farmers' Newsletter* is a magazine or journal primarily for irrigation farmers. The publication was first produced in 1944 and has long been considered a valuable source of information for irrigators.

The *Farmers' Newsletter* is distributed to over 4500 readers, in the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Murray and Murray-Goulburn valleys. The magazine is distributed to irrigators as well as government and commercial advisors and researchers, and several international research centres and libraries.

The *Farmers' Newsletter* seeks articles on:

- research projects
- field demonstrations
- reviews of practices, products and new enterprises
- case studies of new practices, products and services
- issues affecting irrigation practices and sustainability
- activities and programs to enhance irrigators' skills and networks

Style

The *Farmers' Newsletter* presents comprehensive information on technology and issues relevant to irrigators. The publication strives to be more detailed and technical than a media release or newspaper article, but not as formal or encompassing as a paper for a scientific journal.

For articles on research projects, the focus should be on why the research was instigated and what the results will mean for irrigators. There is no need to detail methodology (including the operation of models) or present large amounts of data.

Articles of **1500–2000 words** are ideal.

As far as possible, within the constraints of clear English, the editor will maintain the writing style of the author.

Audience

The audience is primarily irrigators, who have extensive practical experience and a broad range of educational qualifications. As a benchmark when dealing with highly technical information, write for an audience with an understanding of general science at a high school level – Years 10–11.

Format

Submit your article as a Word document, with minimal formatting, ie make sections and subsections clear but please do not use automatic headings or numbering, fancy fonts or treacherous text boxes. The graphic designer does all the ‘pretty’ stuff.

Graphics

Absolutely!!! Pictures especially, and graphs, make the article much more interesting.

The graphic designer can produce the best results when images are submitted as **jpeg or tif files** (saved at greater than 300 dpi, at about 300KB +). Embedded images (ie photos stuck into Word) lead to dubious quality and make for very big files for editing and approval, and sometimes compromise the success and effectiveness of document transmission.

Graphs are best submitted as **Excel charts**, so they can be edited to a consistent format throughout the publication.

Consideration for publication

The editor will consider all submissions on the basis of:

- relevance to the audience
- compatibility with the style of the publication
- objectiveness
- timeliness of submission

Articles are not refereed however in some cases the editor may consult an expert in the field for an opinion of the article or part thereof.

Editor’s details

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