



IRRIGATION RESEARCH & EXTENSION COMMITTEE

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FOR IRRIGATION CROPPERS

The future for irrigation production

Paper prepared by

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THE FUTURE FOR IRRIGATION PRODUCTION

Andrew Gregson, Chief Executive Officer - NSW Irrigators Council

NSW Irrigators Council is the peak representative group for irrigated agriculture in the State. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the Council is widely recognised at all levels of government, in the media and in the public sphere as an effective and efficient policy and advocacy entity.

The Council has been at the forefront of having water entitlements recognised as a property right. That achievement has, to a large extent, dictated where water policy in the Murray Darling Basin has proceeded to recently.

Andrew will provide an update on Commonwealth Government policy and process, starting with a background to the formation of the Murray Darling Basin Authority and the Council's position on the development of the Basin Plan. He will provide opinions on the likely outcomes in the Plan.

Water trading and the new rules surrounding it, together with the Commonwealth's buyback plan, will be discussed in some depth.

Significant sums are available for infrastructure upgrades both on and off farm in the Basin as a direct result of the work on NSWIC, its member bodies and like-minded organisations. Andrew will discuss the programs that are available, how they came to be, what they are likely to achieve and how they will likely be rolled out.