



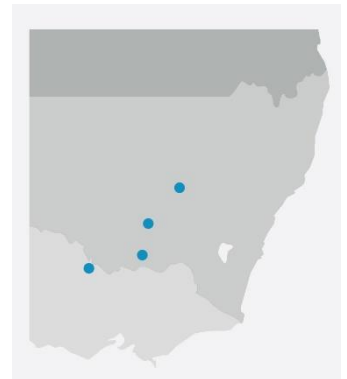
Key Learning Sites Southern NSW (making the most of water)

1. What is the project about?

This project aims to increase water productivity and profitability by expanding growers' knowledge of irrigation technology and best practice management.

The project is grower driven with grower groups involved with the management and activities at each of the key learning sites located in the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray valleys. A range of technologies will be used including soil moisture monitoring and automation to demonstrate best practice management around the limited use of water resources to obtain maximum dollars per mega litre in a range of irrigated cropping systems.

Project sites are located near Condoblin, Kerang, Darlington Point and Finley.



2. Why do irrigators need to know about it?

In 2014 - 2017 64% of monitored crops in the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valley's should have produced higher yields based on the volume of irrigation water applied. Many of the irrigation crops monitored suffered from drought stress before the first spring irrigation reducing the yield potential of the crop. These sub-optimal yields could have been avoided through better paddock drainage, sowing early in the sowing window, matching row spacing to the target yield and better scheduled irrigations.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327828505_Soil_under_an_irrigated_environment_ICF_00008_final_technical_report_2017



3. How will the research benefit irrigators?

The project aims to lift grower's knowledge so they can make more informed management decisions, optimising their return/ML water applied. Grower groups involved in the management of the sites are the Irrigation Research and Extension Committee (IREC), Central West Farming Systems (CWFS), Irrigated Cropping Council (ICC) and Southern Growers (SG).

One field day will be held at each of the key learning sites, also two inter-valley tours to enable growers from other regions to gain knowledge from work done outside their district.

4. Key results to date

- IREC – Cotton crop sown
- CWFS & ICC – winter/trials crop close to harvest.
- SG – Rice crop will not be sown this year, intensive rice/winter rotation will start with winter crop.

For further information or project progress updates, contact:

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