

# IREC UPDATE



**Trent Cosh from Incitec Pivot (left) presented Rob Houghton with his industry award.**  
Photo: Emma Jane Industry Photography

## IREC chair wins service to cotton industry award

Rob Houghton was awarded the Incitec Pivot Fertilisers 'Service to the Cotton Industry Award' for 2021, at the Southern Valley Cotton Growers Association annual awards dinner in July 2022.

Rob, who has chaired IREC since 2013, has not only helped rebuild IREC but has transformed the IREC Field Station at Whitton, with a fully automated surface irrigation and recycling system. Cotton Australia CEO Adam Kay summed up Rob's achievement.

"All cropping farmers ultimately benefit from Rob's efforts because he is so generous of his time and resources. He has dedicated hundreds of hours as chair and also through his management of the IREC Field Station site, which hosts research aimed at helping everyone to improve their crop outcomes."

Congratulations Rob on a very well-deserved award!



**Field walks and discussion group meetings are at the centre of IREC activities. They are a vital way for farmers and advisors to learn and keep up to date with crop production options, practices and management.**

## Irrigation research update is back

After a hiatus of several years, the IREC Irrigation Research Update returned in July. Irrigators and advisors caught up on a range of irrigation-focused research that has been happening across the region over the past few years.

Presentations included key learnings from the Optimising Irrigated Grains project and local maize trials, information about a new rice variety and rice agronomy, updates on controlling weeds around water stops, the Cool Soil Initiative, durum wheat for yield and protein, herbicide resistance and distribution of weeds, using genetics to infer movement of weeds, and the COALA-ag decision support tool using satellite data.

The update booklet is available from the [IREC Website](https://www.irec.org.au) for those who missed out.



**50 farmers, advisors and industry representatives attended the IREC Irrigation Research Update in July.**  
Photo: Rachel Diversi

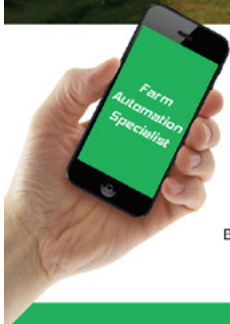
## Final season for irrigated grains project

The Optimising Irrigated Grains project, ends in early 2023, after a 12-month extension due to COVID-19. There are 2 focus paddocks in the region this winter.

The Leeton/Griffith paddock is trialling plant growth regulants to see if they increase standability and head retention in barley. Baudin was planted 13 July at 100 kg/ha seed with 70 kg/ha MAP, after cotton was picked.

The Coleambally paddock is trialling end of season (flag leaf) nitrogen application, growth regulants and irrigation strategies, to see the influence they have on final yield and quality in durum.

We would love to see you at one of the field walks coming up.



**ON-FARM CONSULTATION**

Book a **FREE** No obligation on-farm **irrigation consultation** with one of our experts. Call 1800 254 594 to book!



**FARMERS FRIEND**

We have built our reputation through innovation based on farmers feedback for the last 30 years.



**AUSTRALIAN MADE & OWNED**

The Padman Group are **100% Australian & Family Owned** specialising in farm automation, drainage and irrigation infrastructure solutions.

*Grow more food and fibre with less water and less labour*

GET IN TOUCH: ● 1800 254 594 ● info@padmanstops.com.au ● www.padmanstops.com.au

