

SMARTER IRRIGATION FOR PROFIT

Grower led irrigation system research in the Gwydir Valley 2009-2018

The Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc. (GVIA) is leading an irrigation systems comparisons trial at Moree, NSW.

The trial coordinated by the GVIA in partnership with Sundown Pastoral Company was initiated at Keytah in 2009-2010. The 2015-2016 season will be the fourth year that the Keytah system comparison trial has run. The systems included are; the traditional furrow system, bankless channel, lateral move and subsurface drip irrigation.

It has been designed to compare the yield and water use efficiency of four different irrigation systems commonly in use in the Australian cotton industry. All water on and off each system is measured and comparisons made for bales per hectare and bales per megalitre.

As energy and labour resources are important to the efficient management of irrigation properties the project has also collected information on the relative energy and labour resource requirements of each system.

The grower led irrigation system comparison trial will develop comparative results for the major resource inputs of each of the different irrigation systems. The information will enable cotton growers to make more informed infrastructure investment decisions.



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