



Monday, 9 April 2018

Scientists and farmers share irrigation learnings at public event

More than one hundred people will converge on Longford tomorrow (**Tuesday, 10 April 2018**), to discuss precision irrigation at an event that has attracted presenters from around Australia.

The Statewide Irrigation Event brings together farmers, agricultural consultants, scientists and agribusiness representatives to hear the latest research from national experts, and learn from the real-life experience of local growers.

The annual event is organised by the Water for Profit program, an irrigation research, development and extension program led by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA).

Acting Director of TIA, James Stronach, said the program has worked with five farmer groups around the state to equip growers with the right skills and information to increase profits and sustainability from their investment in water.

“Over the last three years, we have engaged with more than 50 farming businesses through the Water for Profit program. Feedback from farmers that have participated in the program has been overwhelmingly positive and many have told us they’ve gained new knowledge that will help add value to their business,” he said.

“With the continuing expansion of irrigation into farming systems in Tasmania, and increasing opportunities from new technology for greater precision and automation in irrigation, it’s important that the Water for Profit program has been shaped and guided by the farmers themselves.”

Presenters at the 2018 Statewide Irrigation Event include:

- **Tim Neale** from DataFarming and **Luke Taylor** from AgAssist will talk about technologies for precision irrigation and fertiliser treatments.

- **Dr Joseph Foley** from the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture brings his expertise in the design and operation of efficient and autonomous irrigation systems.
- **Josh Wing** from Harvest Moon and **Dr Will Bignell** from Bothwell will discuss their experiences with applying irrigation research and technologies to their farming operations.
- TIA soil scientist **Dr Bill Cotching** and Hagley farmer **Greg Gibson** will run a session on the implications for soils and drainage when irrigating.
- **Dr Darren Kidd** from DPIPWE combines new digital soil mapping, localised climate data and crop rules to create enterprise suitability maps.

The Statewide Irrigation Event is free to attend, and will be held from 8.30am to 2pm Tuesday 10 April at the Riverlands Centre, 159 Wellington Street, Longford.

Water for Profit is a collaborative program between the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA), and Macquarie Franklin.

TIA is a joint venture between the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania.

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