

March, 2003

RESEARCH PROPOSAL CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT

The research outlined below is based on Expressions of Interest received by, and feedback from, the Sustainable Irrigation Program Management Committee. It may not precisely describe the final project agreement, particularly in terms of final project design, cash and in-kind contributions.

Darling Basin Knowledge Delivery & Applications Going beyond normal extension activities to provide irrigators with the information they require when they request it	
Principal Investigator	Ingrid Christiansen, National Cotton Extension Coordinator, Australian Cotton CRC, QDPI, Toowoomba Qld.
Host Organisation	Australian Cotton Cooperative Research Centre
Issue or Problem to be Addressed	To date, knowledge from irrigation R, D&E has been somewhat fragmented, with different programs in each state. There is an opportunity to better integrate the efforts of agencies to gain greatest value from the investment in irrigation science and management to deliver outcomes for both production and the environment.
Objectives	• Increase the uptake of innovations by irrigators and irrigation system managers • Enhance return on investment in irrigation science and extension through integration and cooperation between organisations, public and private sector and across commodities • Develop a model for integrated irrigation extension with commodities based on provision of information using “just in time” private sector principles
Comment	The project is of considerable interest to the Sustainable Irrigation Program due to its potential to embed knowledge management into organizational systems. The nature of the inquiry will be directed at organizational system analysis of at least two participating agencies including at least one major agri-commerce company – and how they each receive, integrate and extend information to irrigators as clients; and how these systems are improved during the research period. The project will detail how the learnings may be transferred to other areas
Research Timeline	Stage one of the project will be completed within 6 months of contract signing and the whole project within 3 years.
Proposed Funding	Total budget available from Sustainable irrigation is \$250,000. Considerable cash and in-kind partnerships will result in a budget of approximately \$1.25M.