

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Urban Irrigation – Saving Sydney’s Water

Associate Professor Basant Maheshwari, School of Natural Sciences, is undertaking research to better understand the technical factors affecting the efficiency of urban irrigation. This project, funded by the Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures, will explore water use and efficiency across different irrigation methods in the Sydney metropolitan area (SMA). It aims to identify suitable strategies and tools that will help conserve water in the urban irrigation sector.



‘Water supply for the SMA is at a critical level and fortunately Sydney Water has implemented a number of key initiatives to curb urban water use’ said Professor Maheshwari. ‘However, we need to know more, particularly, how much water is being used in different localities, how irrigation water is specifically delivered and if irrigation systems in the SMA are operating efficiently. We also need to know more precisely how much water for irrigation is needed in the Sydney metropolitan area and get a picture of the strategies which will make urban irrigation more efficient in the medium to long-term’.

This study will carry out surveys to find out what people think about these issues and then will do a more detailed study of households and commercial water users’ water use practices. As part of this, an ‘irrigation system check’ will be made on selected sites and the efficiency of the current watering practices monitored. Data collected by water meters installed at these sites will enable researchers to measure the savings from improved efficiency and soil moisture monitors will assess how the amount and timing of irrigation relates to the patterns of moisture in the soil.

The outcomes of this research will enable the researchers to suggest practices and strategies that encourage more efficient urban irrigation design, installation and operation. These will aim to deliver significant reduction in overall water usage.

Project Title: *Urban Irrigation in Sydney Metropolitan Area Developing Strategies for Efficient Irrigation.*

Research Partner: *Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures (CRC IF)*

Funding has been set at: \$ 75,819.

April 2006.

Contact Details

b.maheshwari@uws.edu.au

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/acadorg/schools/naturalsciences>

<http://www.irrigationfutures.org.au/info.asp>