

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Regional Irrigation Business Partnership™

Associate Professor Basant Maheshwari, School of Natural Sciences, is undertaking research in partnership with a range of stakeholders to achieve a more sustainable urban water supply. The Regional Irrigation Business Partnership Development (RIBP)™ is funded by the Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures and aims to help reduce potable water demand in the South Creek catchment of Western Sydney.



‘Sydney faces growing demand for water because of urban development and the total water use now exceeds the long-term water yield of the catchment’ said Professor Maheshwari. ‘The water needs for environmental flows for the Hawkesbury-Nepean River System are scheduled to increase. These releases of water are critical for maintaining the health of the rivers upon which, in turn, ecosystems and industries depend. The environmental flows will further reduce the water available for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes in the region and could have serious effects on quality of life, employment opportunities and the future survival of agriculture, horticulture and other industries’.

To create a unified way of dealing with this water crisis consultation with key stakeholders will be held to develop ways to reduce the demand on water supply, protect the environment and manage water usage in an economically sustainable manner. Researchers will carry out interviews and workshops with key business stakeholders who regulate, supply and value water as a resource.

The next step will be negotiating ways of cost sharing, levels of benefits and the sharing of data to formalise the specific contributions and roles of stakeholders. The project will result in a strategic planning document that will underpin the full implementation of the RIBP™.

Project Title: *Regional Irrigation Business Partnership™ Development.*

Key stakeholders include: *Sydney Water Corporation, Sydney Water Futures Research Alliance (SWFRA), NSW Farmers Federation, Sydney Catchment Authority, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority, Hawkesbury-Nepean Local Government Advisory Group, Hawkesbury City Council, Murray Darling Basin Commission, Department of Environment and Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, NSW Health Department, Department of Planning, Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS), Office of the Minister for Western Sydney, Lower-Hawkesbury Irrigators Association, IoTeq, Earthtech.*

Funding has been set at: \$30,000.
May 2006.

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