



Media Statement

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Irrigation efficiency advanced with cropping calculator

Western Australia's primary producers will have the latest water efficiency technology at their disposal thanks to the state government and Vegetables WA.

The e-irrigation system stands for efficient irrigation and was developed collaboratively by Vegetables WA - the peak body in WA for vegetable growers – and the Department of Agriculture and Food (WA) with funding from the Premier's Water Foundation managed by the Department of Water.

"It is one example of technology and best practice being encouraged in Western Australia to allow continued high levels of production in a drying climate," Department of Water industry liaison officer Jeff Major said.

Mr Major said it was by supporting projects such as this that the Department of Water was helping industry develop the tools to assist the state meet its efficiency targets.

"This project was sponsored because it was developed specifically for the sandy soils environment of the greater metropolitan area where a large amount of Perth city's vegetables and fruits are grown, and which supply retail outlets," Major said.

"This technology empowers the industry to maintain production in a drying climate.

"This second stage of the project, which incorporates the crop specific information, takes it to the next level and gives daily, real time, crop specific water use advice.

"It is hoped by Vegetables WA that this system will eventually be used by all agricultural sectors across the state but the department encourages any system that assists in efficiency – particularly in irrigation.

Department of Water Director General Kim Taylor praised the launch of the new web-enabled irrigation regulator.

"The e-irrigation system is one of many ways that partnerships between government and industry are working towards the target of increased water efficiency as set by the State Water Plan 2007," Mr Taylor said.

"The target is to achieve 20 per cent efficiency gains by 2011 across the agricultural sector.



Department of Water
Government of Western Australia

The software can be accessed by visiting the web address
http://www.vegetableswa.com.au/demo_crop.asp

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