

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Land & water plans offer much more

Access to better information is becoming more important in today's agricultural sector, as farmers strive for improved efficiency and productivity.

This is particularly true for the irrigation sector, as input costs rise and water becomes a more closely managed and scarce resource.

According to Michelle Prendergast from Swift NRM, a Land and Water Management Plan can ensure efficiency and productivity are maximised, by equipping irrigators with the best possible information.

"Land and Water Management Plans are currently a regulatory requirement, but they can offer so much more", said Michelle.

"If done well, a Land and Water Management Plan can offer a significant return-on-investment.

"With accurate soil mapping and soil classification, detailed topographic data, and an assessment of current water use practices, substantial water savings can be achieved," she said.

"This means more megalitres each year, and more production per megalitre. Ultimately, a Land and Water Management Plan can lead to more dollars in the pocket."

Land and Water Management Plans are required under the Water Act 2000 if water is traded two out of three consecutive water years, if a new allocation is obtained, or if works are constructed to capture tail-water or runoff, among other triggers.

"As water trading becomes more common, there will be a growing demand for these Plans. I would encourage irrigators not to become part of a queue, but to be proactive and use this as an opportunity to improve their business."

For more information, or assistance in preparing a Land and Water Management Plan, contact Michelle Prendergast on (07) 4671 7900 or 0428 468 865.

**ENDS**

### **Media contact/s**

Michelle Prendergast, NRM Planning Officer, Swift NRM, 07 4671 7900 or 0428 468 865

**Caption:** Michelle Prendergast, Swift NRM, says that better management of land and water resources are essential to farming.



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