



# COTTON TALES

## Darling Downs

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### The First Cotton and Grains Irrigation Workshop comes to the Downs

The first in this series of workshops, the Irrigation Benchmarking and Water Budgeting Workshop will be held on 22 August.

#### Why Do I Need to Benchmark?

Benchmarking is the collection and analysis of data which enables a business to strive for improvement by comparing current performance to appropriate internal or external performance measures. Calculating recognised water use indices and irrigation efficiencies will give you a standard calculation that can be compared to another field, farm or other region over time. Using standard performance measures allows meaningful comparisons.

This workshop has an emphasis on practical material that can be taken away and applied in the field by growers, farm managers and consultants.

All the Cotton and Grains Irrigation workshops are flexible and practical and mapped to national training competencies, so they can contribute towards obtaining a nationally recognised qualification if desired.

Two further workshops in this series, Scheduling I and Surface Irrigation Performance Evaluation are in the pipeline and will be delivered further down the track in October and December.

#### DATE CLAIMER

#### Irrigation Benchmarking and Water Budgeting Workshop

**Date:** Wednesday 22 August

**Location:** Dalby DPI&F Meeting Room

**Time:** 9.00-12.00

*If you are interested and would like to attend the Dalby workshop please contact Jenelle Hare on 46690825 or email [Jenelle.Hare@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:Jenelle.Hare@dpi.qld.gov.au).*

### CRCIF Centre Pivot and Lateral Move Training Course

As mentioned in the last Cotton Tales the Co-operative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures is offering national training courses for consultants and growers on centre pivot and lateral move irrigation systems.

**Update:** There is a 2 day course for growers/managers which will be held at the Goondiwindi Training and Technology Centre, 15-21 Russell Street, on 19-20 September. Times are from 8.30am – 4.30pm for both days.

To guarantee a local course on the Downs approximately 15 participants are required. If you are interested in attending a training course please contact Jenelle Hare, 46690825, as soon as possible to register your interest. The course will be held at a later time, but this is dependent on the trainer's commitments.

However the opportunity exists to attend the Goondiwindi course. If you wish to do so please follow the details below.

**Registration Details:** To register and view details of the Goondiwindi CP&LM course, logon to the CRCIF web site listed below, complete the registration form and fax the completed form to 02 4570 1684.

[www.irrigationfutures.org.au/imagesDB/events/CPLMtrainingcourseGoondiwindi.pdf](http://www.irrigationfutures.org.au/imagesDB/events/CPLMtrainingcourseGoondiwindi.pdf)

The cost of the course is \$330 (including GST). This course is approved for FarmBis funding for Queensland participants and eligible participants will receive a 65% subsidy on course fees and will pay **\$115.50**. Participants who are travelling will also receive 50% subsidy on accommodation and travel costs plus 75% subsidy for childcare.

Further information on FarmBis funding is available from their website [www.farmbis.qld.gov.au](http://www.farmbis.qld.gov.au).

Also the TOPUP CP/LM training course for advisors, consultants and growers/managers is available at the NCEA, USQ in Toowoomba on 5-6<sup>th</sup> December. Cost is \$1000 ex GST. For further details and registration logon to the CRC Irrigation Futures web site listed above and follow the links.