

RESEARCH PROPOSAL CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT

The research outlined below is based on Expressions of Interest received by, and feedback from, the Sustainable Irrigation Program Management Committee. It may not precisely describe the final project agreement, particularly in terms of final project design, cash and in-kind contributions.

<p>Delivering Sustainability through Risk Management Demonstrating the role and implementation opportunities of an ecological risk management approach</p>	
Principal Investigator	Prof Barry T Hart, Director, Water Studies Centre, Monash University
Host Organisation	Monash University Vic 3800
Issue or Problem to be Addressed	The new Ecological Risk Assessment protocol requires explanation and integration within the irrigation industry.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To extend the development and knowledge management of the Irrigation Ecological Risk Assessment project to allow the protocols to be adopted nationally • To trial in 4 irrigation regions and provide training courses to foster adoption. • To engage with planning authorities and regulators at regional, state and Commonwealth levels as an input into policy development and application.
Comment	The Sustainable Irrigation Program established an Ecological Risk Assessment framework for assessing the ecological risks associated with Australian irrigation systems. This new decision support tool should assist the Australian irrigation industry in quantifying and prioritizing the ecological risks from their activities, and also to better focus their management actions to minimize these risks. Now it needs to be integrated into existing systems at all levels.
Research Timeline	24 – 27 months
Proposed Funding	Total budget from Sustainable Irrigation Program \$200,000, with in-kind and cash contributions from other partners. Total Project approx \$800,000