

Improving irrigation management  
for a profitable and sustainable future

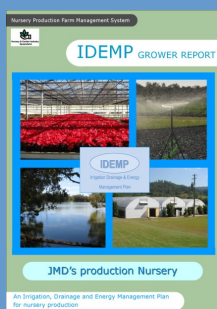


Queensland Government

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Irrigation, Drainage & Energy Management Plans (IDEMP) describe the infrastructure and management practices in operation at a production nursery and outline plans, designs, suggestions and opportunities for on-farm system and equipment improvements and upgrades.

IDEMP's support growers in nursery production to address both economic and environmental issues relating to water access, recycling, storage and use to ensure the business remains profitable and sustainable into the future.



**IDEMP**  
Irrigation Drainage & Energy  
Management Plan



Nursery & Garden Industry  
Queensland

# The Pipeline

An electronic update on Nursery Production RWUE-IF project activities

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date 25.2.2014 Page 1

## Nursery Production Rural Water Use Efficiency—Irrigation Futures (RWUE-IF)

Welcome to the first edition of "The Pipeline", a regular e-newsletter keeping you up to date with the Nursery Production RWUE-IF project. In this newsletter we'll be letting you know what projects we've completed and what's happening in the future, as well as providing technical information on how you can improve your irrigation and drainage system.

It's been a busy couple of months getting the details of the project bedded down. The team has been working out annual calendars, field testing data gathering tools, and developing report formats.

The big news for February has been the launch of the NGIQ Technical Information Library webpage. This web based resource contains articles, links and videos on a wide range of nursery production topics including many on irrigation, drainage and energy.

This useful resource can be accessed via the NGIQ website or directly at <http://ngiq.asn.au/technical-information/>

Over the next month we'll be out in the field conducting forums, introducing growers to Irrigation Drainage and Energy Management Plans (IDEMP's—see page 2) and gathering data from growers to begin developing their IDEMP's.



**Steve Hart and Lex McMullin discussing IDEMP's with Denis Roe - Birdwood Nursery**

## The Nursery Production RWUE-IF Team

**Steve Hart** - With a lifetime of experience in the nursery industry plus his qualifications in irrigation Steve is well placed to give practical advice on nursery irrigation, drainage and energy. Steve's main focus will be on collecting field data and introducing growers to the project in all parts of the state.

**Thea Pobjoy** - Our North Queensland representative looking after growers in the Mackay to

Wet Tropics region. Thea's involvement in the previous RWUE project enables to help out growers with their irrigation and drainage problems.

**Lex McMullin** - Has a wide breadth of technical expertise and qualifications gained over many years in the industry, Lex will be giving backup to the field team with office and technical support.

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**RURAL  
WATER USE  
EFFICIENCY**  
**IRRIGATION  
FUTURES**

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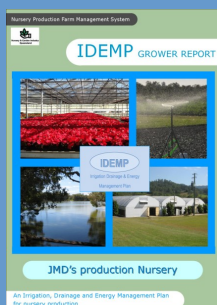


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## Irrigation, Drainage & Energy Management Plans (IDEMP)

**What is an Irrigation, Drainage & Energy Management Plan (IDEMP)?**

An Irrigation, Drainage & Energy Management Plan (IDEMP) is a confidential grower document that details site water and irrigation infrastructure, resources and management practices within a production nursery.

An IDEMP identifies opportunities to improve irrigation and drainage management, water use efficiency (WUE) and reduce energy use.

IDEMP's are a NGIQ initiative preparing growers to plan the productive, profitable and sustainable use of irrigation water for nursery production.

**Why participate in the program?**

An IDEMP improves the productivity and profitability of a business while demonstrating both responsible and effective natural resource management.

An IDEMP identifies current equipment and nursery practices that could be upgraded or improved to increase water and energy use efficiency.

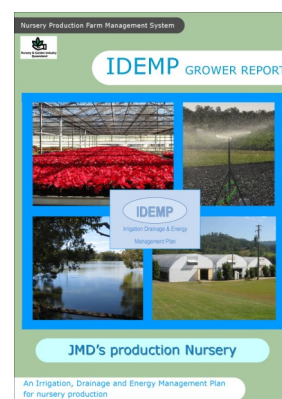
Competition for irrigation water is increasing requiring responsible and sustainable planning to ensure continued access.

Development of an IDEMP may also provide evidence of responsible and sustainable business activity to support applications to

financial institutions or submissions to local or state authorities. This is a limited opportunity to receive approximately \$10,000 of technical and professional assistance over the next 3.5 years in on-farm assessment, planning and implementation.

**Who can participate in the program?**

This NGIQ initiative is only available to a select number of production nurseries throughout Queensland who register to participate.



For further information or to register your interest in participating in this initiative please contact:

John McDonald    [nido@ngiq.asn.au](mailto:nido@ngiq.asn.au)

## In the pipeline for March 2014

Over the next month we'll be in the following areas conducting the following activities:



- Mackay/Whitsundays RWUE-IF grower visits - Thea.
- Burnett/Wide Bay project forum and introductions - Steve and Lex.
- Wet Tropics RWUE-IF grower visits - Thea.
- Wide Bay on-farm IDEMP audits - Lex and Steve.
- Lockyer Valley - on-farm IDEMP audits - Steve.
- Brisbane Trade Day Wednesday 19/3/14- Steve.
- Technical article for the Leaflet magazine.
- Mackay/ Whitsunday project forum and on-farm IDEMP audits - Thea and Steve.