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www.publish.csiro.au/journals/ajea
Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture, 2004, **44**, i

Foreword

Efficient use of irrigation water is important to the future of the irrigated dairy industry in northern Victoria and southern New South Wales and the regional economy and community. Research, development and extension to improve irrigation and drainage management is critical. The work documented in this Special Issue makes a significant contribution to ensuring the industry responsibly manages natural resources and prospers into the future.

Ian Cobbledick
Chair — Murray Dairy

The Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Strategy aims to secure the productive capacity, future prosperity and environmental quality of the Shepparton Region. This is tackled by effectively managing the salinity of the land and the quality of water resources. Critical to the implementation of this strategy is the strong partnership between the community and agencies. Research has played an important role in the development and implementation of the Catchment Strategy over the past 10 years. The direction of the research has largely been driven by the community, through representation, priority setting and gap analysis in committees of the land and water management plan.

The Catchment Strategy maintains its commitment to developing and adopting new knowledge and technologies to address both the traditional and emerging natural resource management and environmental issues. Research outlined in this special issue is highly relevant to the region, providing information that will enhance both production and natural resource outcomes to the region.

Russell Pell
Chairman — Shepparton Irrigation Region
Implementation Committee
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

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10.1071/EA04901
0816-1089/04/020i