

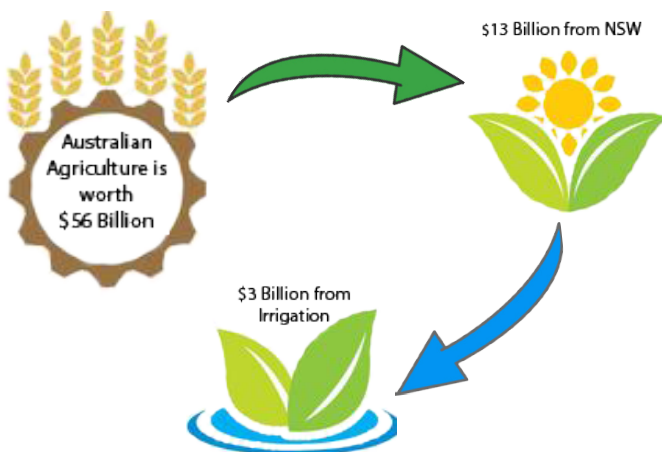


Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc.
making every drop count

Agriculture in the Gwydir

There's no better time to be in agriculture, with the industry fast evolving for modern production, and opening doors to careers that are exciting, innovative and rewarding. It is a fabulous industry to work in, supported by dedicated professionals who are passionate about agriculture, and its future.

Agriculture is an important part of both the Australian and the NSW economies.



In regional NSW the opportunities are endless with broad career choices and investment prospects. There are opportunities in irrigated or dryland cropping, horticulture, grazing, intensive livestock or aquaculture.

Agriculture is at the cutting edge of invention, constantly driving to enhance our productive capacity.



Career opportunities include;

- on-farm positions,
- irrigation technicians,
- decision support services such as agronomy and crop monitoring technology,
- machinery technicians to implement control mechanisms like robotics or variable rate technology,
- design and management services such as surveying,
- plant breeding and biotechnology,
- livestock genetics,
- research and
- support services including financial advisers or marketing specialists.



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The Irrigation Industry

The Gwydir Valley irrigation industry has enjoyed enormous efficiencies and technological advancement in recent years.

Expertise continues to grow surrounding technology designed to enhance the efficiency of water management, adapt to labour resourcing shortages and manage the increasing cost of energy.

Innovation in surface irrigation techniques include the use of tools to aid in irrigation scheduling and system design incorporating bankless channel and siphon automation. There are also advances in management and scheduling technology for drip and overhead irrigation systems.

Technicians with an understanding of pumping systems, water monitoring, pressurised systems and irrigation design are as important as ever, as irrigators invest in new technology.



Horticulture

Tree cropping is an industry currently experiencing rapid expansion across the Gwydir Valley, with drip irrigation predominantly the system of choice. Producers are using novel techniques to schedule irrigation, utilising tree propagation and nurseries to speed up time to harvest. They support production with integrated quality control systems.

Agronomy

Agronomic consultants are a critical component of productive agriculture, especially in more intensive irrigation industries like cotton and horticulture.

It is a diverse field incorporating soils, nutrition, crop management, integrated pest management and the use of digital technology to aid in decision making.





Planning and Engineering

The best production and irrigation systems come from the initial investigation and planning phase. Career opportunities for surveyors, resource and environmental officers and engineers are plentiful.

On-farm Employees

Agriculture is still reliant upon on-farm employees, who will be at the forefront of change, with opportunities to expand their skills through the adoption of new technology.

The use of auto steer and monitoring technology is prevalent, and will continue to innovate going forward.

Agricultural Support Services

The agricultural service network is extensive, including; Marketers, Accountants, Financial specialists, Legal, Human Resource and Quality Assurance advisers.



Digital Agriculture

Digital agriculture is growing at a rapid rate and includes data collected from electro magnetic surveys, drones or satellites.

There is a wealth of information to be collected, interpreted and utilised to fine tune management practices and boost productivity. There are exciting opportunities for technicians to support the industry in making decisions using the data.

Use of Automation or Robotics

Automation or remote control of irrigation and the introduction of robotics into machinery are thrilling growth areas. Telemetry is widely utilised in the industry, with an ever increasing number of devices being installed on-farm to support decision making.





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