

Burdekin Irrigation Project FAQs



Save water. Save money.

What's the Burdekin Irrigation Project (BIP) all about?

The BIP team will support Lower Burdekin sugarcane farmers to transition to more efficient irrigation systems and practices in order to reduce on-farm irrigation expenses, run-off and deep drainage losses and improved productivity and profitability.

Who is running the BIP?

The BIP is a collaborative initiative of Sugar Research Australia (SRA), Farmacist, Burdekin Productivity Services, Agritech, BBIFMAC and JCU. Together this group is known as the consortium.

How long will the BIP run?

The project will run for three and a half years, from February 2021 to June 2024.

Where will the BIP be rolled out?

The project will run across the Lower Burdekin.

What are the aims of the BIP?

The BIP aims to help growers save energy, water and money while improving productivity and profitability from irrigated sugarcane.

How will sugarcane growers in the Burdekin benefit from the project?

BIP farmers will:

- receive one-on-one support to strategically improve irrigation systems
- identify opportunities to save on energy and irrigation costs
- investigate potential water use efficiencies

- improve productivity and profitability
- develop a plan for irrigation improvement which may also support a case for third party financial incentives, if and when they are offered to the lower Burdekin region.

BIP co-benefits

Co-benefits of the BIP include:

- reduced water loss from the farm as run-off or deep drainage
- improved environmental outcomes.

How will the project work?

The BIP team is made up of four extension officers (representing SRA, BPS, Farmacist and Agritech Solutions) who will work one-on-one with farmers to:

- measure existing water and energy use and identify inefficiencies or potential losses
- help farmers identify new irrigation techniques, tools and technologies to improve on-farm water and energy efficiencies
- develop a tailored irrigation improvement plan.

The project will also feature demonstration farms where growers can see smart practice in action and hold field days to enable networking, information sharing and updates from the project team.

Where can I find out more about the BIP?

Please contact SRA Adoption Officer

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