

Farmer rebate budget: Eligible tools and services

A baseline assessment is conducted by the delivery team (DT) with the farmer on the Burdekin Irrigation Project (BIP) to understand:

- how much water is applied per irrigation
- when it's applied
- at what cost
- what opportunity for improvement exists.

Participants may be eligible for a farmer rebate on projects to improve irrigation management practices. Opportunities to improve the timing of irrigation events and the amount of irrigation applied must be addressed before being eligible for rebates for:

- tools
- tariff review (TR)
- pumping system assessment (PSA).

The tools budget is used to purchase tools to achieve **Level 1, 2 or 3 outcomes**.

Maximum allowable rebate (GST exclusive)					
	Tools (\$/ha)	Tariff review (\$/ha)	Pumping system assessment (\$/ha)	Combined ¹ (\$/ha)	Max rebate (Up to 200ha ²)
Level 1	\$ 15	not eligible	not eligible	\$ 15	\$ 3,000
Level 2	\$ 70	\$ 10	\$ 60	\$ 140	\$ 28,000
Level 3	\$ 80	\$ 10	\$ 60	\$ 150	\$ 30,000

¹ The combined Rebate (\$/ha) provides flexibility, where the TR and/or PSA budget can be reallocated into the tools budget. (Unspent maximum allowable rebate for the tools budget however cannot be reallocated into the TR or PSA budgets.)

² The maximum rebate is calculated using the actual project area in hectares multiplied by the rebate amount for the Level that the grower has nominated to participate in the project.

If a project area is greater than 200ha, the total area is eligible for irrigation management improvement. The eligible rebate calculation is calculated using a cap of 200 ha.

Criteria for all levels:

- Cash co-contributions from farmers is a requirement.
- In addition to the eligible rebate amount per hectare, the rebate support is capped at a maximum of 50% of the total grower cash expenditure.

EXAMPLES

Tools – Soil moisture (SM) probes

SM probes that are eligible for rebates.	Typical costs (approx.)	Maximum rebate (\$15.00 per eligible ha in BIP)	BIP approved supplier	Comment
MEA G-dot	MEA G-dot and granular matrix sensor from \$330	\$165/probe or 50% of the invoiced price (whichever is lower)	Farmacist	These are standard probes that are easily purchased from multiple suppliers. Rebate does not cover: installation, telemetry, logging devices, web hosting
Tensiometer	600 mm Jetfill from \$270	\$135/probe or 50% of the invoiced price (whichever is lower)	AgriTech Solutions	
Capacitance probes – measuring soil moisture & temperature	400 mm probe from \$820 800 mm probe from \$1,000	\$410/400 mm probe or 50% of the invoiced price (whichever is lower) \$500/800 mm probe or 50% of the invoiced price (whichever is lower)	AgriTech Solutions	

Tools – Pump timers

Timers that are eligible for rebates	Typical costs (approx.)	Maximum rebate (\$70 per eligible ha in BIP)	Supplier	Comment
Manual (analogue) and electronic timers	Hardware for a timer and control switch from \$360.	\$180/timer or 50% of the invoiced price (whichever is lower)	Local electricians and electrical suppliers.	These are standard devices that are easily purchased from electricians and multiple suppliers. Pump timers will be limited to a maximum number of 1 per 10 ha. Rebate does not cover installation
Note: Analogue timers are usable on any site. Digital timers require a neutral connection. It is advisable to have a separate control switch which enables both manual and automatic operation.				

Tools - Automation

Maximum combined rebate is up to \$140 per eligible ha in BIP for level 2; and \$150 per eligible ha in BIP for level 3.				
Automation systems eligible for rebates	Supplier	Typical costs	Comment	
WiSA	AgriTech Solutions (Burdekin)	Base station, UPS and computer \$11,900 Pump controller and pressure transducer \$3,700 T-piece (151Mhz radio, solar panel, 2 x actuators) \$4,200 Advance sensor (portable includes radio, solar panel, 1 x sensor) \$3,300 Annual subscription: nil	PC-based system with remote access via the internet. Actuator brackets supplied by farmer. Typical installation costs are included.	

Level 1, 2 and 3 tool examples and justification

All items require justification and approval from the BIP delivery team.
Items include but are not limited to the following:

Eligible items	Justification	Ineligible items	Justification
Soil moisture monitoring probes: G-Dot, tensiometer, capacitance probes etc	Assist with timing of irrigation events BIP will agree on BMP protocols	Fluming	General maintenance cost
Scheduling tools – IrrigWeb, Opticane, ETO & Kc	Used to determine crop water use and soil water deficit	Pipelines	General setup or maintenance cost
Pump timers or controllers	Ability to turn pumps off at a prescribed time	Infrastructure – recycle pit	Out of scope
End-of-row sensors	Able to measure when irrigation events are complete	Land levelling	General farm cost
VFD	Regulating pump flow to improve applied volume and avoid practices like reduce “dumping” of water into wet fields.	Solar systems	Out of scope
Automation equipment: WISA,	Able to control and monitor pump and/or irrigation valves	Automatic weather stations	Out of scope
Rain gauges – manual or automatic	Additional rain fall data improves scheduling	Meter box upgrades	General maintenance cost
Flow meters – permanent installations	To measure the flow of a pump		