

Effluent application through a pipe and riser system

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

The Sustainable Irrigation Program (SIP) has recently run several irrigation demonstration projects to showcase innovative practices and technologies.

This demonstration was held at Steve and Jess Knight's farm at Llowalong. They have recently installed pipe and riser systems, which they are using to apply effluent in targeted areas.

Key results:

- Effluent was applied to five trial areas and completely replaced fertiliser in those areas
- Soil and plant tissue testing showed that all nutrients were at optimum levels for the duration of the trial



Steve and Jess on one of their trial paddocks with their new pipe and riser



Steve and Jess's two-pond effluent system

'When the effluent water does get to the end of the bay, there is a re-use dam there where all of the water is captured and then can be directed back onto the farm so none of those nutrients are going into the local waterways.'
– Jess Knight

Other learnings:

- Soil testing is crucial to track nutrient levels in the soil
- Plant tissue testing is also very important to confirm whether nutrient in the soil is plant available
- Pipe and riser irrigation allows targeted application of effluent on specific paddocks
- Historic effluent paddocks may need to be mined of their nutrient for some years

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