

Effluent application through centre pivots using a self cleaning filter

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 Tom Gannons farm at Tinamba. Tom has recently converted to majority centre pivot irrigation, and was having difficulty applying effluent through his pivots.

Key results:

- Effluent filtration using inline and self cleaning pontoon filters is very effective
- Uniformity of the pivot rose from 65% to 87% after the filters were installed



Pontoon filter ready for installation, at a cost of \$28,000



Tom's two-pond effluent system

'If money wasn't an object, would I do something different with this project? ... I wouldn't change anything.'

– Tom Gannon

Other learnings:

- Effluent applied maintained the level of nutrients in the soil for the 12 month demonstration period, except for urea at 80 kg/ha
- Soil tests are essential to track nutrient levels in soil

'Since we're only putting small amounts on with the spray irrigation, that also gives us peace of mind that it's not running off the paddocks, it's not getting into our drainage system, and it's not getting into the waterways.'

– Tom Gannon

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