

Irrigation Options Summary

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Overview – key points

Government position		Investing in irrig/agriculture Aim 10x growth by 2050 Established “AgriGrowth” Investing in biosecurity, irrigation
“Outside looking in”		Opportunities & risks Be sustainable, avoid problems, best practice Work together
Tasmanian Irrigation		Public-private investment \$1b (\$600m from farmers) Now commissioning MWS
Roberts – Irrigation efficiency		Return per mm of irrigation Precision VRI looks easy FieldNet controls



Options

Pasture seeds	Production increasing	Grasses, clovers, herbs for export & domestic markets
Veg seeds	Looking for new growers	Range of crops Potential for growth, optimistic for future
Processed veg	Limited opportunities	Processing capacity limited Limited growth in Midlands Export of seed potatoes possible
Fresh veg	Onions Broccoli	Strong competition Some opportunities (e.g. Premium Fresh)



Options

Berry fruits	Strawberries Raspberries	Currently profitable Driscolls & Costas dominant players Blue berries?? Rasps – long term crop
Poppies	Need to defend the Midlands capacity	Commonwealth negotiations underway re growing interstate
Pyrethrum	No	Area not suitable No demand for extra land at present
Essential oils	No	No expansion Perhaps around exist distillation units.



Options

Vines	Growing + making wines	Growth in Tas 8% p.a. Tas wines not currently discounted Irrig for frost control important Site selection important
Stone fruits	Yes	Potential for apples, cherries, plums Cherries prefer high altitude - later harvest Fruit fly free status important for exports
Hazelnuts	Yes	Parts of Midlands well suited Focus on marketing
Dairy conversions	Yes	Processing capacity growing Markets available Other opportunities, agistment, grain and fodder production



Options

Fattening stock	Yes	Good role for fattening stock in irrigated areas Forward contracts available
Cereals	Yes	Irrigated yields 8-13 t/ha. Low risk compared to some other crops. Fits into rotations, dual purpose Use in dairy industry Other new grains? Canola to Japan possible
Hemp	Yes for seed	Seed (not fibre), two contracting companies. Regulations required seed for sowing and harvested product to be with contracts (Midlands Seeds, Hemp Australia).
Fodders	Yes	For dairy industry particularly New varieties promising, particularly legumes



Information sources

- Suitability maps - DPIPWE.
- Gross Margins - DPIPWE.
- Investment analyses
- Roberts and AK Consultants

