

WIDCORP Research Areas and Themes

The WIDCORP Research Program is continually evolving through extensive in-depth consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and in response to the ever-changing regional landscape and research needs. Continued dry conditions and the impacts of climate change and its mitigation are of increasing research interest. The four research areas formalised in 2007 have been reviewed in 2008 and remain unchanged. These are:

- **Sustainable systems**
- **Valuation of water and its uses**
- **Diffusion of innovation and change relating to major water reform**
- **Regional futures**

Research Context	
<p>Sustainable systems – contribute to understanding and informing decisions about the management of water in the Wimmera Mallee sub-basin across all its uses as climatic variability and major water infrastructure change water availability.</p> <p>The research is undertaken with the community end-users, is participatory and multidisciplinary in its approach.</p>	
Research Themes	
<p>Valuation of water and its uses</p> <p>Understand the value of water across all its uses to optimise economic, environmental, social and cultural outcomes as climatic variability and major water infrastructure change water availability.</p>	<p>Diffusion of innovation and change relating to major water reform</p> <p>Contribute to the adaptive capacity of the region and its communities by understanding innovation and change associated with agriculture and community enterprises, services, processes and behaviour as climatic variability and major water infrastructure change water availability.</p>
Research aims	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Map the various and contested uses of water in a dryland system</i> ➤ <i>Understand the value, changes in value and the impact of changing water supply scenarios on the economic, environmental, social and cultural values attributed to water.</i> ➤ <i>Deliver action oriented outcomes that will influence behaviours, decisions, practices and policy on the use and allocation of water as water supply is secured through water reforms within the constraints climatic change.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Understand and inform the community of factors that influence innovation and maximise the benefits derived from major water reform.</i> ➤ <i>Understand and foster the adaptation processes driving the physical, social, cultural and economic changes across the various uses of water as water supply changes.</i> ➤ <i>Identify the adaptive capacities of users and the optimal uses of water under differing supply and demand situations.</i> ➤ <i>To inform and deliver action oriented outcomes that will influence adaptive capacity of the region as water supply is secured through innovations and reforms within the constraints of climatic change.</i>