

Providing Water Management Information to Ensure Best Management Practices On-Farm.

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water"
Benjamin Franklin

Providing Irrigators with accurate *and representative water management information in a concise easy to interpret way allows them to make informed irrigation management decisions to optimise water usage and maximise productivity and quality.*

The HydroCom Alliance was formed to be able to provide Irrigators with a total Water Management Package – from sensors (such as Flow Meters and Soil Moisture) to Internet based data display and reporting.

HydroCom solutions provide growers with added value in addition to satisfying their consent obligations. By being able to seamlessly incorporate the proven Aquaflex Soil Moisture Sensor and other sensors into the HydroCom offering, growers have the tools to assist them in improving on-farm efficiencies.

To achieve this the AQUACOM Datalogging & Radio Telemetry System and the Hydrological Internet based Data Display & Reporting System were developed. Sensors such as Flow Meters and the AQUAFLEX Soil Moisture Sensor were already readily available but an infrastructure was needed to present accurate, representative data to the farmer to enable sound Irrigation Management Decisions.

A recent EECA study on a Canterbury Dairy farm showed a saving of over \$20,000 per year in pumping costs alone after implementing a HydroCom solution – in addition to this were savings in fertilisers due to elimination of leaching and also increased pasture production. This sort of saving is typical – in areas where more extensive pumping is required savings can be much greater.

