

Foreword

The Shepparton Irrigation Region is an important agricultural production area in Australia. The region continually seeks to improve water use and protect our natural resources and environment. To do this, it is critical to understand water interactions with soils, plants and the catchment. Information about soil hydraulic properties is essential to understand these interactions. Until recently, this information was not readily available.

This reference book contains a comprehensive set of soil hydraulic property data for the major soils of the Shepparton Irrigation Region. The data were collected through a two year study involving extensive field and laboratory measurements. This information fills a major gap in knowledge of the soils in our region. The data set complements and adds value to the existing soil maps of the region, which were produced mainly in the 1960s.

Many applications in irrigation and water management could use this data set. For example, it may be used to support farm irrigation system selection and design, irrigation scheduling, whole farm planning, land use planning, ground water and drainage water management. This publication will be a valuable reference for irrigators, land and water managers, scientists, engineers, designers, consultants and many others.

The existing soil maps have made a major contribution to the management of the region's natural resources. I am confident that this publication will continue that legacy and serve the region well in many decades to come.



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