

## Water meter, water mate

In this prolonged drought with restricted water entitlements and allocations, cotton growers and other irrigators are finding it more vital than ever to be able to measure whatever water they have. Added to this, being able to pump, store and move water around existing systems efficiently is also a high priority.

One simple way to measure water is with flexible metering and monitoring systems at the point of extraction and other vital points within the irrigation system including lift pumps, storage intakes, channel transfer points, field entry and tail water pumps.

Moree Engineering and Irrigation Services (MEIS) recorded significant efficiency benefits at a recent Mace AgriFlo water meter installation in southern Queensland. At the pump site a 400 hp engine running at 2000 rpm was driving a 26-inch Chinese pump.

A Mace AgriFlo meter was installed and the flow rate was recorded at 119 ML/day. It was felt that the engine and pump rev range were above manufacturer's specifications.

The revs were lowered and the instantaneous flow rate



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was monitored until the optimum flow rate of 148 ML/day was achieved at 1620 rpm. This represented an increased flow rate of 25 per cent at the same time as significantly reducing engine wear, pump wear and overall fuel consumption.



### SYSTEM BENEFITS

One of many cotton growers who are using Mace metering systems to their direct benefit at pump sites is Robert Harris of 'Avondale' Rowena. "This drought has highlighted that we need to know where our water is going and truly how much we are pumping," he says. "We use the instantaneous flow rate meters to our benefit on our pump sites with the hope to use them for further intra-farm monitoring once we get through the drought."

Will Kirkby, 'Glen Prairie' Morree agrees. "It is vital to be able to monitor your pump and your true extraction rates," he says. "Due to the versatility of the unit with its broad range of applications we will be looking to be introducing it within our irrigation system for internal flow monitoring benefits."

In the Macquarie Valley, Peter Thomas, 'Strathern' finds the Mace water meter allows him to control his pumps' discharge at varying head levels in the Macquarie River. "Currently we do not use the unit to it's full potential, but it is assuring to understand that we will be able to access historical flow data when we are ready to."

Attitudes are changing towards water meters, especially when they can be used as an integral tool to increase efficiency of pump sites. Something as simple as an instantaneous flow rate can save the irrigator thousands of dollars if used correctly. With the price of water as it has been over the last season, it doesn't take many megalitres investment to reap the benefits of a smart metering option.

To find out more about increasing your pump site's efficiency through accurate metering solutions, contact MACE Ph: 02 9980 2692, Mob: 0427 219 164, [www.mace.com.au](http://www.mace.com.au)



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