Project: Machinery replacement for growers in the Kwinana West port zone

Bios

Ben White Kondinin Group B Eng (Ag) Hons. — General Manager – Research. Ben White is an agricultural engineer, Kondinin Group's Research Manager and editor of *Farming Ahead* magazine. Coming from a farming background and having worked for the group for 17 years, Ben has extensive experience in delivery of research and has expertise in the areas of farming technology, grain storage, precision farming, engine technology, harvesting, seeding and spraying equipment. Ben also delivers grain storage extension work for the GRDC, with extension information for farmers and the grains industry on retaining grain quality in storage.

Chris Warrick B.Bus (farm management). Growing up on a farm near Horsham, Chris has pursued his career in agriculture with a focus on helping farmers make informed decisions. After obtaining a bachelor of business from Marcus Oldham Collage he worked for the Kondinin Group as a research officer based in Wagga Wagga NSW and later Toowoomba QLD. With a broader scope of knowledge, Chris moved back to Victoria to take up a position as a management consultant. Operating as Primary Business, Chris now advises and assists farming businesses across Victoria as an independent management consultant. While consulting is Chris' focus he also manages the National Grain Storage Extension Project funded by the GRDC. Chris is also involved in the family farm near Horsham, which he believes helps keep him in touch with the realities of farming.

Machinery replacement: Benchmarks and policy- Kwinana West port zone

A GRDC funded RCSN survey of Kwinana West (KW) farmers has identified investment levels of machinery on-farm in the KW port zone vary significantly on a $ invested per hectare basis but also on a $ per gross income potential basis. The latter measure being based on long-term average wheat yields which takes into account the wide variation in potential for each land type in the KW zone.

This would indicate that attitudes to required machinery investment levels also vary significantly. Machinery replacement triggers were also evaluated with different triggers dominating the primary reason for machinery upgrades for each machine or machine set.

On a whole-of farm basis, total machinery investment in the KW zone averaged $1.37m equating to $362/ha.

As a proportion of Gross farm Income Potential for wheat (GIP_w) assuming average long term yields and a wheat price of $250/t, machinery investment averaged 66% of GIP_w.

On a proportional investment by operation type, the investment in machinery for primary farming functions equated to 31% for seeding, 26% for spraying, 25% for harvest, 9% for trucks and 9% for other machinery considered "significant".