

Tune in to new stations

EVERYWHERE you go, you can always take the local weather with you.

Especially now the Natural Resources South Australia Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB) have finished installing three new weather stations around the region which will provide hourly weather updates accessible online once they are live next week.

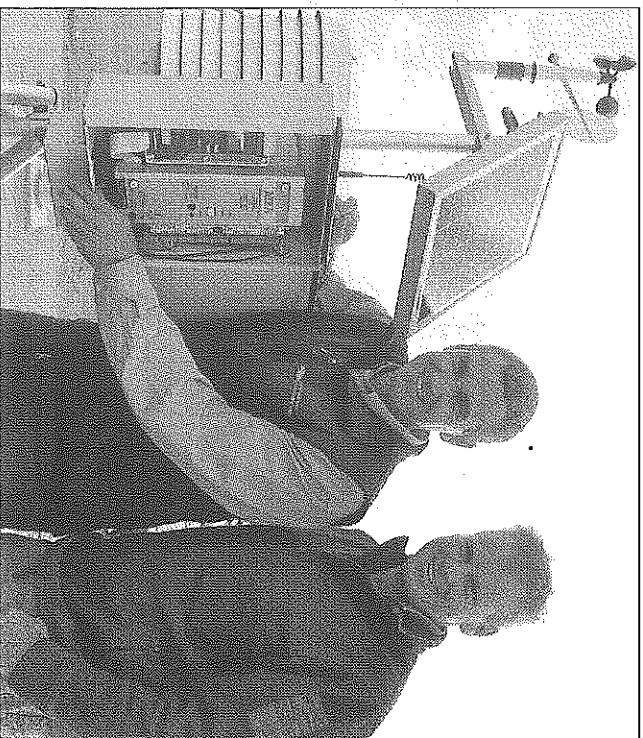
The stations will provide data from Wellington East, Cambrai and Sherlock joining a total of 34 stations in the Murraylands and Riverland, such as Mypolonga, Narrung, Caurnamount, and Pinnaroo.

Natural Resources SAMDB sustainable irrigation team leader Michael Cutting said data that could be found on the website included temperature, dew point, relative humidity, and rainfall for the day, the previous day, week, month, and financial year.

"(The stations) have all got modems and they've got interfaces which send the data; every hour it automatically sends up the data," Mr Cutting said.

He said other data which could be calculated included evapotranspiration, spray drift, growing degree days, and chill.

He said the localisation of data had been beneficial to landholders, farmers and irrigators, as they could use real time data instead of historical rainfall and evaporation records.



Change in data: Natural Resources SAMDB sustainable irrigation team leader Michael Cutting and Wellington East onion and potato grower Richard Wheaton shows one of three new weather stations installed to give more localised data to farmers and irrigators.

potato grower Richard Wheaton now has a weather station on his property, and said it would help him during the peak growing season.

"In the summer I'll look at the transpiration rates; for us, more than anything else, it will be the big best bit of information," Mr Wheaton said.

"I'm interested to see the soil temperature; as it gets colder, it takes longer to germinate.

"We'll be able to see how much water the crops have used, which will help with irrigation scheduling."

He said there was not information on the site which was useful.

"There's never been a disadvantage for having more information," he said.

- Details: To access the data, visit <http://www.aws-samdbn-rm.sa.gov.au/>.

Liberals want speed camera inquiry

MEMBER for Hammond Adrian Pederick has lent his support to a State Opposition push for an inquiry into speed cameras, speed limits and driving penalties.

In Parliament on May 12, Mr Pederick questioned whether the frequent placement of speed cameras on the South Eastern Freeway was for safety or revenue-raising.

"I get disappointed when I am heading home on the freeway and I go past four, sometimes five mobile speed cameras," he said.

"Put them where there is likely to be an accident; do not put them at the bottom of the big dipper on the freeway, or the little dipper for that matter."

"Yes, I think speed needs to be

managed, but ... it must be seen as a proper road safety measure."

Member for MacKillop Mitch Williams said inconsistent highway speed limits were a related issue.

He pointed to the stretch of Princes Highway south of Meningie.

"When you get to Meningie, after travelling all the way at 110km/h, for the next 60 kilometres the speed limit is 100km/h," he said.

"When you get to Salt Creek it goes back to 110km/h."

A motion currently before the State Parliament calls for a committee of MPs to look into speed cameras, their placement, the effectiveness of speed limit signs and the appropriateness of speeding fines, among other matters.

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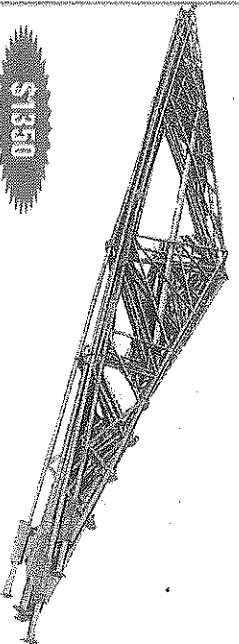
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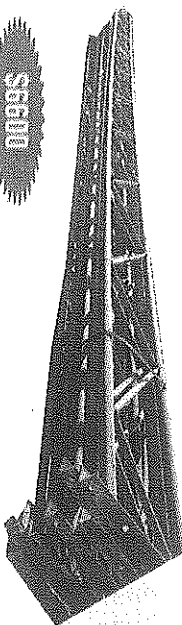
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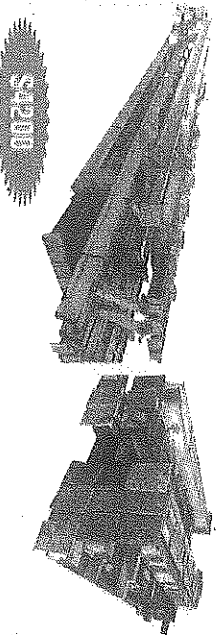
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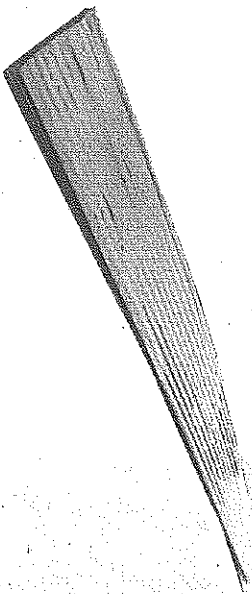
180 UB 32/6.3 32/2.4C/WAS 16/12.0M) & COLUMNS
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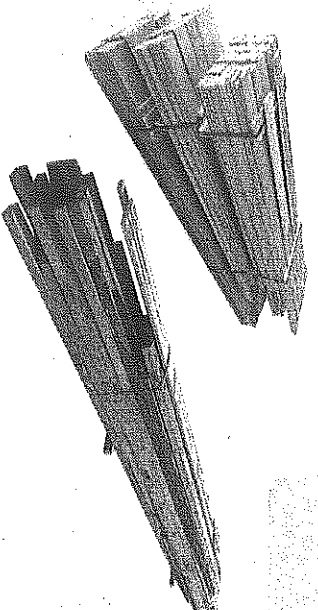
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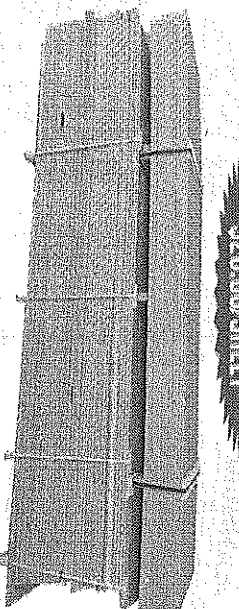
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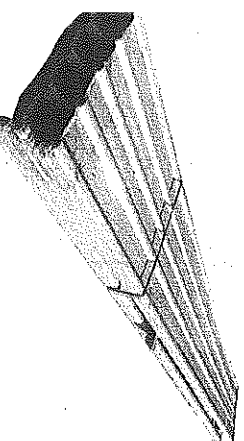
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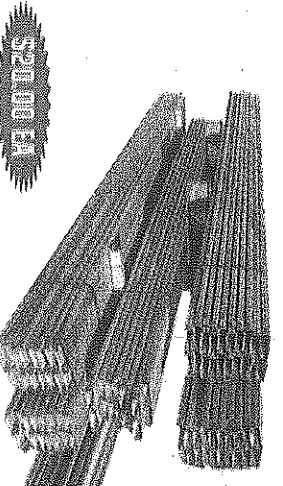
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