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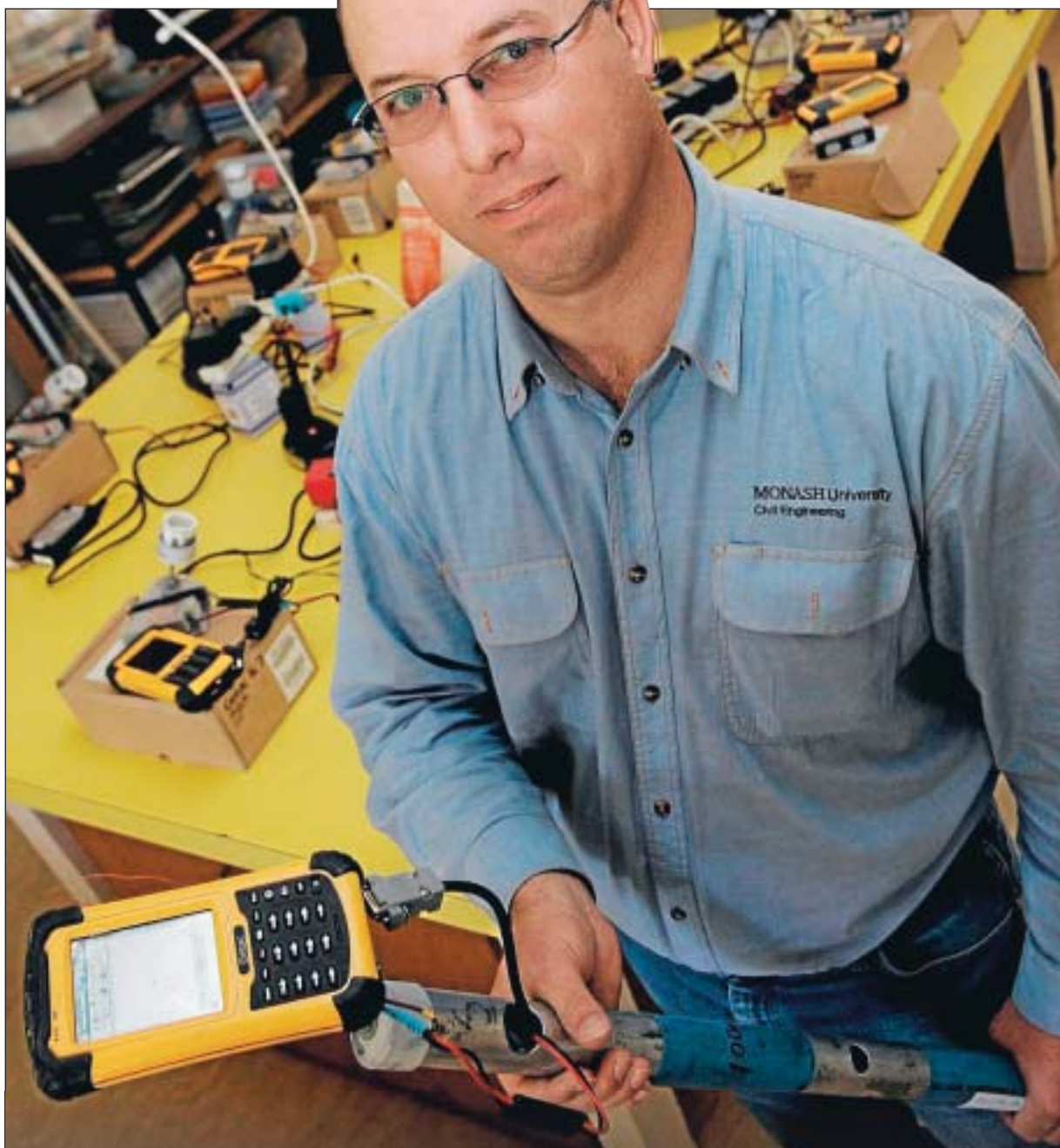


# The Irrigator

LEETON'S OWN NEWSPAPER

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## Mayor refutes basin leaks

By LEAH HUMPHRYS

LEETON shire mayor Paul Maytom has called for calm amid panic that water cut targets could prove near identical to those outlined in last year's disastrous guide to the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Leaked draft figures show the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) proposes to strip 2800 gigalitres from productive use basin-wide, which would equate to about 40 per cent of Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area irrigators' entitlements.

However, Cr Maytom met with MDBA chairman Craig Knowles last week and said as figures had not yet been finalised, it was too early for concern.

"All I can go on is what Mr Knowles has told us, which is that the final plan will not make much of an impact to the area," Cr Maytom said.

"I have read the report and NSW irrigators are quite

concerned that cuts will be around the 2800 mark, but that's a figure that everyone seems to be tossing around while the actual figures have not yet been set."

Cr Maytom said the final number would take into consideration water that had already been given back for environmental reasons which could mean the cuts were scaled back to 1900 gigalitres.

"Effectively, I feel confident with what we have been told," he said.

"There is speculation everywhere, but I am to understand that the final guide will be a fluid document that will take into account a number of variables."

The leaked figures indicate the Murrumbidgee Valley could face cuts of at least 32 per cent of its total water diversions and may have to return at least 320 gigalitres, as well as a further

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## Yanco is still ideal for NASA

By KREE NASH

YOU wouldn't think of linking Yanco with NASA, but a continuing project conducted by Monash University is doing just that.

Professor Jeff Walker is a part of the International Science Definition Team, which is currently advising NASA on the development of a satellite, that could one day assist regional farmers.

In Yanco at the Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre to talk about his project last Thursday, Mr Walker is currently carrying out a series of soil moisture experiments.

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PROFESSOR Jeff Walker, of Monash University, is heading a soil moisture mapping project, which will see a satellite launched by NASA to collect valuable data about Australia's climate and soil moisture conditions.



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