



Helping build forecasting accuracy for members

Philip Honey, Smart Farms Coordinator, SCF

Over the last couple of weeks, both Stirlings to Coast Farmers and the WA Producers Cooperative have been busy installing several member-purchased weather-station equipment throughout Amelup, Kojaneerup, South Stirlings, and Takalarup.

Utilising the Davis Vantage Pro Sensor Suite, these members are now receiving up-to-date climatic information every 15 minutes, readily accessible via a mobile application or the Davis WeatherLink website. The free Davis WeatherLink platform records and reports on wind speed & direction, solar radiation, temperature & humidity, rainfall, and also soil moisture/temperature at a single depth.

Installation is relatively simple, with the weather-station packs including everything that you need to get started, including the tripod, main weather sensor suite, a small soil moisture/temperature station and the 3G communications box to send the data to the cloud. Stations are driven into the ground utilising 3 long ground screws and are also securely installed against a star-picket for added safety in strong winds.

The Davis stations are currently heavily discounted for SCF members, with pricing starting at \$2000 + GST, with a small upfront fee for installation, and a minimal yearly data upload (Telstra) fee. Some members are even sharing station purchases with their neighbours!

These stations are also able to transmit weather information into the DTN cloud, allowing stronger accuracy forecasting models to be created throughout the region. A discounted, optional hyper-local forecasting package is available for \$300+GST per annum, offering 5x (36-hour & 15-day) forecasting points anywhere within the SCF member catchment. Additional tools such a weather-condition based forecasting can help suggest optimal spray windows based on delta-T, wind-speed, forecasted rain, is all included in the DTN WeatherSentry forecasting package.

For more information about weather monitoring services, station options and installation services, please contact Philip on 0428 768 589.

