



# Using PA in a Mallee Environment

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**W**e farm 4000ha at Pinnaroo in the Southern Mallee. Wheat, barley, triticale, hay, canola, peas, lupins and vetch are the majority of our program with our livestock operation ceasing in 2008.

Most of our country is generally flat with some gentle rising hills.

## **Steady progression into Precision Agriculture**

- 2004** Guidance with Zynx X15 on boom spray, auto section control and spray controller  
Yield mapping setup on JD 9760 using JD Office mapping program
- 2006** JD auto steer with SF1  
Variable rate with Zynx X20, Horwood Bagshaw seeder
- 2008** Variable rate used over total farm
- 2009** JD base station and 2cm RTK accuracy for seeding

## **Main focus is on variable rate over the past three years**

- Only using three zones to keep everything as simple as possible
- Zones defined using EM38, yield maps or paddock knowledge
- P replacement has been important with higher fertiliser prices
- Good for variety comparisons
- Ability to vary cultivars within a paddock has benefits
- Opportunities exist to vary seeding rate

Use plenty of technical support especially in the early days

VR and auto steer make the seeder simple enough for anyone to operate

Increase in paddock gross margins significant with VR, mainly with not using blanket rates for fertiliser

## ***Wish list in the future***

*Weed seeker*

*Full controlled traffic system*