List of tables

Table 2.1 Assessment questions, topics and activities 13

Table 3.1 Soil generic group (SGG) classes of the Flinders catchment 39

Table 3.2 Streamflow metrics at gauging stations in the Flinders catchment under Scenario A 71

Table 4.1 Categories of regional ecosystem (vegetation) communities 92

Table 4.2 Summary of Indigenous group tenure, residence, representation and natural resource management 101

Table 4.3 Major demographic indicators for the shires in the Flinders catchment in 2011 108

Table 4.4 Overview of catchment 109

Table 4.5 State school enrolments by school from 2009 to 2013 (preliminary) 109

Table 4.6 Hospitals and admissions in the Flinders catchment for the 2011–12 financial year 110

Table 4.7 Number and percentage of unoccupied dwellings and population for selected Statistical Local Areas 110

Table 4.8 Population triggers for community infrastructure 110

Table 4.9 Value of major economic activity in the Flinders catchment 111

Table 4.10 Major agricultural activities and their annual value for the shires in the Flinders catchment, in the 2010–11 financial year 111

Table 4.11 Cattle movements in the Flinders and Gilbert catchments, total for 2007 to 2011 112

Table 4.12 Summary of constructed dams in the Flinders catchment. See Petheram et al. (2013) for more detail 116

Table 4.13 Estimated costs for road upgrades 119

Table 4.14 Road transport costs per vehicle 121

Table 4.15 Days that each major road servicing the Flinders and Gilbert catchments was closed 122

Table 4.16 Surface water entitlements and storages 124

Table 4.17 Water use and entitlements in 2006 124

Table 5.1 Potential and existing dams assessed in the Flinders catchment 141

Table 5.2 Summary comments for potential dams in the Flinders catchment 142

Table 5.3 Estimated construction cost of 3-m-high sheet piling weir 157

Table 5.4 Types of on-farm dam storages 159

Table 5.5 Construction costs for a 1000-ML storage based on costs of $4/m3 for earthworks near Richmond 164

Table 5.6 Annualised cost of the construction and operation of a 1000-ML ring tank and 100 ML/day pumping infrastructure assuming a real discount rate of 7% 165

Table 5.7 Equivalent annual cost per ML for storages with different seepage rates near Richmond 165

Table 5.8 Summary of conveyance and application efficiencies 166

Table 5.9 Water distribution and operational efficiency as nominated in water resource plans for four irrigation water supply schemes in Queensland 167

Table 5.10 Application efficiencies for surface, spray and micro irrigation systems 170

Table 5.11 Pumping costs by irrigation type 172

Table 5.12 Water quality limitations for micro irrigation systems (from Ayers and Westcott, 1985) 173

Table 5.13 Soil water content at sowing and rainfall for the 90-day period following sowing for three sowing dates (Richmond) 178

Table 5.14 Sowing date, crop yield, price, variable cost, gross margin and break-even crop yield for dryland crops in the Flinders catchment 180

Table 5.15 Land use categories and crops evaluated in the Assessment 182

Table 5.16 Annual cropping calendar for potential agricultural options 184

Table 5.17 Sowing date, applied irrigation water, crop yield, irrigation type, price, variable cost, gross margin and break-even crop yield for crops in the Flinders catchment 188

Table 5.18 Land suitability classification used in the Assessment 189

Table 5.19 Sorghum (grain) (*Sorghum bicolor*) 193

Table 5.20 Mungbean *(Vigna radiata)* 196

Table 5.21 Bambatsi *(Panicum coloratum var. makarikariense)* 200

Table 5.22 Lablab (*Lablab purpureus*) 203

Table 5.23 Cotton (*Gossypium spp.*) 207

Table 5.24 Sugarcane (*Saccharum*) 210

Table 5.25 Sweet corn (*Zea mays var. saccharata*) 213

Table 5.26 Indian sandalwood (Santalum album) 216

Table 5.27 Mango *(Mangifera indica)* 220

Table 5.28 Scheme-scale capital and operating costs for a 2000-ha potential irrigation development and Cave Hill dam 221

Table 5.29 Summary statistics for a 2000-ha potential irrigation development and Cave Hill dam 222

Table 6.1 Key features of the five scenarios used in the analysis with the North Australia Beef Systems Analysis tool for Richmond 233

Table 6.2 Modelled results from the analysis using the North Australia Beef Systems Analysis tool, under scenarios 1 to 5 for Richmond from 1996 to 2010 235

Table 6.3 Modelled results from the analysis using the North Australia Beef Systems Analysis tool, under Scenario 3 for Richmond from 1996 to 2010, for different levels of irrigation capital costs 235

Table 6.4 Assumptions for analysis of irrigation development investment 238

Table 6.5 Financial performance indicators under selected irrigation investment scenarios 239

Table 6.6 Net present values under selected irrigation investment scenarios 240

Table 6.7 Net present value and internal rate of return 241

Table 6.8 Assumptions for capital and operating costs for irrigation developments 243

Table 6.9 Scheme-scale capital and operating costs 244

Table 6.10 Break-even annual gross margins required under different combinations of scheme-sale capital cost and irrigated area 245

Table 6.11 Scaling factors for gross margins accounting for changed reliability (60% to 90%) and timing of failed years (early and late in the cash flow) 245

Table 6.12 Minimum water price charged by supplier to cover capital and operating costs under different combinations of scheme-scale capital cost and irrigated area 246

Table 6.13 Minimum water price charged by supplier to cover operating costs under infrastructure capital cost and irrigated area combinations 246

Table 6.14 Capacity of irrigators to pay for water (break-even water price) under different combinations of gross margin and irrigation use 247

Table 6.15 Summary of labour requirements 249

Table 6.16 Population for selected statistical local areas 250

Table 7.1 Typical values of specific yield and saturated hydraulic conductivity 260

Table 7.2 Likely range of values for parameters in the Flinders catchment 260

Table 8.1 Streamflow on the Cloncurry River at the Cave Hill dam site 285

Table 8.2 Parameters for Cave Hill dam 285

Table 8.3 Assumed conveyance efficiencies for the irrigation development associated with the Cave Hill dam 286

Table 8.4 Scheme-scale and farm-scale costs for the irrigation development associated with the Cave Hill dam 288

Table 8.5 Critical infrastructure in the Cloncurry area 289

Table 8.6 Key assumptions in the gross margin calculations for sorghum (grain) for the irrigation development associated with the Cave Hill dam 297

Table 8.7 Staging of construction, farm development and crop production 299

Table 8.8 Range of parameter values used in analytical groundwater model 303

Table 8.9 Summary of potential ecological, social and cultural considerations with respect to the 12,000‑ha Cave Hill dam irrigation development 304

Table 9.1 Inflows to the O’Connell Creek offstream storage under Scenario A 317

Table 9.2 O’Connell Creek offstream storage parameters 318

Table 9.3 Conveyance efficiencies for the irrigation scheme associated with the O’Connell Creek offstream storage 319

Table 9.4 Scheme-scale and farm-scale costs for the irrigation development associated with the O’Connell Creek offstream storage 320

Table 9.5 Critical infrastructure requirements in the Richmond area 321

Table 9.6 Key assumptions in the gross margin calculations for rice for the irrigation development associated with the O’Connell Creek offstream storage 328

Table 9.7 Staging of construction, farm development and crop production for the irrigation development associated with the O’Connell Creek offstream storage 331

Table 9.8 Range of parameter values used in the analytical groundwater model for the 5300-ha irrigation development associated with O’Connell Creek offstream storage 335

Table 9.9 Summary of potential ecological, social and cultural considerations with respect to the irrigation development associated with O’Connell Creek offstream storage 336

Table 10.1 Streamflow metrics for inflows to the river reaches containing the ten irrigators 350

Table 10.2 Hypothetical irrigators, nearest stream gauge and assigned percentage of total entitlement 351

Table 10.3 Offstream storage efficiency when storing water for different lengths of time 360

Table 10.4 Assumed conveyance efficiencies for the water harvesting irrigation developments 360

Table 10.5 Farm-scale costs for a 500-ha farm-scale water harvesting irrigation development for two crops, cotton under spray irrigation and rice under surface irrigation 362

Table 10.6 Sowing date, applied irrigation water, crop yield, variable cost, price and gross margin for three selected high-value crops in the Flinders catchment 363

Table 10.7 Net present value ($ millions) associated with gross margins ranging from $1,500/ha to $3,500/ha for reliability ranging from 100% to 60% for a development of 500 ha with storage size of 2970 ML and comparing three storage size to entitlement-to-pump capacity (SSEPC) ratios: 5, 10 and 20 364

Table 10.8 Net present value associated with gross margins ranging from $500/ha to $3500/ha for reliability ranging from 50 to 100% for a development of 500 ha with storage of 2970 ML 365

Table 10.9 Net present value associated with gross margins ranging from $500/ha to $3500/ha under reliability ranging from 50 to 100% for a development of 500 ha with storage of 6175 ML 365

Table 10.10 General discussion of potential ecological, social and cultural considerations with respect to small-scale water harvesting irrigation developments 366