

Towards Better Vineyard (re)design

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Many people will be familiar with the sort of schematic description of Precision Agriculture/Viticulture (PA/PV) shown in the figure below – Observations of the production system (eg yield maps, remotely sensed imagery), supplemented by explanatory data layers (eg soil maps, elevation models) are used to identify zones for which differential management may be appropriate.

The most important feature of this description of PA/PV is that it is a continuous cyclical process in which the information collected is used to make future decisions. It is arguably a failure to understand the

predictive value of PA/PV data that is constraining PA's wider adoption, with some growers failing to see that a yield map is much more than a measure of what happened this year.

We were interested to see whether the same philosophy could be brought to bear on the question of vineyard (re)design. To this end, we have been working on a small GWRDC-funded project which seeks to assess the value of high resolution spatial information about soils and previous system performance in informing the redesign and renovation of a Clare Valley vineyard. This presentation will outline progress to date.

