



North Central Catchment – Fact Sheet

A Northern Victorian consortium has secured almost \$200 million from the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (\$46 million); the Victorian Government's NVIRP (\$16 million); the Victorian On Farm State Priority Projects initiative (\$43 million); and the Victorian Farm Modernisation Project (\$100 million).

The consortium administers the program through its Farm Water Program to assist irrigators to achieve water savings by improving on-farm irrigation systems. At least half the water saved is transferred to the Australian or Victorian governments for environmental purposes.

Rounds 1 & 2

The following table details Rounds 1 & 2 project outcomes in the North Central Catchment.

Rounds 1 & 2	
No. of projects in North Central Catchment	145
Total value funded - \$ million	36.50
Total water savings – gigalitres	19.40
Laser grading – hectares	4136.22
Drainage reuse – hectares	3814.58
Farm channel upgrades – km	2.43
Pipe and riser systems – hectares	6807.19
Gravity channel surface irrigation – hectares	2144.61
Irrigation scheduling – hectares	159
Pressurised – hectares	215.24
Project by industry type	
- dairy	96
- grains	24
- sheep & beef	21
- other	4

More than 120 contracts have been sent out to irrigators across Northern Victoria whose projects have been funded through **Round 3**, the \$30 million first tranche of the VFMP program.

For more information visit the Farm Water page at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

Overall Farm Water Program benefits

Water savings

- Round 1 & 2 total water savings – 52GL with at least half transferred to the Australian or State governments for environmental purposes.
- Round 3 (Tranche 1) total water saving - 16 GL with 59 percent transferred to the Australian government for environmental purposes.

Food security

- Significant increase in production and time and labour savings when irrigating¹.
- Allows irrigators to maximise the benefit of a modernised supply from G-MW Connections program.
- Higher value of production per megalitre used.
- Increased resilience in the face of climate change and proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan water recovery targets.
- On-farm investment stimulated after years of drought and then flood.

Environmental

- More water is available to protect and restore river health.
- More efficient water delivery systems reduce groundwater accessions and nutrient run-off and help address re-emerging salinity and water table issues.

Regional Development

With an average cost-benefit ratio of 1.34, the funding administered through the consortium's Farm Water Program is estimated to generate at least:

- \$28 million a year in economic benefits across the region;
- 355 jobs; and
- significant social and environmental benefits and a boost in industry confidence and co-investment.

(¹Depending on industry and technology - individual circumstances will vary).

