



Fact Sheet

March 2015

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 **FarmWater** 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.

VOSP – Round 2 Figures

The following information details Rounds 2 project outcomes under VOSP funding:

For Completed Projects	Units	Total
Total Value Funded	\$ million	39.78
Total Water Savings	Gigalitres	21.56
Laser Grading	Hectares	4564
Drainage Reuse	Hectares	4187
Farm Channel Upgrades	Kilometres	4
Pipe and Riser Systems	Hectares	3957
Irrigation Scheduling	Hectares	327
Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation	Hectares	3940
Pressurised		1253

NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY INDUSTRY TYPE



OTHER PROJECTS 1 TOTAL NO. OF PROJECTS 146

Overall Farm Water Program Benefits

WATER SAVINGS

- Round 1 & 2 total water savings – 51 GL 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 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 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.



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