

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - ROUND 5

Registration Call for Projects - General Call - June 2016

Farm Water Program Round 5 (Victorian Farm Modernisation Project – Tranche 2B) is being delivered by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GB CMA) on behalf of the Farm Water Program Consortium. These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been developed to answer a range of questions that irrigators have asked in previous rounds of the Program. The FAQs also outline any changes in criteria since previous Rounds. Closing dates for the General Call are listed below. Further information about the earlier Priority Call can be found in the 'Main Changes Since The Last Round' section of these FAQs. If irrigators have any additional questions, they are encouraged to ring the GB CMA Farm Water Program staff on 03 5822 7700.



Checklist & Deadlines for Registration Stage - General Call

Irrigators who are interested in registering their projects need to make sure their projects meet all of the eligibility criteria below:

REQUIRED

✓	ELIGIBILITY	DEADLINES
✓	Meet Eligibility Criteria Checklist by Registration (Available separately for download from the GB CMA website: www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/sustainable_irrigation/farm_water)	Before 4pm Friday 29th July 2016
✓	REGISTRATION OF INTEREST	DUE
	Register interest on Farm Water Program Hotline (03) 5822 7788	Before 4pm Friday 29th July 2016
✓	SUBMISSION OF WHOLE FARM PLAN	DUE
	Submit current Whole Farm Plan to GB CMA via email to farmwaterprogram@gbcma.vic.gov.au	By Friday 5th August 2016
RECOMMENDED		
✓	DISCHARGE OF ENCUMBRANCES (eg. MORTGAGES, etc.) ON WATER SHARES	
	Contact financial institution / lawyer / water conveyancer to advise of your intentions and requirements for discharge of any encumbrances on water shares.	

Frequently Asked Question Topics

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Main Changes Since The Last Round

Priority Call

A Priority Call was included (now closed) in this round to enable irrigators with 'work-ready' projects to fast track through the process. The deadlines for this call have now passed. However, general timelines for the Priority Call FAQs are available for download at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/sustainable_irrigation/farm_water/. If the Priority Call is oversubscribed, a ballot will be undertaken. Any Priority Call projects outside the funding available will become the first reserve projects. The price offered and % of water transferred at the Priority and General calls is the same.

General Call

These FAQs relate to the General Call for projects for Round 5. The General Call opens Monday 6th June 2016 and closes 4pm Friday 29th July 2016. All dates within this document relate to the General Call.

Maximum Funding Amount for Projects

The maximum funding amount available per project has increased from \$1 million to \$1.5 million (excluding GST).

Connections Eligibility Criteria

By the deadline for registration (see Page 1):

- a. My proposed Farm Water project connects to an outlet on an approved GMW backbone; OR
- b. I have an executed GMW legal agreement connecting my property to a GMW backbone; OR
- c. I am a private diverter outside the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District on a regulated river (Loddon, Campaspe, Broken, Mitta Mitta, Murray, King, Ovens and Goulburn rivers) within the GMW service area; OR
- d. **AND** there is no other GMW Connections Program work impeding the proposed project works.

Transfer Of Water Savings

Irrigators must be willing to transfer the specified water savings (expected to be 55%) to the Commonwealth Government (through the GB CMA) (see Water & Water Ownership).

Land And Water Ownership

I will own the land on which the works will be done and I will own high reliability water shares by Friday 29th July 2016.

Changed Part Payment Process

In Round 4 landowners initially needed to be able to cover cash flow for the last 30% of the costs of the project before the final payment would be made (see Farm Water Program Payments & Funding). This has been reduced to 10% for Round 5. All participants should consider the cash flow implications of undertaking works and the long term impact of water transfer. This should include capital and operating costs and any impacts on production that may occur. Participants are encouraged to consult on these matters with their bank, accountant and farm consultant.

Project Completion Date

I will complete the project by 30th April 2018.



KEY DATES FOR GENERAL CALL



FRIDAY 29th JULY 2016

By 4pm, irrigators meet all eligibility criteria and register interest on the GB CMA hotline.

FRIDAY 5th AUGUST 2016

Electronic copy of Whole Farm Plan provided to the GB CMA.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2016

Project application forms developed with Agriculture Victoria (AgVic) and CMA staff.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2016

Assessment of projects (and ballot if required).

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2016

Projects approved and contracts developed.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2016

Water transfer from irrigator to GB CMA.

APRIL 2018

All projects completed.

TIP: A separate checklist with just the main **Eligibility Criteria** is available for download from the GB CMA website: http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/sustainable_irrigation/farm_water.

Timeframes

Can I still register my interest in the program in the application stage?

No, all projects for this round must be registered by the General Call deadline. No late registrations will be accepted.

When can I begin works?

Landowners can start works once the Water Contract and the Works Deed have both been signed by the landowner, water share owners and the GB CMA. However, landowners undertake the works at their own risk until the first payment is received following confirmation of the settlement of the Contract for Transfer of Water Share.

How long do I have to finish farm water works?

All projects must be completed by Monday 30th April 2018.

What happens if I have already commenced the works included in my application?

These works, associated water savings and costs will not be eligible for payment under the Program.

Can irrigators include integrated projects (eg. projects that include pipe and risers and lasering)?

Yes, as long as the project meets current minimum technical standards and meets all eligibility criteria.

If I haven't finished my Round 4 project, can I apply for Round 5?

Yes, but you will not be offered funding for any successful Round 5 projects until your Round 4 project is completed. If you do not complete your Round 4 project by April 2017 your Round 5 project will be withdrawn.

If I decide not to go ahead with the project prior to contracts being signed, can I apply for funding in future rounds?

The VFMP program includes a final round of funding of \$20 million, but this is still subject to Victoria meeting Murray Darling Basin Plan requirements. If the final VFMP round is needed, a call for projects is expected in early to mid-2017. The Farm Water Program Consortium is also continuing to work on other funding sources for the Program.

I have submitted a project with another funding program, can I apply for VFMP through Farm Water?

Yes, you can apply for funding for the same project works, but you cannot accept two separate funding sources for the same works. GB CMA will work with the Commonwealth Government to cross check applications against other funding sources, such as the Commonwealth's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program, to ensure that this does not occur.



Project Types & Eligibility

ELIGIBLE WORKS

- Improving border check irrigation by lasering, installing reuse systems, automation of bay outlets, constructing farm channels or installing pipe and risers.
- Installation of irrigation scheduling equipment including soil, plant or weather based monitoring systems to calculate crop water requirements and water budgets.
- Piping and lining of farm channels.
- Conversion of border check irrigation to a pressurised system including centre pivot, linear move, fixed sprinkler or surface and subsurface drip.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Whole Farm Planning.
(A separate incentive program is available.)
- Maintenance of irrigation systems.
- Stock and domestic systems.

Can more than one project be submitted?

Only if there is a separate Whole Farm Plan for that project. The general rule is one Whole Farm Plan, one project.



Farm Water Program Management

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

- Goulburn Broken CMA (lead agency)
- North Central CMA
- North East CMA
- Goulburn Murray Water
- Northern Victoria Irrigators
- Dairy Australia
- Murray Dairy
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (Agriculture Victoria)
- Department of Environment Land Water and Planning

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

AGVIC or GB CMA PROJECT OFFICER

Assist the irrigator to complete project application forms, including a Water Savings Plan (based on the Whole Farm Plan). They will help identify what information is required and where to seek assistance. A farm visit will take place which will include an inspection of the proposed works site.

GMW CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Advise the GB CMA of the connections status of all properties where projects have been registered.

SURVEYORS AND DESIGNERS

Provide an electronic copy of new or modernised Whole Farm Plans.

FARM CONSULTANTS AND FINANCIAL COUNSELLORS

May provide advice to irrigators/ landowners on the viability of the projects and may work as project managers where required by landowners.

LANDOWNERS AND WATER SHARE OWNERS

Responsible for ensuring the project meets the eligibility criteria for the application and provide any relevant information to support the application. Landowners are responsible for delivering the works in the contract.

If the Program is oversubscribed, what will happen?

A ballot will be held for all projects that are eligible and meet minimum quality and value for money standards. This is conducted by an independent auditor as per Rounds 1, 2 and 3. Priority Call projects will be funded first and form any reserve list first.



Whole Farm Planning

Does the irrigator need a Whole Farm Plan (WFP) to be involved in the Farm Water Program?

Yes, the Farm Water Program registration and application requires a current Whole Farm Plan showing proposed project works. This must be provided in an electronic copy to the GB CMA by the deadline listed on page 1 of these FAQs and in the separate Eligibility Criteria Checklist. Submission of a Whole Farm Plan by itself without registering on the hotline by the deadlines, does not meet registration requirements.

My Whole Farm Plan has not been through the Agriculture Victoria (AgVic) WFP process, is that ok?

As long as the Whole Farm Plan meets the WFP Minimum Standards required to be eligible for the Farm Water Program, it does not need to have been through the AgVic WFP process. Irrigators need to refer to the WFP Minimum Standards and ensure their WFPs include these requirements.

Are there any standards Whole Farm Plans have to meet to be involved in the Farm Water Program?

Yes. There is a set of WFP Minimum Standards that the WFP must meet to be eligible for the Farm Water Program. These are on the GBCMA website: http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/sustainable_irrigation/farm_water. Irrigators need to refer to these and ensure their WFPs include these requirements.

My Whole Farm Plan does not include what I want to do as it is not current, do I need to get it upgraded?

Yes, your Whole Farm Plan needs to be current, the works proposed need to be identified in the

current WFP. You must have the WFP upgrade completed and submitted electronically to the GB CMA by the deadline listed on page 1 of these FAQs and in the separate Eligibility Criteria Checklist.



Water & Water Ownership

Who am I transferring my water to?

The water will be transferred to the GB CMA initially. The GB CMA will then consolidate the water and transfer it to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

I have no water shares but have irrigated land, can I still participate in the Farm Water Program?

The minimum requirement to participate in the Farm Water Program is to save at least 20 ML of water in the project and transfer 55% of permanent water shares to the GB CMA (min of 11 ML). Irrigators must have eligible water shares to transfer from the point of the registration and onwards.

Can I nominate multiple Water Entitlement Entities (WEEs)?

The maximum number of Water Entitlement Entities (WEEs) that can be nominated is two per project. If you have more than two WEEs you will need to consolidate them before the application stage is complete.

How do I know exactly how much water to transfer?

This will be calculated in the Water Savings Plan in consultation with the AgVic or GB CMA officer. The GB CMA will also send a letter to all successful Round 5 VFMP Farm Water Program applicants when the assessment is completed advising of project approvals and the volume of water to be transferred. If in doubt, please contact the GB CMA.

Do I need a new meter to be part of this program?

Yes, a new meter that complies with GMW standards is required and GMW manages this process.

Are there any restrictions on buying Water Entitlement back in after the water savings have been transferred as part of the Farm Water Program?

No.

Who pays the water conveyancing costs for water transfers?

Each party (the GB CMA and the water share owner) is liable for their own conveyancing costs related to transferring water. Some banks may charge you fees to discharge mortgages.

Can water share owners transfer Low Reliability Water Shares rather than High Reliability Water Shares?

No, only High Reliability Permanent Water Shares can be offered.

Do I need a Water Use Licence (WUL) to participate in the Farm Water Program?

Yes. The land where the works are to be done must be covered by an existing Water Use Licence.

Will the seasonal allocation be transferred?

Any water allocated after the transfer of the water share remains with the new owner, (the GB CMA/Commonwealth). Allocations before water transfer remain with the water share owner. Further advice may be provided at the contract stage.

What sort of water do I transfer?

High reliability permanent water shares from a regulated system in the Goulburn Murray water service area. The water shares must be unencumbered; it is strongly recommended this occurs prior to contracts being signed.

Where do I get the forms to Divide and Transfer my water?

The GB CMA will provide relevant forms with the contracts. More information is available on the Water Register website <http://www.waterregister.vic.gov.au/>. There are also some FAQs. If you need assistance, seek further advice from your lawyer or water conveyancer.

How much water do I have to give up to be part of the Program?

A minimum of 11 ML of high reliability permanent water will need to be transferred to the GB CMA and then the Commonwealth Government (based on 20 ML minimum water savings with 55% transferred). The water shares must be unencumbered; therefore, it is recommended the water share owner obtain any approvals from their financier, bank or other parties with an interest in the ownership of the water to agree to release any encumbrances prior to contracts being signed.

What happens if it takes me a long time to transfer the water?

Irrigators should note there are time limits within the contracts when certain obligations need to be met, such as transferring of water shares. Participants should be aware that the payment rate is fixed for the duration of the round. The timeframes are generous and the GB CMA is usually reasonable in exceptional circumstances. However, if irrigators cannot meet these obligations, their project may be withdrawn or terminated, and the next project on the reserve list in ballot order will be offered funding.

Can irrigators change the water share offered during the application, assessment and contract process?

No, the Water Entitlement Entity (WEE) identified at the time of the application must be the same one as progresses through the contract and transfer stages.

Connections & Private Pumpers

Does the land need to be connected to the backbone to be eligible?

Eligible projects are on land for which:

- The proposed Farm Water project connects to an outlet on an approved GMW backbone. OR
- The landowner has an executed GMW legal agreement connecting the property to a GMW backbone. OR

- The landowner is a private diverter outside the GMID on a regulated river (Loddon, Campaspe, Broken, Mitta Mitta, Murray, Goulburn, Ovens, King rivers) within the GMW service area;
- AND there should also be no other GMW Connections Program work impeding the proposed project works.

As a result of Connections discussions with the GMW Connections Program, my final connection point has changed from the original project I submitted. Can I change my project based on the new connections point?

It is only under exceptional circumstances that this will be considered. Approval from the GB CMA will be needed and is not guaranteed. The project completion date will not be extended as a result of any approved changes.

I have been part of a GMW Connections Program but am now a private pumper on a regulated river as a result, am I eligible?

Your project may be eligible. You should check with your GMW Connections Program Modernisation Coordinator to confirm this and the GB CMA will also seek advice from GMW.

I am a private pumper on a regulated river, am I eligible?

Private diverters outside the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District on a regulated river (Loddon, Campaspe, Broken, Mitta Mitta, Murray, Goulburn Ovens, King rivers) within the GMW service area are eligible.

Land Use & Land Ownership

Can landowners do works on land that they don't own?

Yes, for example piping water to the landowner's property through a neighbour. Landowners must have all approvals and permissions in place before their detailed application is submitted. This includes things such as: council approvals,

easements, agreements with other landowners, Vic Roads approvals, etc. Copies of these approvals will be needed to be provided with the application and will need to be valid through the assessment, contract and implementation phases.

Can I increase the area of irrigation on my farm as part of my project?

No, the purpose of the program is to improve the efficiency of existing irrigated areas on a property, not expand the actual irrigated area.

Does the Farm Water Program apply to land that has not been irrigated for years?

Yes, as long as there is a Water Use Licence and there is irrigation infrastructure to upgrade.

Does the landowner require planning approval for the works proposed?

Landowners cannot breach local government planning requirements or restrictions due to their proposed works. Where applicable, the Whole Farm Plan works need to be assessed by the relevant municipality. This is required in the Campaspe, Moira and Greater Shepparton municipalities to determine if works proposed on the Whole Farm Plan require permits to approve the planned works.

Will the Farm Water Program pay for new irrigation layout on a section of the farm that is currently dryland?

If the project area of the property has never been irrigated previously, it is not generally eligible for funding. There are very limited circumstances where the GB CMA may consider projects where irrigation is being moved from an unsuitable to a suitable site on the same property covered by the same WUL. Please contact the GB CMA for further information.

Can maintenance of existing irrigation systems be included in the program?

No, the program is about upgrading irrigation infrastructure to achieve water savings.

I am in the process of purchasing the land where I want to do the irrigation improvement works, can I participate in the Farm Water Program?

As long as you own the land by the time you register your project, you can participate in the program.

Will delivery share be taken as well as water share?

No. Delivery share attaches to the land and is not affected by the transfer of water share.

Can I own land in one water trading zone and do the project in that zone but offer water to be transferred from another zone?

The water being transferred needs to be physically able to be used on the property where the irrigation infrastructure works are being installed.



Farm Water Program Payments & Funding

How much funding is available in this round?

There is around \$44 million available for works in Round 5.

Is there any maximum funding amount that I can apply for?

Yes, the maximum funding for each project is \$1.5 million (excluding GST).

Can landowners be paid for retrospective works or works that occur before the contracts have been signed?

No.

Can this program provide an opportunity to reduce debt?

No. This program only supports applications that upgrade infrastructure works.

How much will I be paid for my project works?

The indicative payment rate to irrigators for Round 5 for most trading zones is likely to be \$2590 per megalitre saved with 55% of the water savings transferred (or \$4710 per megalitre transferred). The indicative payment rate paid to irrigators for Loddon (5A), Ovens (9A), King (9B) is likely to be \$1680 per megalitre saved with 55% of the water savings transferred (or \$3050 per megalitre transferred). This is due to the lower water market price in these trading zone. The payments to landholders will be split 50% on transfer of water; and 50% on completion of works, including invoices, receipts and statutory declaration unless part payments are approved.

Can I get a part payment?

Yes, part payments can be made when irrigators have completed and paid for their works. However, landowners need to ensure they can access sufficient finance before the final payment as this cannot be less than 10% of the total funding.

Can I be paid more than the cost of the works?

No, the cost of the works (both cash and in-kind) must be greater than the total payments sought from the Farm Water Program (plus 10% landowner contribution).

Will the payment change from what I submit in the application stage to when the project is approved?

It is possible that any payments identified in the application phase may change following assessment and approval and before any contracts are signed.



Landowner Funding Responsibilities

Do I have to make a cash and/or in-kind contribution to the project?

Yes, landowners need to contribute a minimum of 10% cash or in-kind of the total funding of the project.

Do I need an ABN to be paid?

Yes, all landowners will be required to provide an ABN OR complete a 'Statement by Supplier' form for not quoting an ABN.

What happens if landowners receive payment for the water but don't do the farm works?

The landowner will be in breach of contract and the contract will be enforced to the fullest extent. The landowner will also be liable for the legal and administration costs of this process and any specified damages identified in the contract.

Will financial institution approval be required to transfer the water?

Yes, if banks, financiers or other parties have an interest in the ownership of the water. In such cases they should be kept informed as soon as possible of your intentions and, if possible, begin the process of removing any interests in the water share as this can take some time. Encumbrances including mortgages and limited term transfers, must be discharged prior to signing of the contracts.

Do I need to pay all the outstanding GMW fees on the water share before it can be transferred?

Yes. This means relevant GMW fees for 2015-16 (and 2016-17) on the volume to be transferred will need to be paid. If you are unsure how much this will be, check with GMW.

Can landowners get help to decide if the options are in their best interest?

AgVic or GB CMA project officers will provide signposts to other service providers who may be able to assist. For example, Dairy Australia facilitates a program called "Taking Stock" that assists financial decision-making. However, landowners should also seek their own financial advice.

Do landowners require public liability insurance or other insurances to be part of the Farm Water Program?

Yes, the landowner is required to have at least \$20 million public liability cover. The landowner must also ensure there is loss or damage insurance cover for assets over \$5,000 in value.



Mortgages (or other encumbrances) on Water Shares

How long do mortgages (or other encumbrances) take to discharge?

It varies considerably from weeks to months. We suggest water share owners contact their financial institution as soon as possible to get an estimate of the time this is likely to take.

My water share has a mortgage on it and I am only transferring part of the water share. What should I do?

You will need to divide your water share first and seek a discharge of the mortgage over the part that you are transferring. You should not divide your water share until your project is approved and you have been advised of the water volume to be transferred. If you need to, you should seek advice from your lawyer/water conveyancer.

My water share has a mortgage on it and I am transferring the whole water share. What do I do?

You must discharge all mortgages on your water share before transferring the water to the GB CMA. Please organise for this to be done as soon as possible, as it can be a time-consuming process.

I didn't realise there was a mortgage on my water share. Is this a problem?

When water was unbundled from land in 2007, any mortgages on the land were automatically added to the water share. Some water share owners may have forgotten that this happened. Any mortgages on the water share must be discharged before water is transferred.

My water share has no mortgage on it and I am only transferring part of the water share. What should I do?

You do not need to do anything at the



application stage. The divide and transfer of the water share can take place as part of the conveyancing process after the Water Contract is signed.

Contracts, Tax and GST

How many contracts are needed when projects are approved?

Two contracts will be required for each Farm Water Program project. They are:

- A Contract for Transfer of Water Share between the GB CMA and the water share owner (the "Water Contract"); and
- An Infrastructure Works Deed between the GB CMA, the landowner and the water share owner (the "Works Deed").

Who signs the two contracts?

The Water Share Owner(s) must sign the Water Contract and the Landowner(s) and the Water Share Owner(s) must sign the Works Deed. It is preferred that these documents are signed simultaneously. The Water Contract and Works Deed are dependent and linked to each other and will not be valid until both are signed.

Is there a Sample Works Deed and Water Contract that I can look over?

Yes, there will be a sample Round 5 Water Contract and Works Deed that can be downloaded from the GB CMA website at the contract stage. Round 4 examples are on the GB CMA website and can provide an indication of the type of contract that will be developed. Please note that there will be some changes for Round 5. Please also note that your contract is not negotiable.

Does GST apply to all payments made under the Program and what are the tax implications?

Yes. Advice from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is that all payments to landowners are subject to GST (provided the landowners are registered for GST). A private ruling on this issue is available on the [ATO website](#). Landowners will need to seek their own advice from a tax accountant or financial adviser.



Works Costs & Quotes

How accurate do the costs of the works need to be?

Quotes will be required for the cost of the works at the application stage. Landowners may be asked to provide two quotes for the work (ie. in the case where landowners submit their own quotes for any works).

I want to completely change the activities in my application eg. from lasering to reuse. Is this possible?

Changes are allowable in the registration phase as long as the works are reflected in the WFP, but once project information has been developed in the application stage no changes are allowable from that point.

Can I include project management costs and decommissioning and recommissioning works within the funding I am seeking?

Yes, up to 8% of the cost of the project can be for project management costs. The project management must be undertaken by a suitably experienced and qualified project manager. Project management, decommissioning and recommissioning costs should not collectively exceed 15% of the total funding.

Can landowners choose to do the works on a different area of the property, rather than where it was initially proposed?

No, the works must be on the original area as proposed and contracted.

The costs of my works have altered slightly from the quotes I received as part of the application stage. Can these costs be changed in the contract?

No. If your overall works costs are higher than your application or contract, then you will need to cover the difference. If your costs are lower, then the payment made under the Works Deed will decrease. The payment will need to be supported by invoices, receipts and statutory declaration.

Can landowners add extra works into their proposal eg. pipe and risers across the entire property, rather than just one part?

Landowners can add works at their own cost.

Can landowners undertake the farm infrastructure works themselves as part of the Farm Water Program?

Yes, provided landowners meet all statutory requirements and responsibilities such as OH&S, WorkCover etc. and costs are at standard industry rates (check with your AgVic or GB CMA contact for standard industry rate information). The works to be done by the landowner need to be identified in the Works Deed. There are additional requirements under the National Building Code for projects and the OHS Accreditation Scheme. Landowners need to ensure that any works that they undertake themselves are to industry standards. Landowners will still need to provide quotes at application stage and may be required to seek a second quote from an independent contractor.

Once an agreed cost for works has been reached in the Works Deed, can the cost and payments change?

The Works Deed establishes a ceiling for the cost of the works. If the works end up costing less than is set out in the Works Deed, then the payment made under the Works Deed may decrease. The Works Deed is a fixed price contract.

Can landowners choose not to go ahead with some of the works they had initially proposed?

No. The works should be based on the original application, including water savings and costs. If the project is scaled down, the water savings will not be achievable. If you do not deliver the agreed works in the Works Deed, you may be in breach, and the contract will be enforced to the fullest extent.

Up until what stage can the landowners and water share owners withdraw from the Farm Water Program?

Landowners and water share owners can withdraw from the Program up until the Water Contract and the Works Deed have been signed. You must advise the GB CMA in writing if you want to withdraw your project. Contact details are at the end of these FAQs. If your project is withdrawn you will receive a confirmation letter from the GB CMA.



Design of Works

Will the works be inspected or audited?

Yes. Works will be inspected by the GB CMA when completed to ensure compliance with the Works Deed. In addition, there will be random audits to ensure expenditure and program expectations are being met.

I have heard that some landowners are having issues with pipe and riser systems. What should I do?

Some design and operating issues have been experienced by landowners with some newly installed pipe and riser systems in early rounds. As irrigators bear the risk if equipment is faulty or installation is flawed, it is recommended that if your proposed project involves the installation of this technology that you contact either your irrigation designer and/or the installation company that you wish to engage for your project to discuss how such issues may be prevented.

What happens if the work on my farm fails – who is responsible?

All project works must be designed and constructed as part of an approved Whole Farm Plan. Such plans ensure that the irrigation system is designed appropriately to meet the requirements of the farming enterprise. Should there be any post completion issues with the work it is the responsibility of the landowner and any sub-contractors who undertook the work for the landowner to rectify these.

MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS?

See Page 12 for the Minimum Technical Standards required for proposed activities.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR WHOLE FARM PLANS?

Other information, including Minimum Standards for Whole Farm Plans, can be found on the GB CMA website:
http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/sustainable_irrigation/farm_water

Still Not Sure If Your Project Is Eligible? Contact Our Farm Water Program Team:

Contracts and Inspections:

- Chris Nicholson
- Jeff Parry

Communications:

- Gillian Mason

Program Manager:

- Megan McFarlane

Program Support:

- Vicki Mackenzie

Phone (03) 5822 7700 or email farmwaterprogram@gbcma.vic.gov.au

COMPLAINTS:

If landowners or water share owners think that GB CMA policies and procedures have not been properly applied; complaints can be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer of the GB CMA.

LODGEMENT OF COMPLAINTS

Chris Norman
Chief Executive Officer
Goulburn Broken Catchment
Management Authority
PO Box 1752, Shepparton, 3632



Design of Works - Minimum Technical Standards

Your project must meet the following minimum technical guidelines (Best Practice Standards) after the proposed project activities have been completed:

IMPROVED SURFACE IRRIGATION (gravity and pumped surface irrigation)

- All of the project area irrigated with flow rates of at least 2 ML per day / 10 metre width of bay irrigated at completion of project.
- All of the project area will be laser graded at completion of project.
- All the project area will drain to a drainage reuse system at completion of project. New systems include a sump, permanent pump and motor capable of operating at 70% energy efficiency or greater, and delivery system.
- Pipe and riser systems include permanent pump and motor designed to operate at 70% energy efficiency or greater.
- Pipe and riser system pipes designed to operate at less than 2.5 metres/sec velocity and pressure class of pipes matches design pressure of system.

IMPROVED SPRINKLER IRRIGATION (sprinklers for full ground coverage)

- System includes permanent pump and motor designed to operate at 70% energy efficiency or greater.
- System designed to apply sufficient water to meet peak crop water requirements of target crop.
- System pipes designed to operate at less than 2.5 metres/sec velocity and pressure class of pipes matches design pressure of system.
- System is designed to ensure that the average application rate of the sprays does not exceed the soil infiltration rate.
- Sprinklers designed to operate at design system pressure.
- System designed to operate with a Uniformity of Distribution of at least 75%.

IMPROVED MICRO/DRIP IRRIGATION (subsurface drip, drip, micro sprays, sprinklers not full ground coverage)

- System includes permanent pump and motor designed to operate at 70% energy efficiency or greater.
- System designed to apply sufficient water to meet peak crop water requirements of target crop.
- System pipes designed to operate at less than 2.5 metres/sec velocity and pressure class of pipes matches design pressure of system.
- Sprays, sprinklers and drippers designed to operate at design system pressure.
- System designed to operate with a Uniformity of Distribution of at least 90%.



FURTHER QUESTIONS?

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