



JUNE 2016

## Murray Valley Water Service Area Fact Sheet

The Farm Water Program operates across the Goulburn Murray Water Service Area. This region encompasses a number of Water Service Committees (WSC). WSCs consist of customer representatives who advise and assist Water Authorities in understanding stakeholder issues, needs and concerns. This Fact Sheet outlines participation and involvement across the **Murray Valley Water Service Area** in the Farm Water Program for all rounds until Round 4.

MURRAY VALLEY WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS*		
PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
134*	21.4*	\$38.1*
PROJECTS	GIGALITRES	MILLION

\* Figures as at June 2016; Rounds 1 - 4

### Background on the Farm Water Program

A Northern Victorian consortium has secured more than \$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). Administered through its Farm Water Program the program assists 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.

## Overall Benefits



### On-Farm Irrigation Improvements

- Laser Grading
- Drainage Reuse
- Micro Systems
- Sprinkler Irrigation
- Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation
- Pipe and Riser Systems
- Irrigation Scheduling
- Farm Channel Upgrades
- Plastic Lined Channels



### Water Savings Generated

- Round 1 & 2 total water savings – 52 GL with at least half transferred to the Australian or State governments for environmental purposes.
- Round 3 (Tranche 1) total water savings 16.3 GL with 59 percent transferred to the Australian government for environmental purposes
- Round 4 (Tranche 2A) expected total water savings 0.9 GL with 60% transferred to the Australian government for environmental purposes



### Food Security

- Significant increase in production, time and labour savings when irrigating<sup>1</sup>.
- Irrigators can maximise benefits of a modernised supply from the 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

Funding administered through the Farm Water Program generates:






- Millions of dollars a year in economic benefits across the region;
- Hundreds of jobs;
- Significant social and environmental benefits; and
- A boost in industry confidence and co-investment.



<sup>1</sup> Depending on industry and technology- individual circumstances will vary.

# Fact Sheet - Murray Valley Water Service Area (continued)

The figures shown below relate to participation and involvement by irrigators across the Murray Valley Water Service Area in the Farm Water Program for all rounds up to and including Round 4.

ROUNDS 1 – 4			PROJECT BY INDUSTRY TYPE					
PROJECTS	TOTAL WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED	DAIRY	BEEF	GRAINS	MIXED	OTHER	
134 PROJECTS	21.4 GIGALITRES	\$38.1 MILLION	64 	5 	35 	27 	3 	
PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS								
Laser Grading – Hectares		3888	Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares				3073	
Drainage Reuse – Hectares		2832	Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares				39	
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres		7.33	Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares				4365	
Sprinkler Irrigation		860	Micro Systems				36	
Automation*		805*	*(with water savings generated)					



## Participant Profile: Bill Gread

Modernisation of the irrigation network and funding for on-farm efficiency works are a “blessing” for Goulburn-Murray farmers, according to Katunga’s Bill Gread. Mr Gread had already started extensive lasering and channel work on his farm which he bought in 2006, when funding became available through the On Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program in 2010. “I reckon this Goulburn-Murray valley region is a golden region - a real Garden of Eden – but because of the drought, we were watching it wither before our eyes. This modernisation work and extra funding for on-farm work is completely reinvigorating the region, it’s given us all a new lease on life.” Mr Gread said he recognised that the OFIEP funding could provide him with the opportunity to carry out on-farm improvements. “The place was pretty run down when I bought it so I got to work on the re-use dam, white-rocking some of the channels, earthworks and getting rid of some of the bays in some parts of the farm,” he said. In the meantime modernisation work on nearby channels had been carried out as part of the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project. “Through the connections upgrade, I’d gone from getting five or six megs through the wheel to 20,” he said. “Instead of wasting days watering it meant I could water in hours. To make the most of this, on-farm works were obviously the way to go. I had these paddocks that were basically full of rubbish and because of all the uneven-sized bays and gullies watering them was costly and unviable,” Mr Gread said. Following works, Mr Gread planted stands of lucerne and some sorghum. “I reckon fast-watering is the way to go and, now, because of what we’ve done with the bays and channels, most of the run-off – about 98 per cent I’d say – is going in to the re-use dam and that’s got to be good thing. It’s a real blessing; a lot of people just couldn’t have afforded to get this sort of work done,” he said.

*For more Water Service Area Fact Sheets and Participant Profiles, visit the Farm Water Program pages on the GB CMA website.*



For more information on the Farm Water Program, visit [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au).