



JUNE 2016

## Torrumbarry 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 **Torrumbarry Water Service Area** in the Farm Water Program for all rounds until Round 4.

### TORRUMBARRY WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS\*

PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
115*	14*	\$25.8*
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 – Torrumbarry Water Service Area (continued)

The figures shown below relate to participation and involvement by irrigators across the Torrumbarry 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 	SHEEP & BEEF 	GRAINS 	MIXED	OTHER
115 PROJECTS	14 GIGALITRES	\$25.8 MILLION	81	1	3	16	12	2
PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS								
Laser Grading – Hectares		3013	Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares				5045	
Drainage Reuse – Hectares		2595	Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares				174	
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres		2.4	Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares				1567	
Sprinkler Irrigation		114	Micro Systems				0	
Automation*		230*	*(with water savings generated)					



## Participant Profile: “Keely Station”

Property Location	Cohuna
Property Size	156 hectares
Industry	Dairy
Project	Laser Grading, Drainage Works, Pipe & Risers, & Automation
Project Timeframe	11 Months
Water Savings	112ML transferred to government

Rodney Fletcher runs a dairy farm in Cohuna and was looking at automating irrigation on the property when he successfully applied for Round 3 Farm Water Program funding. Mr Fletcher said, “The process was okay however delays due to rain were challenging. The project has exceeded our expectations and we are already seeing the benefits.” Since its installation, automation has provided improved command across the farm making unproductive country productive. “It has given us confidence in the industry and to stay on the farm,” said Rodney. “Without the Farm Water Program we would be out of the dairy industry” and he said they are “now milking 260 (cows), up from 180.”. When asked about the value of the relationships between stakeholders, Mr Fletcher added, “We signed with Goulburn-Murray Water because we wanted to access the Farm Water Program funding. The programs complimented each other and the CMA has been good to work with and good communicators.” The results of the project are being seen and making the farm more “user friendly”. Rodney said, “Flexibility of the system is huge and also saves water. Better feed production and less labour (with 85% less labour to water). The only drawback to the system would be that power costs have increased from \$5.00 per megalitre to \$15 per megalitre.”