



OCTOBER 2017

Central Goulburn 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 **Central Goulburn Water Service Area** in the Farm Water Program for all completed projects in all rounds (including part Round 5).

CENTRAL GOULBURN WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS*

| PROJECTS | WATER SAVINGS | FUNDED |
|----------|---------------|---------|
| 111* | 13.7* | \$25.6* |
| PROJECTS | GIGALITRES | MILLION |

* Figures as at October 2017;
Rounds 1 – 5 completed projects

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. Funding is released in rounds. The next round is under review by the state with a decision likely by end 2017.

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) 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 irrigating¹.
- Irrigators can maximise benefits of a modernised supply from the GMW 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 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.

Fact Sheet – Central Goulburn Water Service Area (continued)

The figures shown below relate to participation and involvement by irrigators across the Central Goulburn Water Service Area in the Farm Water Program for all completed projects in all rounds (including part Round 5).

| ROUNDS 1 – 5 (completed) | | | PROJECT BY INDUSTRY TYPE | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| PROJECTS | TOTAL WATER SAVINGS | FUNDED | DAIRY | SHEEP & BEEF | GRAINS | MIXED | OTHER |
| 111 PROJECTS | 13.7 GIGALITRES | \$25.6 MILLION | 85  | 2  | 15  | 6  | 3  |
| PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS | | | | | | | |
| Laser Grading – Hectares | | | 2549 | Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares | | | 1981 |
| Drainage Reuse – Hectares | | | 2305 | Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares | | | 719 |
| Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres | | | 0.55 | Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares | | | 2638 |
| Sprinkler Irrigation | | | 609 | Micro Systems | | | 0 |
| Automation* | | | 411* | *(with water savings generated) | | | |



Participant Profile: Glenn Thompson

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Property Location | Kyabram |
| Property Size | 117 hectares |
| Industry | Grain |
| Project | Gravity Channel and Installation of Pipes and Risers |
| Project Timeframe | 8 months |
| Water Savings | 40ML transferred to government |

Glenn Thompson successfully applied for funding through Round 3 of the Farm Water Program (Victorian Farm Modernisation Project, Tranche 2A). The project included the removal of an existing old channel, as well as the installation of pipes and risers on the 117 hectare grain property in Kyabram.

Glenn said his involvement with the Farm Water Program was an “overall positive experience” and that the project would result in “time and management savings”. Glenn highlighted project benefits a “reduced losses through the transmission of water”, as well as the opportunity for fertigation through the addition of fertiliser to the water supply.

By reclaiming the land through the removal of the channel, not only will the time and labour spent maintaining the channel be removed, but there will also be the potential for further water savings and increased productivity. When asked about the project 20 months post-completion, Glenn said his “power costs have increased utilising the new pipe and riser system; however he has saved half a day in irrigating (each irrigation).”

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

