



OCTOBER 2017

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

### ROCHESTER CAMPASPE WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS\*

PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
49*	7*	\$13*
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 irrigating<sup>1</sup>.
- 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.



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

# Fact Sheet – Rochester Campaspe Water Service Area (continued)

The figures shown below relate to participation and involvement across the Rochester Campaspe 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	BEEF	SHEEP & BEEF	GRAINS	MIXED	OTHER
49 PROJECTS	7 GIGALITRES	\$13 MILLION	32 	1 	2 	8 	4	2
PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS								
Laser Grading – Hectares		1154	Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares				1669	
Drainage Reuse – Hectares		1217	Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares				145	
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres		0	Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares				737	
Sprinkler Irrigation		53	Micro Systems				0	
Automation*		107*	*(with water savings generated)					



## Participant Profile: Tony Marwood

Property Location	Echuca
Property Size	Hectares
Industry	Dairy
Project	Installation of Pipe and Risers
Project Timeframe	4 Months
Water Savings	48 ML transferred to government

For Tony Marwood, his Farm Water Program project – to install pipes and risers on his 100 hectare dairy farm in Echuca – was “a massive job but I’d do it again.” The benefits outweighed any hurdles along the way and now, the farm has “more grass, is more efficient, and (is producing) more milk”. For Tony, the most significant benefit is that there is “more value to the property and saleability in the long term.”

Goulburn Murray Water funded the installation of an outlet to the property and a channel was also decommissioned prior to commencement of the project. While there were some initial challenges, Tony said the project will “extend my life in farming” and has encouraged him to eventually go down the path of automation. “Managing the cows is a big challenge for larger projects, as cow movement is limited due to the works and can present some layout challenges,” said Tony. “It takes a while to get to know the new system, and the consequences of making a mistake with pipe and riser are higher.”

However, now “we are using more water but we are growing more.” The farm “takes advantage of the modernised system” and water “savings will be achieved” for the long term.

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