



OCTOBER 2017

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

SHEPPARTON WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS*

PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
75*	6*	\$11*
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.



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VICTORIAN
IRRIGATORS**



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**Dairy
Australia**








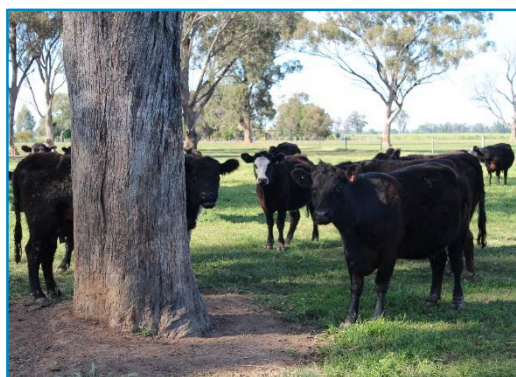
VICTORIA
State
Government
Australian Government

¹ Depending on industry and technology- individual circumstances will vary.

Fact Sheet – Shepparton Water Service Area (continued)

The figures shown below relate to participation and involvement by irrigators across the Shepparton 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 	DAIRY & GRAINS 	BEEF 	SHEEP & BEEF 	GRAINS 	MIXED	OTHER
75 PROJECTS	6 GIGALITRES	\$11 MILLION	22	10	10	6	20	5	2
PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS									
Laser Grading – Hectares			1815		Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares			416	
Drainage Reuse – Hectares			1143		Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares			104	
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres			0		Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares			2216	
Sprinkler Irrigation			22		Micro Systems			8.6	
Automation*			91.3*		*(with water savings generated)				



Participant Profile: Albert Qose

Property Location	Congupna
Property Size	38 hectares
Industry	Beef
Project	Installation of Pipes and Risers
Project Timeframe	6 months
Water Savings	45ML transferred to government



Albert was interested in earlier Farm Water Program funding rounds but thought it beneficial to “wait to see how it all went” before applying. When he decided to “take the next step and install pipes and risers” he also successfully applied for Round 3 funding. Years ago Albert and wife Sue had bought an out paddock to run a herd of beefers. “We had to do a lot of work, we couldn’t water it,” he said. The works involved installing pumps and a re-use dam, laser grading and fencing. “It ended up being pretty efficient and we now run a 100-head of Angus-cross for fattening up and trade,” Albert said. “We’ve seen great time savings already. Instead of 36 hours it took 24 hours because we no longer have to wait for the channels to fill. They used to take a couple of hours to fill. Now I start the pump and the water is there straight away - and it gets to every corner of the farm.” As well as getting a “few hours of extra sleep” now due to easier watering, Albert is also getting greater use of his 3500L re-use dam. “With the old set up we could only irrigate one side of the farm, now we can pump from it all over the property. Without a good and efficient water supply, what have we got? These types of programs are good for farming, good for the sustainability of the industry and mean we can adapt more easily to (weather and market) challenges,” he said.

For more information on the Farm Water Program, visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au.