

Goulburn Broken Catchment Fact Sheet

Background on the Farm Water Program

A Northern Victorian consortium secured more than \$170 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 (\$70 million). Administered through its Farm Water Program the program assisted irrigators to achieve water savings by improving on-farm irrigation systems. An average of around 55% of the water saved was transferred to the Australian or Victorian governments for environmental purposes.

GOULBURN BROKEN CATCHMENT PROJECTS

PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
374 PROJECTS	48 GIGALITRES	\$92 MILLION

Overall Benefits

On-Farm Irrigation Improvements



- 618 of 622 projects completed with \$170 million funding
- 68,000 hectares of works including:
 - Laser Grading
 - Drainage Reuse
 - Micro Systems
 - Sprinkler Irrigation
 - Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation
 - Pipe and Riser Systems
 - Irrigation Scheduling
 - Farm Channel Upgrades
 - Automatic irrigation



Water Savings Generated

- 82 gigalitres water saved.
- 38 gigalitres retained on-farm for improved productivity.
- 43 gigalitres transferred to Australian and Victorian governments for environmental purposes.



Food Security

- Increased resilience in the face of climate change and Murray Darling Basin Plan.
- Higher value of production per megalitre used (estimated increase of \$48 million per year).
- Irrigators can maximise benefits of a modernised supply from the GMW Connections program.
- Significant increase in production, time and labour savings when irrigating.
- 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 (by about 20 gigalitres per year) and nutrient run-off (by about 120 tonnes per year of nitrogen and phosphorus) and help address salinity and water table issues.



Regional Development

- With an average cost-benefit ratio of 1.4, the funding administered through the Farm Water Program is estimated to generate at least:
- \$48 million a year in economic benefits across the region;
 - 122 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 – Goulburn Broken Catchment (continued)

The figures shown below relate to participation and involvement by irrigators across the Goulburn Broken Catchment in the Farm Water Program for all completed projects in all rounds 1 – 5.

ROUNDS 1 – 5 (completed)			PROJECT BY INDUSTRY TYPE					
PROJECTS	TOTAL WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED	DAIRY	SHEEP & BEEF	GRAINS	HORTI-CULTURE	MIXED	OTHER
374 PROJECTS	48 GIGALITRES	\$92 MILLION	192	46	85	6	43	2

PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Laser Grading – Hectares	7408	Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares	9388
Drainage Reuse – Hectares	7056	Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares	460
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres	3.21	Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares	4288
Sprinkler Irrigation	1017	Micro Systems	781
Automation*	481*	*with water savings generated	

Participant Profile: Stephen Lindsay

Property Location	Picola
Property Size	323 hectares
Industry	Grain
Project	Installation of Centre Pivots
Water Savings	122ML



Stephen and Julie Lindsay completed a Round 2 project converting 122 hectares of unimproved flood system to a centre pivot system.

The main benefits of the project have been water and labour savings.

“In the spring and autumn we are saving a lot of water as we are able to apply smaller amounts of water that meet the plants’ requirements better”, Julie said.

The project also worked in with the Connections Program that was upgrading the delivery system to the property.

Stephen said, “We wouldn’t have been able to undertake this project in its entirety if we were not able to combine the opportunities presented by GMW Connections Project and the Farm Water Program. The resulting outcome has not only increased our production while using less water, but made irrigating a pleasure!”

The project saved 122 megalitres of water, half of which was transferred to the Commonwealth for environmental purposes and half was retained on the property to allow increased productivity.

For more information, 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.