

JULY 2018

Central Goulburn Water Service Area Fact Sheet

The Farm Water Program operated 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 1 – 5.

CENTRAL GOULBURN WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS

PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
126 PROJECTS	14.8 GIGALITRES	\$28 MILLION

Background on the Farm Water Program

A Northern Victorian consortium secured \$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. At least half the water saved was transferred to the Australian or Victorian governments for environmental purposes. Funding was released in rounds.

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 – 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 1 – 5.

ROUNDS 1 – 5 (completed)			PROJECT BY INDUSTRY TYPE					
PROJECTS	TOTAL WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED	DAIRY	SHEEP & BEEF	GRAINS	MIXED	OTHER	
126 PROJECTS	14.8 GIGALITRES	\$28 MILLION	91 	7 	17 	8 	3	
PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS								
Laser Grading – Hectares	2891	Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares						2017
Drainage Reuse – Hectares	2578	Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares						719
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres	0.55	Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares						2847
Sprinkler Irrigation	784	Micro Systems						11
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	68ML

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.

