



JULY 2018

## Loddon Valley 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 [Loddon Valley Water Service Area](#) in the Farm Water Program for all completed projects in all rounds 1 – 5.

LODDON VALLEY WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS		
PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
53 PROJECTS	8.6 GIGALITRES	\$17 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.

## 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.



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



# Fact Sheet – Loddon Valley Water Service Area (continued)

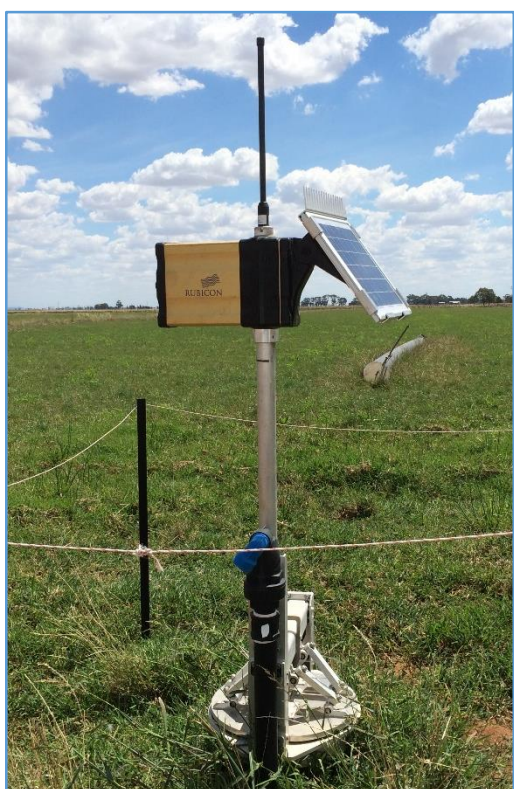
The figures shown below relate to participation and involvement by irrigators across the Loddon Valley Water Service Area in the Farm Water Program for all completed projects in all rounds 1 – 5.

ROUNDS 1 – 5 (completed)			PROJECT BY INDUSTRY TYPE			
PROJECTS	TOTAL WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED	DAIRY	SHEEP & BEEF	GRAINS	MIXED
53 PROJECTS	8.6 GIGALITRES	\$17 MILLION	21	3	15	14
<b>PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS</b>						
Laser Grading – Hectares	2298	Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares	2004			
Drainage Reuse – Hectares	2207	Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares	57			
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres	0.8	Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares	1515			
Sprinkler Irrigation	295	Micro Systems	372			
Automation*	145*	*with water savings generated				



## Participant Profile: Keith Lawry

Property Location	Dingee
Property Size	233 hectares
Industry	Dairy
Project	Laser Grading, Drainage Reuse, Pipe & Risers and Automation
Project Timeframe	24 months
Water Savings	156ML



Keith Lawry completed works on his dairy property in Dingee through Round 3 of the Farm Water Program. The project involved installing pipes and risers, irrigation scheduling, drainage reuse works and laser grading. Keith said, “The speed of irrigation has increased efficiency of water use; and other crops are now a possibility.”

Adding automation to the project area had also shown clear benefits, as Keith said, “Automation has allowed me to continue to contribute to the property - easier work and safer. With the completion of this project, the whole property is now covered by pipe and risers and the water savings estimated are being seen.”

Completed over the course of two years, Mr Lawry felt the program was “an excellent initiative” but has lost its value recently (April 2016) because of low value of water offered.” At that time, Round 4 (the next round following Lawry’s participation) had overall low participation. This was largely attributed to the difference between the price being offered for water and the price available on the water market.

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