

Rochester Campaspe 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 **Rochester Campaspe Water Service Area** in the Farm Water Program for all completed projects in all rounds 1 – 5.

ROCHESTER CAMPASPE WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS

PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
58 PROJECTS	7.8 GIGALITRES	\$15 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.



¹ 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 1 – 5.

ROUNDS 1 – 5 (completed)			PROJECT BY INDUSTRY TYPE					
PROJECTS	TOTAL WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED	DAIRY	BEEF	SHEEP & BEEF	GRAINS	MIXED	OTHER
58 PROJECTS	7.8 GIGALITRES	\$15 MILLION	35	1	2	11	6	3

PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Laser Grading – Hectares	1356	Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares	1761
Drainage Reuse – Hectares	1416	Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares	145
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres	0	Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares	923
Sprinkler Irrigation	180	Micro Systems	21
Automation*	107*	*with water savings generated	



Participant Profile: Tony Marwood

Property Location	Echuca
Property Size	100 hectares
Industry	Dairy
Project	Installation of Pipe and Risers
Project Timeframe	4 Months
Water Savings	82ML

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.