



August 2019

Program Background

The Farm Water Program (FWP) began in 2010 in the Goulburn Murray water service area in northern Victoria, and was completed in 2018.

The program assisted irrigators achieve water savings by improving farm irrigation systems.

Overseen by a range of organisations and irrigators, one important component of the program has been to establish a Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting (MER) framework to track progress, achievements and outcomes. In 2019 the framework was evaluated against all FWP Rounds 1 – 5 data by RMCG. The results are summarised in this Fact Sheet.

MER Review Findings

The evaluation tested and documented achievements from each round against the MER framework for three levels (or attributes). They are primary (generally outputs), secondary (outcomes) and tertiary (broader regional impacts). The MER framework was reviewed in 2014 and 2017 with some improvements incorporated.

The final evaluation for each of the critical attribute levels are overleaf. A couple of highlights are:

- Over 69,000 hectares of works completed
- More than \$ 30 million increased production per year generated

Generally the MER framework has been regarded as a useful and robust tool.

A separate evaluation also looked at feedback from irrigators in their final project reports. This information will be covered in another fact sheet.

PROJECTS TOTAL COMPLETED	AREA COMPLETED
622 (4 in part) PROJECTS	69,950 HA



WATER SAVINGS FROM PROJECTS	WATER RETAINED ON FARM	FUNDING
82 GL	38.5 GL	\$170 MILLION



Farm Water Program Evaluation 2010 – 2018

(continued)

Final figures as at August 2019 for Rounds 1 – 5 completed

PRIMARY ATTRIBUTES

Projects completed in full – number	618
Projects partly completed – number	4
Water savings – gigalitres	82
Water savings retained on-farm – gigalitres	38.5
Water savings for environmental purposes – gigalitres	43.5
Funding – millions	\$ 170
Irrigation farm works (farmer contribution + funding payments) – millions	\$ 228
Area of projects completed – hectares	69,950

SECONDARY ATTRIBUTES

Estimated area of combined technologies upgraded (all covered by Whole Farm Plans) – hectares	40,395
Productivity increase from retained saved water – million/year	\$ 30.8
Productivity increase over 40,395 hectares upgraded – million/year	\$ 18.6
Total productivity increase (estimated) – million/year	\$ 49.4
Phosphorus reduced (at 1 milligram/litre) – tonnes	21
Nitrogen reduced (at 5 milligrams/litre) – tonnes	103
Change in drainage flow – megalitres/year	- 20,502
Change in recharge to watertables – megalitres/year	- 20,502

TERTIARY ATTRIBUTES (Estimates)

Additional full time equivalent (FTE) in regional employment (excludes jobs created in construction phase) – number	123
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Sample feedback from participants from their project final reports

- Water savings were meeting or exceeding expectations
- The ability for farmers to move to new crops / improved flexibility for management
- Issues in coordinating with the GMW Connections process for Round 3
- In Round 5 program management staff were seen as good to excellent and appropriate for the task required
- Additional irrigation works that would not otherwise have been completed

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