



Media Release

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Campaspe's Future under the spotlight

A Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP) study has revealed the Campaspe Weir can be modernised through remediation works that will prolong the life of the weir for more than 20 years for less than \$1 million.

Furthermore, Campaspe landowners maintain a positive outlook seeing a long-term future for themselves as irrigators in the region.

Undertaken by contractor SunWater, the weir study determined remediation works could be carried out and the weir would not need replacing.

"This is an extremely good outcome," Bruce Macague Chair of the Campaspe Reference Group said.

"The potential replacement of the weir has been a burden hanging over our heads. With about 120 customers, it would be impossible to self-fund its replacement for an estimated \$20 million.

"Remediation works provide more time to adjust to the ever increasing challenges faced by the irrigation industry in this region."

Mr Macague said a number of organisations benefited from the weir not just Campaspe irrigators.

"I would like to see the Campaspe irrigators fund remediation works but other beneficiaries fund ongoing monitoring at the weir and future replacement costs."

The study has also identified a preferred option for irrigation renewal in the Campaspe Irrigation District. This includes connecting the majority of landowners to a backbone channel under NVIRP's Connections Program. Subject to more analysis, it also includes the option of supplementary supply from the Waranga Western Channel to assist irrigators in times of low storage at Lake Eppalock.

"It is important that we bring Campaspe irrigators along on the journey. At the end of the day, we need a plan for the way forward, an agreed position that we have developed with Campaspe irrigators and one that can be supported by the wider community," Mr Macague said.

NVIRP is continuing a far-reaching study into the future of the Campaspe Irrigation District.

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