



# Media Release

Date: Monday 9 August 2010

## Environmental approvals good news for the north

The latest State and Federal environmental approvals for the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project have been completed and will ensure that during and at the completion of this irrigation renewal project, great care has been taken for the benefit of the river systems and wetlands in northern Victoria.

NVIRP CEO Murray Smith said that these latest approvals, covering 12 Environmental Watering Plans for sites of high environmental value and the Water Change Management Framework effectively clear the way for the operation of the modernised irrigation system following NVIRP's recent winter works.

"The approvals deliver on commitments in complying with both the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and conditions of State approval under the *Environment Effects Act*," Mr Smith said.

"Along with the care we are taking as we upgrade the system, this irrigation modernisation project will return up to 175 gegalitres on average to the rivers and wetlands including the River Murray, Ramsar wetlands and our new National Parks, delivering the water at the right times to gain the best environmental outcomes.

"This has been another major milestone in our project and would not have been achieved without the tremendous support from both the North Central and Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authorities, Department of Sustainability and Environment and our team," he said.

The 12 Environmental Watering Plans are available for public view on the NVIRP web site [www.nvirp.com.au](http://www.nvirp.com.au) and cover; the Campaspe River, Loddon River, Lower Broken and Nine Mile Creek, Little Lake Boort, Lake Murphy, Lake Yando, Lake Elizabeth, Lake Leaghur, Lake Meran, Round Lake, McDonalds Swamp, Johnson Swamp.

-end-

**Media Contact:**

Merrill Boyd, Executive Manager Communications NVIRP, T: 0438678 323

E: [merrill.boyd@nvirp.com.au](mailto:merrill.boyd@nvirp.com.au)