

Media Release

Date: Friday 12 March 2010

Campaspe irrigation residents to tell all

Early next week it is expected that the intentions of over 130 landowners in the Campaspe Irrigation District will be known.

Responding to a recent letter from the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP), over two thirds of the residents attended meetings in the region to gauge what their prospects were for future irrigation farming.

These meetings followed several surveys undertaken over the last few months, and consultation throughout last year and from which an indication was gained that there were many irrigators who, for a variety of reasons (one being that no irrigation water had been available to them for four out of the last five years), will retire their properties from irrigation.

Concern was expressed as to the provision of a domestic and stock water supply in a reconfigured system and NVIRP has undertaken to continue to link landowners to an already established backbone or river system. There was also an uneasiness relating to future pricing pressures as more landowners opted to leave the irrigation industry.

David Kent NVIRP's Executive Manager of Modernisation said that each landowner had been offered reimbursement of up to \$1000 to individually seek independent professional advice pertaining to their current circumstances.

"Our Modernisation team members have been dealing with up to a dozen enquiries throughout the days leading up to 15 March when we hope to be able to establish a clear way forward for all Campaspe landowners.

"While it is acknowledged that the need to make a decision is causing heightened concerns for these Campaspe landowners, NVIRP believes by working together appropriate outcomes for the future can be achieved," David Kent said.

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