

Media Release

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Exit packages on the way for Campaspe irrigators

About 25 per cent of Campaspe district landowners have started to receive their exit packages from the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project after choosing to leave the irrigation system, which will be decommissioned later this year.

Formal agreements have been delivered to about 65 per cent of the landowners who elected to exit the system. NVIRP expects to finalise the remaining agreements within weeks.

Solutions have been identified and agreed on for 13 landowners who were previously undecided on whether to exit the system while negotiations are continuing with six irrigators to find suitable solutions for their properties.

NVIRP Executive Manager Modernisation David Kent said the district's 151 landowners were guaranteed to receive a domestic and stock supply.

A draft design for a \$1.2 million reticulated domestic and stock pipeline servicing about 50 properties in Campaspe west was unveiled to landowners this week.

"We are working closely with Goulburn-Murray Water to ensure that domestic and stock supply is available to all landowners when the 2010-11 irrigation season opens on 15 August," Mr Kent said.

"We are also working with G-MW on a framework to manage a syndicate water supply that could provide an alternative source of irrigation water for some landowners.

"Because this plan will not be finalised when the irrigation season opens, a contingency plan will be in place to supply about 12 landowners based mainly in the east."

About 50 landowners have taken up a \$1000 once-off payment to seek legal advice on their agreement. A further update will be provided to landowners at a meeting in August.

In March this year, the majority of Campaspe landowners expressed their intention to permanently exit irrigation, leading to the decision to close the Campaspe irrigation system. The majority of Campaspe Irrigation District landowners are on small properties, with about half holding less than 25 megalitres of water share.

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