

Plan Design Deliver

Savings come from reducing losses

May 2010

Northern Victoria
Irrigation Renewal Project

NVIRP

waterforgrowth

Connections Program Information for farmers

A manual describing NVIRP's Connections Program will be delivered to 16 000 Goulburn Murray irrigators in coming weeks to illustrate how the connections process will unfold and benefit their farm business.

A major component of NVIRP, the Connections Program will connect farms directly to the system of backbone channels and decommission redundant infrastructure such as old leaky spur channels.

"The Connections Program aims to save 75.8 gigalitres during Stage 1, reduce modernisation costs and improve irrigation systems on farms," NVIRP Modernisation Executive Manager David Kent said.

"Already, we are receiving reports of more manageable systems that use less water.

"It will take time for NVIRP to reach every irrigator in the district so the manual may answer some questions in the meantime, provide a resource for future reference and puts the Connections Program into perspective as part of NVIRP's bigger picture."

NVIRP's Connections Program Information for farmers details how to get started in the program.

"In most cases, irrigators will be contacted by NVIRP and a Farm Irrigation Assessment will be carried out by an independent designer," Mr Kent said.

"If rationalisation opportunities are identified during the assessment, a payment based on the costs of the on-farm works may be offered to landowners to carry-out the works involved."

The manual provides information on connections, eligible payments, how to work with neighbours, service point fees and environmental approvals. It includes case studies and a glossary.

Thirty per cent of the Connections Program will be delivered during Stage 1 of NVIRP while the remaining 70 per cent is planned to be delivered during Stage 2. Irrigators supplied by Central Goulburn channels 1-4 and all landowners in the Shepparton Irrigation Area will be included during Stage 2 which is subject to due diligence by the Commonwealth Government.

The manual, printed in Shepparton, will be posted to each Goulburn Murray Irrigation District irrigator. It is also available online at www.nvirp.com.au or by phoning 1300 163 006

Faith and optimism in a modernised system

Pyramid Hill irrigator John Brooke OAM and his wife Christine have always been optimistic about farming in the region.

"We have faith in this place and believe it's worth investing in," Mr Brooke said.

"And it's worth investing in the best technology available to get the best out of what water is available."

In April 2009, Mr Brooke approached NVIRP to kickstart an upgrade of his farm's irrigation system.

He presented some ideas on making the system more efficient to water about 20 hectares of walnuts and 120 hectares of lasered land for a variety of crops. One of NVIRP's independent farm irrigation designers visited the Brooke's farm to carry out an assessment and a whole farm plan.

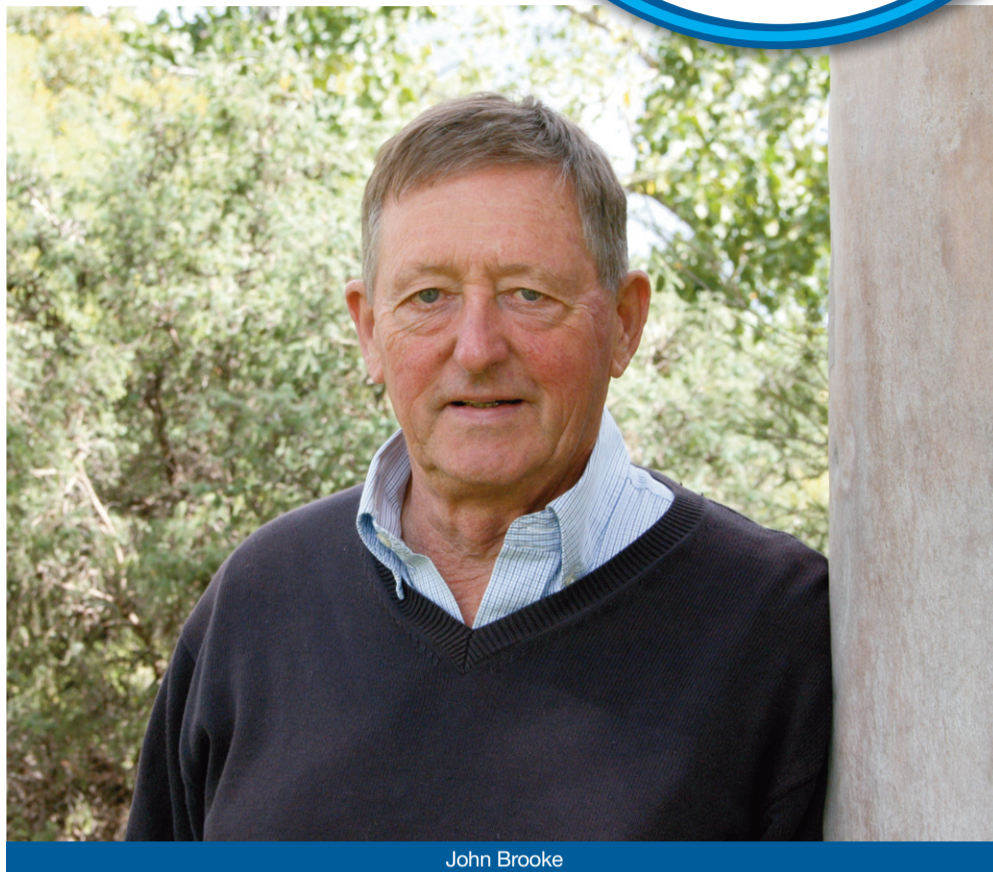
"Through a process of discussions, by October, we had designs well complete," Mr Brooke said.

Although the backbone channel bisects the Brooke's property situated 16 kilometres west of Pyramid Hill, it is about two kilometres away from the area that is intensely irrigated. This meant water was sent down a leaky spur channel to reach the crops and needed to be ordered five days in advance for the orchard. As part of that process, a Goulburn-Murray Water staff member had to manually open and close the infrastructure to allow water into the Brooke's system.

The modernisation works involved building a two kilometre long lasered channel from the backbone to a new eight megalitre dam. The dam feeds a sophisticated sprinkler system and a pipe and riser was installed to water the remaining area of irrigated agriculture. About 4.5 kilometres of pipe has been used and the system delivers more than 12 megalitres a day at each outlet. A 600 mm magflow meter is yet to be installed.

"I can already see that there are significant savings over the previous system of channels," Mr Brooke said.

"There are no leaks with the new system so we make water savings and it's more convenient.



John Brooke

"I think the biggest benefit is going to come from having the storage dam which will enable us to water the orchard whenever we want to. So if the trees are dry during winter, we can give them a drink before the season opens."

The works decommissioned two kilometres of G-MW channel, four outlets and two road crossings. Mr Brooke employed Planright as the project superintendant to estimate the cost of

the works, prepare contracts, call for tenders and manage the works process.

"It meant that if there were any hassles, I wasn't wearing them," Mr Brooke said.

The entire project cost \$500,000 and NVIRP covered 60 per cent of that cost with an incentive payment. The project was completed within 12 months of Mr Brooke's initial contact.

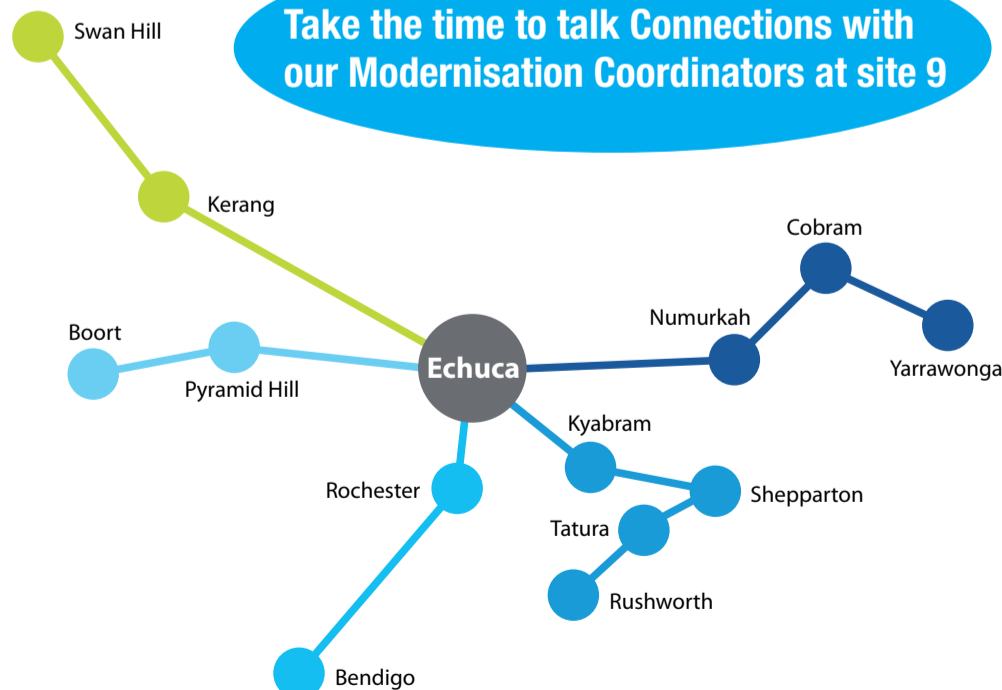
Free transport to Irrigation Expo on Wednesday 19 May 2010

Visit the Water Technology Cluster 2010 Irrigation Expo and see and hear about the latest farm options in water saving technology. The Expo will be held from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 May, at the Echuca Racecourse, corner Murray Valley Highway and Scott Street, Echuca.

NVIRP will provide free transport to the Expo for interested farmers and irrigators. This is a great opportunity to network with like-minded people on the way to and from the Expo, making the most of your participation in this exciting event.

Buses will depart from Swan Hill, Boort, Bendigo, Rushworth and Yarrowonga, with routes shown on this map. Bus availability will depend on interest so please register early by calling Karina on 1300 163 006. Further information on the irrigation expo can be found at www.watertechnologycluster.com.au.

Take the time to talk Connections with our Modernisation Coordinators at site 9



461 Wyndham Street, Shepparton Vic 3630. Tel: 1300 163 006 or Email: waterforgrowth@nvirp.com.au

www.nvirp.com.au

Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project

