



Media Release

Date: Tuesday 12 January 2010

Water sale discussions at local meetings

Twelve community meetings have been planned throughout the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District for landowners considering trading water shares to the Commonwealth Government.

The meetings convened by the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project staff will be held in Cohuna, Kerang, Swan Hill, Boort, Pyramid Hill, Cobram, Numurkah, Shepparton, Tatura, Kyabram, Rochester and Lockington.

These meetings will enable one-on-one discussions regarding eligibility following the State Government's modification to the 4% water trading exemption criteria.

CEO of NVIRP Murray Smith said he was aware some landowners would have questions about their eligibility and the newly announced exemption zones and it was important that they understood that the yellow and green map provided was showing indicative zones only.

"Understanding eligibility to facilitate a sale of water to the Commonwealth Government or other environmental buyers such as the Murray Darling Basin Authority and Water for Rivers will require an assessment, so it is important landowners start that conversation now with NVIRP staff," Mr Smith said

"Those proposing to tender for the current Commonwealth Government's environmental water purchase should proceed immediately with the tender documents while at the same time seeking an eligibility assessment from NVIRP by either obtaining the form at one of the information meetings or downloading one from www.nvirp.com.au or by telephoning the Exemption Hotline 1300 068 477.

The Commonwealth will undertake three \$90 million tenders to purchase water entitlements in the southern connected system of the Murray Darling Basin and the first tender opened on Monday 11 January and will close 29 January 2010.

Meeting dates have been advertised and can be found on the website www.nvirp.com.au

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