

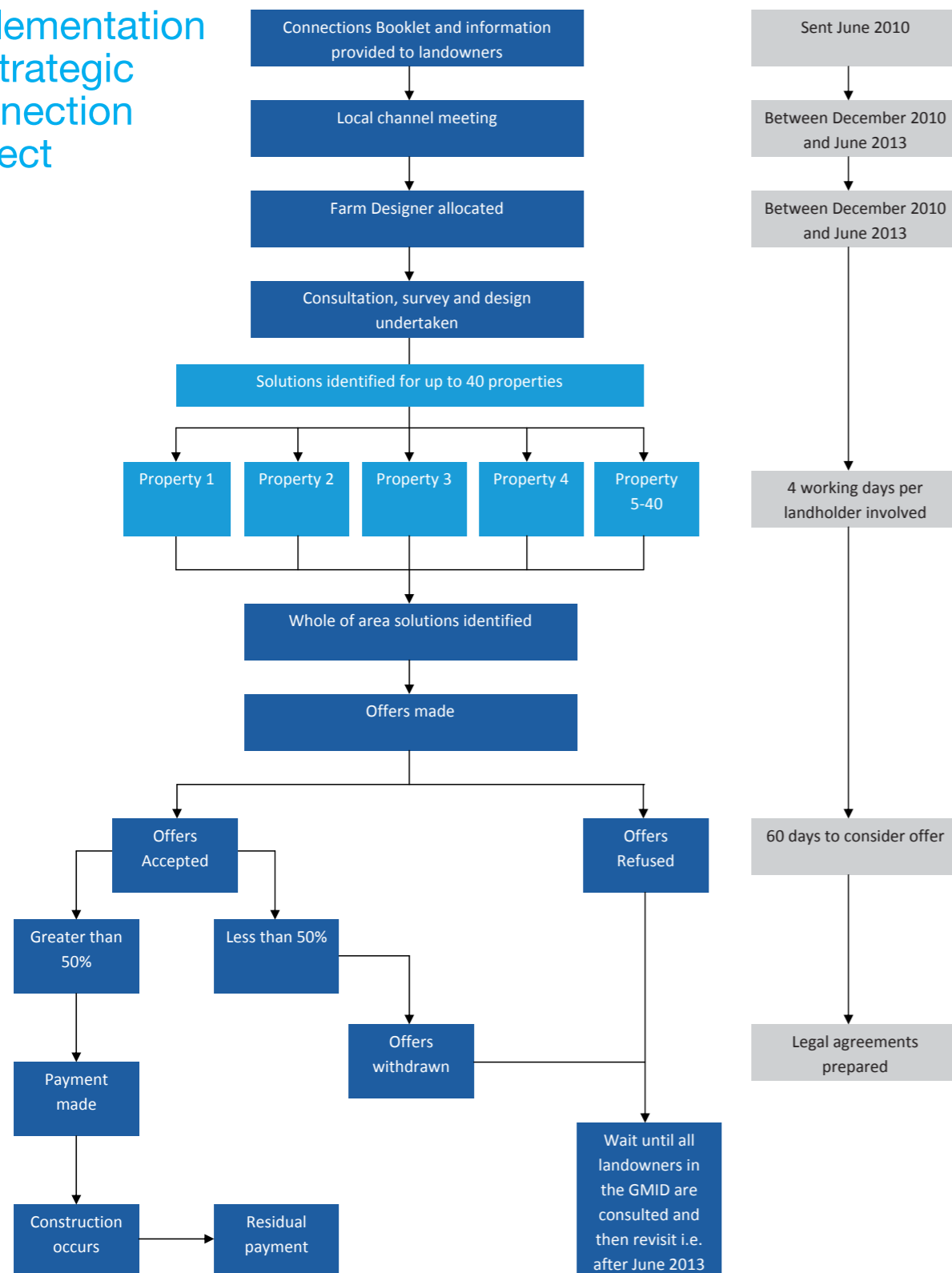
10 Reasons to get involved in NVIRP's Connection Program.

1. Farm Irrigation Assessments – ensuring modernisation works are compatible with the on-farm supply system
2. Higher service levels – near on-demand, constant and higher flow rates
3. State-of-the-art system with the ability to integrate with the on-farm supply system
4. Streamlined system but still supplying water to the majority of landowners that wish to remain in irrigation
5. Enhanced efficiency - ability to do more with less
6. Improved accuracy – greater understanding of what the plant needs
7. More affordable system for future generations due to significantly less infrastructure
8. Opportunity to expand through property consolidation
9. Community Pride – neighbours working with neighbours
10. Once in a lifetime opportunity to secure the economic, social and environmental future of northern Victoria

Connections Program for Landowners

Fact Sheet

Implementation of Strategic Connection Project



Landowners have the opportunity to upgrade their on-farm irrigation system by taking part in NVIRP's Connections Program. The aim of the program is to connect properties directly to the modernised backbone and find mutually beneficial solutions for a better, faster service which saves water and reduces costs.

Showcasing a landowner's success story

"John" is a landowner who grows crops and lucerne accessing irrigation water from a spur channel that also services three neighbouring properties. There are three Dethridge wheels on John's section of the spur and the closest wheel is one kilometre from a backbone channel. John needs to order water three days in advance from Goulburn-Murray Water.

NVIRP sends John a letter inviting him to attend a meeting on the channel bank with his neighbours to talk about the Connections Program. John is keen to find out more and expresses his interest to take part in the program.

An independent farm designer engaged by NVIRP visits John to discuss his farm operation and review a whole farm plan. The farm designer, "Peter", also visits John's neighbours who may be affected by any changes made to John's system.

See inside for the proposed modern system for John's farm.



John Edwards and farmer



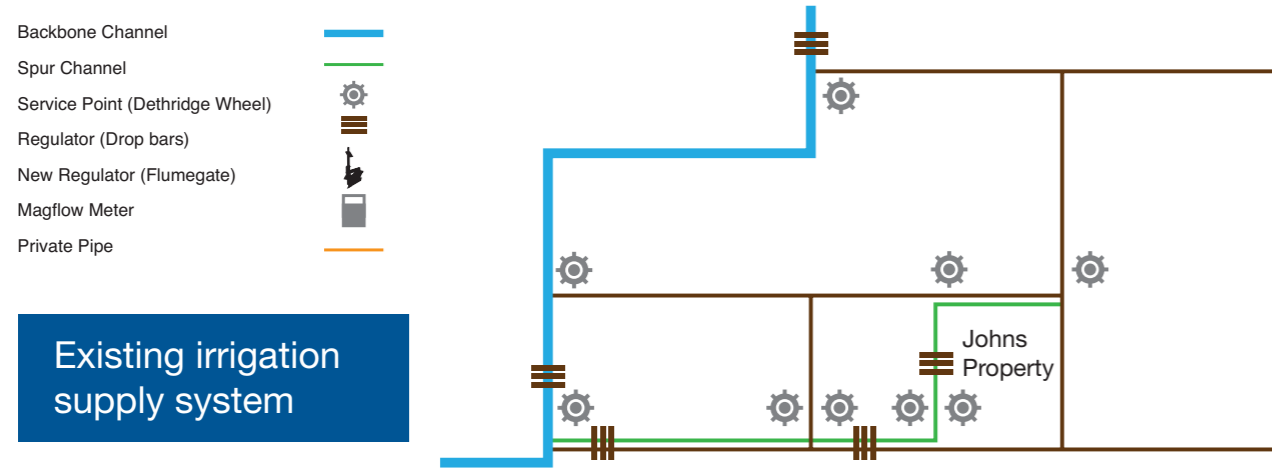
Electronic flow meter with the control gate on the farm side of the outlet

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Connections Program for Landowners

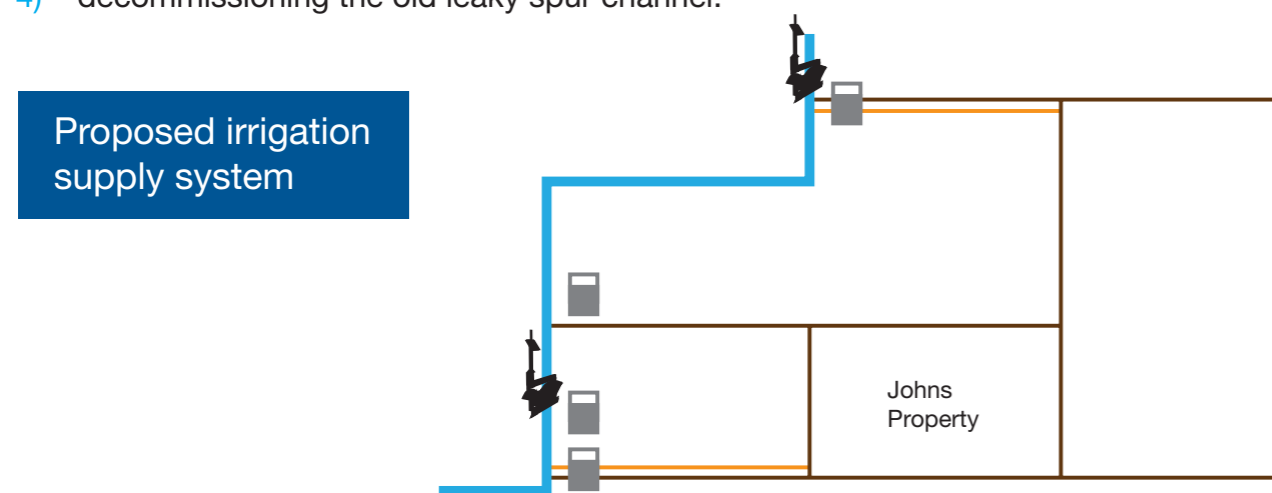
Fact Sheet



The proposed layout for a modern system presented to John

After some initial surveying, Peter presents a draft plan to John that includes potential costs. The plan includes:

- 1) replacing three Dethridge wheels with one new automated meter on the backbone channel
- 2) installing a gravity fed pipe which crosses the neighbouring properties
- 3) an easement for the new pipe
- 4) decommissioning the old leaky spur channel.



John can see that the new system would provide many benefits including:

- 1) getting rid of an unsightly, inefficient spur channel
- 2) water almost on-demand with supply start by remote control
- 3) a more consistent and faster flow-rate that uses less water by replacing the old meters
- 4) lower meter fees by reducing the number of meters
- 5) better paddock access and fencing
- 6) more land for productive use, by decommissioning the channel 1.5 hectares can be reclaimed.

Financial incentives

NVIRP modernisation coordinator “Daryl” visits John to discuss the plan and likely incentives available based on the amount of water savings that could be achieved by putting the plan into action.

Daryl explains that the proposed costs have taken into account the worst case scenario and that it is possible the actual cost could be lower. He says NVIRP will aim to cover all costs so that John is no worse off. Through negotiation \$164,000 is offered as a financial incentive.

John seeks independent advice from his accountant and also gets a second opinion on the design from another farm designer. NVIRP provides \$1,000 as a one-off payment to help cover this cost.

Some thinking time...

John’s family and the neighbours are all pleased with the plan that will see a wide, leaky spur channel decommissioned.

John discusses the plan with a Department of Primary Industries case officer and discovers that he can further improve his on-farm system and improve his overall service levels while saving water, by also taking part in the Farm Water Program. Linking the two programs together provides significant benefits to John’s overall farm management plans.

John accepts the offer

Daryl provides John with an NVIRP legal agreement and explains the key clauses.

John seeks advice from his solicitor who gives him the go-ahead to proceed and then he signs the agreement. NVIRP pays 70 per cent of the agreed amount upfront and John organises a private contractor to undertake the works. Prior to commencing the works he also contacts his local council to find out if any planning permits are needed.

Works Commence

- NVIRP installs a new electronic magflow meter on the backbone channel
- John’s contractor installs a pipe and undertakes other on-farm works
- once works are finalised John contacts NVIRP who visit the farm to inspect the works and then pay the remaining 30 per cent of the agreed amount
- John finds his new system uses less water and saves time
- G-MW organises a crown land grant as a result of the channel being decommissioned giving John more productive land area.