

Media Release

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Expert panel to assist landowners

NVIRP has engaged 15 farm irrigation design companies to form an expert panel helping landowners plan for on-farm modernisation works.

Via the panel, NVIRP will have access to about 55 consultants who will work closely with landowners to assess farms for rationalisation options and the best way to connect to the backbone.

Stage 1 of NVIRP's Connections Program will see more than 850 km of channel and 3,500 service points rationalised as well as 5,000 backbone service points replaced.

NVIRP CEO Murray Smith said the aim was to ensure landowners benefited from the program on their farms.

"We will work with landowners to identify the best way to modernise and rationalise infrastructure through detailed farm irrigation assessments," Mr Smith said.

"I am pleased most of the consultants, receiving close to full-time employment, are locally based so landowners will receive local knowledge and jobs are created for local people.

"Employing designers on a panel eliminates administration for NVIRP.

"Stringent key performance indicators have been set so that landowners receive a professional, consistent and efficient service."

Phil Price from Price Merrett in Kerang and Swan Hill is one of the designers on the panel.

"The project has provided a major boost to our industry and the flow on effects to the local economy seem endless," Mr Price said.

Martin Ward from Monitor Irrigation in Shepparton said he had employed four extra staff as a result of the project works.

"Being placed on the panel provides me with security for my business and our staff will work hard to meet the performance goals set by NVIRP."

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