

Media Release

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NVIRP show GG irrigation modernisation

The Governor General Quentin Bryce on her Shepparton tour yesterday was shown the latest and most sophisticated irrigation technology, highlighting near on-demand water delivery and water saving strategies.

In the second stage of her Murray Darling Basin communities' tour, the Governor General accompanied the Chairman and staff of the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project, viewing first-hand new solar powered automated channel gates delivering irrigation water. She also saw plastic lined channels installed to capture water savings from channel leakage and seepage and viewed tomatoes growing in a hydroponic hot house.

Following the two-hour tour of the Ardmona district she said she was impressed irrigation leaders were talking about progress for the future.

"On the bus I learnt how hard people were working together to achieve greater efficiencies in water handling and every aspect of water management with the assistance of science and technology.

"I have seen the emphasis on preventing leakages, looking at measures like lining channels and using the new developments geared to greater efficiencies. Every drop of water is precious and that's what they are focused on," the Governor General said.

Included on the tour was the Chairman of Goulburn-Murray Water Steve Mills, and Chair of Melbourne Water Mrs Cheryl Batagol, both organisations partners along with the Victorian Government in the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project.

Two irrigators and staff from the Department of Primary Industry had the opportunity to explain to the Governor General the implications of a modernised irrigation delivery system leading to increased farm gate productivity and profitability.

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