



Media Statement

Date: Friday 20 March 2009

Comments from Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project Chief Executive Officer, Murray Smith said:

"We are currently undertaking the largest irrigation infrastructure project in Australia – a \$2 billion investment which will capture 425 billion litres of water on average every year when completed.

"The Government has always said an initial 75 billion litres of water will come to Melbourne in 2010/11, made up of savings from NVIRP early works and other projects, with some water from the Eildon Water Quality Reserve if necessary.

"After 2010, water savings from Stage 1 of the irrigation upgrades will be shared equally between farmers, rivers and Melbourne.

"In any given year the water savings captured from the project will vary, but we remain confident we will save on average 225 billion litres each year from Stage 1 of the project.

"Water savings are already being made right now from our early works program, and the volume will ramp up as the works progress."

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