

Media Release

Date: Friday 6 March 2009

Irrigation incentives discussed over breakfasts

The financial incentives for landowners associated with irrigation modernisation provided ample food for thought at breakfast meetings with bankers, accountants, solicitors and farm service providers from Kerang and Boort this week.

More than 40 professionals discussed the incentives and had their questions answered on the processes involved in modernisation at two breakfasts organised by the Department of Primary Industry.

The Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project's CEO Murray Smith said it was important to explain how the project was being 'rolled-out' and its benefits for local clients of this key group of advisers.

"We need all of these rural advisers well-informed so that they can see the opportunities available to their clients. When they understand the benefits, they are better placed to give considered advice to farming families or local business," Mr Smith said.

"This is a time of unprecedented change within the water industry. Extended periods of low water allocations and uncertainty around commodity prices are creating huge challenges for farming businesses and communities.

"Within this pressured environment, we need to make sure that irrigators, industries and communities can make the most of the benefits coming their way from Stage 1 and 2 of this \$2 billion investment in modernising northern Victoria's leaky old irrigation system.

"Most of all, individuals should not decide what may be possible under NVIRP's connection program until they have discussed their individual situation and explored opportunities with our modernisation staff and the Farm Irrigation Designer assigned to their section of channel.

"Our experience to date indicates that some lateral thinking by all parties is delivering win-win outcomes," Mr Smith added.

-end-

Media Contact: Merrill Boyd
Executive Manager Communications
Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project
Tel: 0438 678 323
merrill.boyd@nvirp.com.au