



Media Release

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NVIRP incentives encourage a modernised system

Irrigators across the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District (GMID) are signing up for the opportunities to enhance their irrigation set-up under the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP).

The Connections program being rolled out by NVIRP provides incentives for landowners to modernise and rationalise their present service points and connect to the defined channel system backbone. The fully automated backbone will provide an enhanced level of service and significantly improve the efficiency of the irrigation system.

The incentives being offered to landowners with the modernisation are being discussed at small group meetings throughout the five irrigation districts and through one-on-one discussions on-farm with NVIRP staff, and an accredited Farm Irrigation Assessor. An evaluation of individual farm needs will follow and an agreement relating to the compensation payments will be developed for consideration.

The process is non-compulsory – the decision to accept any incentive offer remains with the landowner. However, this is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for landowners to look at their on-farm water delivery systems to optimize efficiency and improve farm productivity.

GMID landowners have an opportunity to plan for the future and enhance their farm operations with the support of irrigation design professionals to help them make informed decisions relating to the modernisation and rationalisation implications on their property. The benefits of NVIRP's work for landowners will be a better level of service, including constant flow rates, higher flow rates and shorter ordering time, enabling them to better manage the irrigation component of their farming enterprise.

This new technology will streamline farm operations and encourage on-farm investment and innovation, including the opportunity to include moisture monitoring options and irrigation planning tools linked to the modernised system.

The NVIRP process will maximise rationalisation outcomes, facilitate meter selection, and encourage landowners to consider their future irrigation needs. The water savings achieved by the program will underpin the 425 gigalitres of Stage 1 and 2 of the \$2 billion irrigation renewal project and irrigators will share in 40 per cent of those savings.

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