



# Media Release

Tuesday 24 February 2008

## Creating opportunities for regional workers

The construction industry looks set to provide a major boost to the Goulburn Valley's economy after today when over 250 contractors attended an industry briefing in Echuca.

Civil contractors and suppliers looked to the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project's (NVIRP) industry briefing to inform them of the raft of work packages for the 2009 works program and more generally about the modernisation project.

The upcoming tenders will be released in two weeks time and will provide more work opportunities for Stage 1 of the \$2 billion irrigation renewal project which aims to provide a world class irrigation system suited to the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century farming.

NVIRP's Chief Executive Officer Murray Smith said more than eighty per cent of those who attended the briefing today were contractors from the northern Victoria region and were familiar with the irrigation renewal project. Some had already worked on the modernisation project and there were others who had seen last year's opportunities and were keen to be involved this year.

"This project is an amazing boost to this region's economy and NVIRP will be spending over \$150 million this calendar year as we work through our planned modernisation.

"This will increase the efficiency of this system and will provide the platform for the long term future of irrigation farming across the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District.

"The opportunities coming with the project are expansive because we need fencers, the supply of quarry products, earthmoving equipment, concrete construction labour & resources as well as general labour and other resources," Mr Smith said.

-end-

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