

# Modernisation

## Fact Sheet

v.1



### Resilience of farming in the region

Even in one of the country's worst droughts, the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District is Australia's largest single supplier of dairy and processed tomatoes, as well as a major source of pome fruit, stone fruit, cereal crops and hay production. The irrigation water is managed and delivered by Goulburn-Murray Water, Australia's largest rural water authority. However, our irrigation infrastructure is some of the oldest and most inefficient in Australia. Water that could be better used on farms, in rivers and towns is going to waste.

Modernisation of the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District is now underway to rectify this situation. Stage 1 of the NVIRP project has been funded to the value of \$1 billion. These funds will be spent on the biggest irrigation renewal project ever undertaken in this region. One of the key objectives is to save water by delivering it more efficiently.

**To achieve modernisation, various methods are being used to replace and upgrade irrigation infrastructure that delivers water to farm.**

#### NVIRP is:

- automating the main irrigation channels using radio controlled, solar-powered technology to open and close the channel gates and monitor flows 24 hours a day
- lining channels with clay or plastic to minimise water lost through seepage and leakage
- remediating channel banks to reduce leakage and seepage
- rationalising or removing redundant or obsolete infrastructure and restructuring supply systems
- replacing inaccurate water meters with modern meters, compliant with national metering standards



For further information:  
ph: 1300 163 006  
web: [www.nvirp.com.au](http://www.nvirp.com.au)  
email: [waterforgrowth@nvirp.com.au](mailto:waterforgrowth@nvirp.com.au)

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Northern Victoria  
Irrigation Renewal Project

# NVIRP

waterforgrowth

### Solutions for today's challenges

Water is becoming more scarce – whether from cycles of drought, changing weather patterns, a changing climate or growing populations. Our irrigation infrastructure loses up to a third of the water it sets out to deliver between reservoir and farm, which is estimated to be approximately 800 gigalitres (GL) a year as a long-term average.

Funding is now available to upgrade the system and will assist with enhancing agricultural productivity.

### Shared benefits

Stage 1 of the modernisation works are estimated to save 225 GL of water. One third will go back to irrigators, one third to help environmental flows in our rivers and one third to urban users. Stage 2 works aim to save 200 GL of water with savings split equally between irrigators and the environment.

### Funding sources

Initial funding of \$1 billion for Stage 1 is provided by the Victorian Government (\$600M), Melbourne Water (\$300M) and Goulburn Murray Water (\$100M). The Commonwealth Government has committed to contribute up to \$1 Billion for Stage 2 subject to due diligence. The two stages will be delivered as one integrated program with consistent processes and methodologies

### Irrigator benefits

Modernisation works completed through NVIRP can help ensure your irrigation system is one of the most advanced in the world. It will need less maintenance and won't have to be upgraded for a considerable time. There will be faster access to water, with shorter ordering and delivery times. Channel pools will be better managed to get water onto farms more quickly.

Irrigators will have the opportunity to rationalise and rearrange water infrastructure assets on their property and receive incentives for changes. Ultimately, irrigators can be confident in the knowledge that by making necessary upgrades, they are helping to ensure sustainability of irrigation areas and the future of the environment.

At the completion of Stage 1 and 2, 425 GL or over 80 per cent of water savings generated by NVIRP will stay in Northern Victoria, with only 20 percent available for urban use.



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