

15 June 2010

Campaspe Landowners

Project Update

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the Campaspe Project.

This update contains **important information** in relation to:

- 2010/11 domestic & stock supply
- Physical connection works on the Waranga Western Channel
- Water Share Sale and the Ballot
- 2010/11 G-MW Accounts

Status Update

Campaspe Irrigation District					
Option	Landowners Numbers		Formal Agreements Issued		
	No.	Delivery Shares	Issued	Landowners Signed	Fully Executed
Exit	123	190.83	65	21	1
Remain	28	13.12			
Total Numbers	151	203.95			

NVIRP continues to work with those who elected to remain to find an alternative solution. In this regard Farm Designers are currently developing connections options for consideration.

Domestic & Stock Supply

Landowners are reminded that acceptance of the base payment (\$15,000) removes G-MW's responsibility to provide domestic & stock water and that landowners must secure their own requirements. Where this payment is not accepted it will be NVIRP's responsibility to ensure alternative domestic & stock supplies are available prior to any channels being decommissioned. In this regard:

- If you have accepted the \$15,000 payment a secure domestic & stock solution should be in place by 15 August 2010. If this is not possible please inform NVIRP by 31 July 2010.

- G-MW and NVIRP are working with DSE to ensure that those landowners electing to transfer to other systems will be catered for should they not be able to finalise the connection to the new system in time.
- A domestic & stock pipeline is undergoing design for a number of properties on the west side. A meeting of these landowners will be held towards the end of June to discuss preliminary outcomes.
- Operating the channel system for a small number of landowners is likely to be very inefficient. An alternative that NVIRP will also consider is short-term carting of domestic & stock supplies depending on the number of properties involved.
- Nevertheless G-MW may need to operate the current channel system if secure domestic & stock supply is not in place for all properties by 15 August 2010.
- Properties seeking to secure domestic & stock supply from the Waranga Western Channel (including proposed syndicates) should have works completed that impact on the bank of the channel prior to 15 August 2010 (refer next section).

Waranga Western Channel – Private Works

Due to the nature of the Waranga Western Channel's size and banks, it will be necessary to have any required connections through the bank completed 2 weeks prior to the 2010/11 irrigation season commencing on 15 August 2010. The following points should be noted:

- The works will be predominantly the responsibility of the landowner. The works through the bank, including valve and meter, will be installed by NVIRP and the landowner or syndicate will be required to enter into a Private Works Agreement with G-MW to connect to the pipeworks and access the screen for cleaning
- An option landowners should consider is obtaining a private works agreement and arranging installation through the channel bank now. Landowners can then finalise all other downstream works at a later date. NVIRP can assist with this process if required.
- G-MW will consider interim arrangements for the 2010/2011 season, but it should be noted that any pumping from the Campaspe River will be managed in accordance with G-MW's Private Works processes.

Water Share Transfer and the Ballot

Landowners should now be aware that the Goulburn-Murray Water ballot process may hold up the processing of water share transfer applications. The ballot is held to determine the order of processing of all applications received through this busy water trading period. The following key points should be noted:

- All applications received by 20 June 2010 will be processed as normal
- Applications received from the 21 June 2010 will be held-up by the ballot with potentially up to a two-month delay before approval is provided.

Where this process delays a water sale and causes undue financial stress landowners should contact NVIRP to discuss alternative options.

2010/11 G-MW Accounts

G-MW has agreed to defer the issue of fixed charges in relation to the Campaspe gravity delivery system until 15 August to allow NVIRP time to finalise adjustment legal agreements with as many landowners as possible.

G-MW will still issue fixed charges accounts for water shares (Entitlement Storage Fees) and drainage (Service Fee and Area Fee) early in July.

The Entitlement Storage Fee account is sent to the owner of the water shares. Where a landowner has sold their water share to NVIRP and the transfer of ownership has been recorded by the Victorian Water Registrar, the Entitlement Storage Fee account will be issued to NVIRP and the charge will not apply to the landowner.

If the ownership transfer has not been recorded by the time accounts are issued, NVIRP will arrange to reimburse the full fee to the water share owner if the transfer has occurred by 15 August 2010. This reimbursement will occur as part of the settlement process. After this date, a pro-rata payment will be made depending on when the transfer occurs.

Water share owners should note that once the Entitlement Storage Fee account has been issued, it must be paid prior to G-MW approving any transfer of water shares.

Syndicates

NVIRP continues to work with Goulburn-Murray Water to develop a syndicate model for landowners in the Campaspe District interested in this outcome. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.

Landowner Assistance

G-MW's Rod Kilmartin and Peter Clydesdale have been seconded to the project to respond to landowner enquiries and generally assist landowners work through the signing of legal agreements and completion of necessary transfer and applications forms. Landowners will be contacted to arrange a suitable appointment time.

Individual appointments with NVIRP staff can be arranged by ringing Clair Haines on 1300 163 006 or email clair.haines@nvirp.com.au

Independent Professional Advice

NVIRP encourages you to seek independent professional advice before signing the legal agreement. To assist with this agreement NVIRP will reimburse up to \$1000 per property for the cost of professional advice. To receive reimbursement you must first pay the account and provide NVIRP with a copy of the invoice and receipt clearly marked "*for professional advice in relation to the Campaspe Irrigation District Project.*"

Information Sheet

Murray Plains Division of General Practice requested NVIRP distribute the attached brochure to all landowners within the Campaspe Irrigation District.

Further Information

Clair Haines can be contacted by ringing 1300 163 006.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DKT', is positioned above the printed name.

David Kent
Executive Manager Modernisation