

## Quotes about the project

“I hope that the NVIRP Steering Committee will help us identify our major issues here in the Campaspe region and with general consultation we will all be able to find a direction forward for the Campaspe irrigators.”

Bruce Macague  
Rochester

“This irrigation renewal work is positive because the system was in need of an upgrade and the Government came forward.”

Mark Hill  
Rochester

“The farms around Lockington are a great example of benefitting from NVIRP’s modernisation with the decommissioning of channels and reducing infrastructure which will provide water savings and reduce ongoing operations and renewal costs into the future.”

Geoff Michell  
DSE Melbourne

“People of the Goulburn Murray systems have great advantages in modernising their own farm infrastructure under this project”

Cr Frank Oliver  
Campaspe Shire

## Modernisation layout transforms farm

A transformation has taken place at Wonga Park Farms at Cobram over the past two years and this property can now irrigate south and west from one supply point on Grinter Rd

This dairy farm has been refashioned with the rationalisation of eight Dethridge wheels down to one Mag Flow meter off a backbone channel.

Wonga Park Farms uses big volumes of water, some bore and some recycled waste water from the local Murray Goulburn Co-op at Cobram and according to Farm Irrigation Manager Tony Roache their greatest priority is to get water on and off the pasture quickly.

“With annual rye grass and summer sorghum and millet we want the water on and off the pasture quickly and we can do this now with this setup and it has been excellent for our silage production.”

With the assistance of Andrew Goldman Excavations there is now a 2.8 kilometre channel through and around the property with a three metre

bed and it can move a significant volume of water per day.

“This system has enabled us to move a lot of water around quickly in a short space of time and we are even able to use the recycle pump and send water back the other way when needed,” Mr Roache said.

“The modernisation has enabled us to install a syphon under the channel to water a landlocked area that was previously not able to be drained. Now this paddock is connected to our system and we are able to recycle the run off.

Since we have had this new setup we have been able to water our pasture 60 per cent faster than we have ever watered before and it’s all because we can get an efficient flow onto the paddock and across it which is much better for our pasture growth too,” Mr Roache added.

**Wonga Park Farms Cobram:** 400 hectares, 750 dairy herd, 625ml high security, 285 ml low reliability, 1200 ml bores, plus on farm recycle system



L-r Tony Roache, Andrew Goldman and Charlie Carfi both of Goldman Excavations at the newly established supply syphon culvert.



L-r NVIRP’s Modernisation Coordinator Bill Maslen, Tony Roache and Andrew Goldman inspect the new channel.

## Rochester Modernisation team



Left, Nick Raleigh, Manager Consultation with Rochester Modernisation Coordinators Mark Halden, Jacki Tomlinson, Vince Catanese and Frank Urbano.

This group of people have joined the merry band of executives whose car is almost their permanent office. These are the Modernisation Coordinators based in the Rochester NVIRP office, but mostly they are out on the road around the Rochester irrigation district talking irrigation and irrigation modernisation solutions with farming families.

Each member of the team is assigned to sections of the channel system and they work alongside the farm irrigation design contractors. These farm designers employed by NVIRP generally make the first contact

with the landowners discussing farm plans and water delivery to their properties.

It is the farm designers that are able to illustrate to landowners possible options when they replace their Dethridge wheels or dispense with some outlets altogether.

The Modernisation Coordinators negotiate on behalf of NVIRP a compensation package for landowners when they reduce their service points (water delivery outlets) and in some cases close down an internal or spur channel.

NVIRP’s incentives are calculated on the water savings opportunities as well as the avoided modernisation costs and a legal agreement is then signed with NVIRP and Goulburn-Murray Water.

A team of Modernisation Coordinators also represent NVIRP in the Murray Valley, Pyramid-Boort, Torrumbarry and Central Goulburn regions of the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District. Each area has local and specific issues which require the NVIRP staff with their knowledge to work in collaboration with the landowners.

## HIGHLIGHT Rochester Irrigation District

**514 Farm Irrigation Assessments** have been undertaken by the farm irrigation designers

**284 Meters** have been agreed to be modernised

**39 Farm connection packages** have been developed

**22 Farm connection packages** have been accepted