



JUNE 2016

Loddon Valley Water Service Area Fact Sheet

The Farm Water Program operates across the Goulburn Murray Water Service Area. This region encompasses a number of Water Service Committees (WSC). WSCs consist of customer representatives who advise and assist Water Authorities in understanding stakeholder issues, needs and concerns. This Fact Sheet outlines participation and involvement across the **Loddon Valley Water Service Area** in the Farm Water Program for all rounds until Round 4.

LODDON VALLEY WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS*

PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
41*	6.4*	\$11.6*
PROJECTS	GIGALITRES	MILLION

* Figures as at June 2016; Rounds 1 - 4

Background on the Farm Water Program

A Northern Victorian consortium has secured more than \$200 million from the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (\$46 million); the Victorian Government's NVIRP (\$16 million); the Victorian On Farm State Priority Projects initiative (\$43 million); and the Victorian Farm Modernisation Project (\$100 million). Administered through its Farm Water Program the program assists irrigators to achieve water savings by improving on-farm irrigation systems. At least half the water saved is transferred to the Australian or Victorian governments for environmental purposes.

Overall Benefits



On-Farm Irrigation Improvements

- Laser Grading
- Drainage Reuse
- Micro Systems
- Sprinkler Irrigation
- Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation
- Pipe and Riser Systems
- Irrigation Scheduling
- Farm Channel Upgrades
- Plastic Lined Channels



Water Savings Generated

- Round 1 & 2 total water savings – 52 GL with at least half transferred to the Australian or State governments for environmental purposes.
- Round 3 (Tranche 1) total water savings 16.3 GL with 59 percent transferred to the Australian government for environmental purposes
- Round 4 (Tranche 2A) expected total water savings 0.9 GL with 60% transferred to the Australian government for environmental purposes



Food Security

- Significant increase in production, time and labour savings when irrigating¹.
- Irrigators can maximise benefits of a modernised supply from the G-MW Connections program.
- Higher value of production per megalitre used.
- Increased resilience in the face of climate change and proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan water recovery targets.
- On-farm investment stimulated after years of drought and then flood.



Environmental

- More water is available to protect and restore river health.
- More efficient water delivery systems reduce groundwater accessions and nutrient run-off and help address re-emerging salinity and water table issues.



Regional Development

Funding administered through the Farm Water Program generates:







- Millions of dollars a year in economic benefits across the region;
- Hundreds of jobs;
- Significant social and environmental benefits; and
- A boost in industry confidence and co-investment.



¹ Depending on industry and technology- individual circumstances will vary.

Fact Sheet – Loddon Valley Water Service Area (continued)

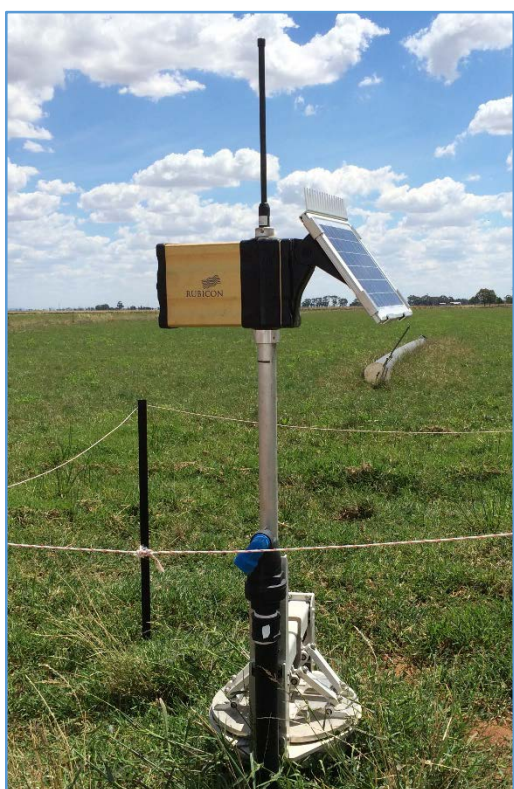
The figures shown below relate to participation and involvement by irrigators across the Loddon Valley Water Service Area in the Farm Water Program for all rounds up to and including Round 4.

ROUNDS 1 – 4			PROJECT BY INDUSTRY TYPE			
PROJECTS	TOTAL WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED	DAIRY	SHEEP & BEEF	GRAINS	MIXED
41 PROJECTS	6.4 GIGALITRES	\$11.6 MILLION	18 	2  	8   	13
PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS						
Laser Grading – Hectares		1872	Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares			1832
Drainage Reuse – Hectares		1964	Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares			57
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres		0	Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares			1199
Sprinkler Irrigation		186	Micro Systems			0
Automation*		145*	*(with water savings generated)			



Participant Profile: Keith Lawry

Property Location	Dingee
Property Size	233 hectares
Industry	Dairy
Project	Laser Grading, Drainage Reuse, Pipe & Risers and Automation
Project Timeframe	24 months
Water Savings	92ML transferred to government



Keith Lawry completed works on his dairy property in Dingee through Round 3 of the Farm Water Program (Victorian Farm Modernisation Project, Tranche 2A). The project involved installing pipes and risers, irrigation scheduling, drainage reuse works and laser grading. Keith said, “The speed of irrigation has increased efficiency of water use; and other crops are now a possibility.” Adding automation to the project area had also shown clear benefits, as Keith said, “Automation has allowed me to continue to contribute to the property - easier work and safer. With the completion of this project, the whole property is now covered by pipe and risers and the water savings estimated are being seen.” Completed over the course of two years, Mr Lawry felt the program was “an excellent initiative” but has lost its value recently (April 2016) because of low value of water offered.” At that time, Round 4 (the next round following Lawry’s participation) had overall low participation. This was largely attributed to the difference between the price being offered for water and the price available on the water market. In Round 5 (open until 29th July 2016) the water price increased through negotiations in response to overall participant feedback.

For more Water Service Area Fact Sheets and Participant Profiles, visit the Farm Water Program pages on the GB CMA website.