



JUNE 2016

Central Goulburn 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 **Central Goulburn Water Service Area** in the Farm Water Program for all rounds until Round 4.

CENTRAL GOULBURN WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS*

PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
114*	13.6*	\$25.1*
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 – Central Goulburn Water Service Area (continued)

The figures shown below relate to participation and involvement by irrigators across the Central Goulburn 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	BEEF	GRAINS	MIXED	OTHER
114 PROJECTS	13.6 GIGALITRES	\$25.1 MILLION	83 	4 	16 	8 	3
PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS							
Laser Grading – Hectares		2479	Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares				1985
Drainage Reuse – Hectares		2367	Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares				719
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres		0.55	Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares				2455
Sprinkler Irrigation		514	Micro Systems				0
Automation*		420*	*(with water savings generated)				



Participant Profile: Glenn Thompson

Property Location	Kyabram
Property Size	117 hectares
Industry	Grain
Project	Gravity Channel and Installation of Pipes and Risers
Project Timeframe	8 months
Water Savings	40ML transferred to government

Glenn Thompson successfully applied for funding through Round 3 of the Farm Water Program (Victorian Farm Modernisation Project, Tranche 2A). The project included the removal of an existing old channel, as well as the installation of pipes and risers on the 117 hectare grain property in Kyabram.

Glenn said his involvement with the Farm Water Program was an “overall positive experience” and that the project would result in “time and management savings”. Glenn highlighted project benefits a “reduced losses through the transmission of water”, as well as the opportunity for fertigation through the addition of fertiliser to the water supply.

By reclaiming the land through the removal of the channel, not only will the time and labour spent maintaining the channel be removed, but there will also be the potential for further water savings and increased productivity. When asked about the project 20 months post-completion, Glenn said his “power costs have increased utilising the new pipe and riser system; however he has saved half a day in irrigating (each irrigation).”

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

For more information on the Farm Water Program, visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au.