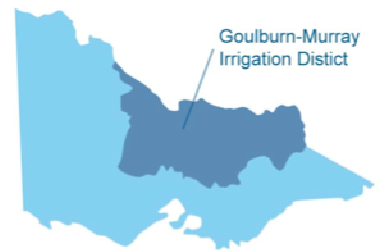


FarmWater



On-Farm Irrigation
Efficiency Program

22 April 2010

EOI ANNOUNCED

Call for Expressions of Intent for the Farm Water Program (On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program)

On behalf of the Farm Water Program Consortium, which includes the North Central Catchment Management Authority, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is calling for Expressions of Intent (EOI) from irrigators seeking financial assistance to modernise their farms. Across the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District, \$25.8 million is available from the Australian Government's On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program for farm infrastructure improvements such as:

- high flow surface irrigation
- laser grading
- irrigation tail-water re-use systems
- automatic irrigation
- irrigation scheduling.

Irrigators in the regulated parts of the Goulburn–Murray Water Service Area interested in improving their systems to current best practice standards can now submit an EOI to participate in the Farm Water Program through their local DPI Project Officer.

Farm Water will fund projects that will increase farm productivity and water savings. Eligible activities are limited to improved flood irrigation and irrigation scheduling equipment and software. Sprinkler and sub surface drip activities are **not** eligible for funding under the current program (2010–11).

Projects to improve on-farm water use and management must save at least 20 megalitres of water. It is important to note that a minimum of 50% of this water saving must be transferred to the Australian Government as an unencumbered water entitlement.



Australian Government

Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts



**GOULBURN
BROKEN**
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

Northern Victoria
Irrigation Renewal Project

NVIRP

Laser grading
and riser images
courtesy of
Department of
Primary Industries



Departments of
Sustainability and Environment
Primary Industries



**NORTHERN
VICTORIAN
IRRIGATORS INC.**

To be eligible to submit an Eol for this project, the following must apply:

1. Irrigators hold a surface water share (high or low reliability) in the Goulburn–Murray Water region and have a Water Use Licence.
2. The land on which works are proposed is irrigated or has been irrigated in the past.
3. The works have not commenced.
4. Irrigators are willing to transfer at least half of the water savings (minimum 10 ML) to the Australian Government
5. Irrigators must reasonably expect to be able to obtain the relevant approvals to transfer this water to the Australian Government, e.g. mortgagees and/or other parties who have an interest in the water shares
6. Answer YES to at least one of these questions related to access to water:
 - Be connected to the Goulburn–Murray Water channel system backbone channel
 - Have a connections agreement with NVIRP
 - Be in the Goulburn-Murray Water region on a regulated waterway.
7. Irrigators have a whole farm plan (WFP) showing the proposed works. (If irrigators do not have a WFP, they can commence the application process but will need to complete the WFP before the application can be approved). Assistance in preparing this WFP (and also financial assistance) is available from Department of Primary Industries.
8. Proposed works are able to be completed within 18 months from the signing of contracts.
9. Irrigators have public liability insurance cover of at least \$20 million.

Irrigators should note that the transfer of water shares to the Australian Government through this program is exempt from the 4% Limit on Trade. However, other water trading rules still apply.

The Farm Water program is delivered by the following regional, state and national organisations:

- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
- Northern Victorian Irrigators Association
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Dairy Australia (including Murray Dairy) and
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP)
- Department of Primary Industries
- Goulburn-Murray Water

Information on the Eol call (including information packs) are available from the Department of Primary Industries Project Officer in your Irrigation Area (see below).

Area	Contact Name	Location	Phone Number
Pyramid-Boort and Torrumbarry Irrigation Area	Adam Taylor	Kerang	(03) 5452 1266
	Michelle Slater	Kerang	(03) 5452 1266
	Zoe McNair	Echuca	(03) 5482 1922
Rochester Irrigation Area	Samantha Longley	Tatura	(03) 5833 5254

Other information, including an Eligibility Checklist, Frequently Asked Questions and Eol Form are available from the Farm Water Program link on the Goulburn Broken CMA website. <http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/>

Completed Eol forms and supporting information must be received by Department of Primary Industries staff at an office listed above by 5pm, Thursday 20 May, 2010. Eols received after this date will be placed on a waiting list for consideration in the next round, subject to funding.