

MIA ENVIROWISE INCENTIVES: Education information sheet

An Overview of MIA EnviroWise

MIA EnviroWise is the major natural resource management plan for the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA). The main objective of MIA EnviroWise is to maintain and enhance the sustainability and profitability of the MIA and districts.

MIA EnviroWise benefits our community by ensuring our current standard of living and by protecting the natural and financial resources of the area.

MIA EnviroWise contributes to the sustainability of farming and rural industries, improved biodiversity and the health of our waterways.

Education and MIA EnviroWise

Education and training are essential components of MIA EnviroWise and to date have been mainly addressed through the FarmWise program.

MIA EnviroWise has decided to extend this education and training component by offering subsidies for short courses, grower initiated training or events and other training directly related to the objectives of the initiative.

Who is eligible?

- The incentive is available to those who have completed the FarmWise course.
- MI customer/shareholders are eligible to claim the incentives.

What can I claim?

Tuition and training fees can be claimed for short courses and training packages directly related to the objectives of MIA EnviroWise.

Examples of eligible courses include:

- Chemical Users Certificate
- Farm Business Management
- Spray application training
- Environmental Management Systems in Agriculture
- Quality Assurance
- Certificate III in Irrigation
- Native Grass Identification

Please first check with the MIA EnviroWise Coordinator for approval of courses, training, and/or grower initiated training/events.

How much can I claim?

Applicants can claim 100% of costs up to \$2,000 per farming enterprise. Accommodation, drinks and travel are not claimable.

How is the incentive paid?

The Education Incentive is paid on completion of an application form and presentation of a Statement of Attainment or proof of completion of the course and a receipt.

Other incentives available

On completion of the FarmWise course you may be eligible for further MIA EnviroWise incentives for on-farm actions such as:

- Whole Farm Planning
- Drainage Recycling
- High Tech Horticulture
- Biodiversity activities
- Irrigation Efficiency Systems
- EM Soil Surveys

For further information contact an MIA EnviroWise Implementation Officer on 6962 0200.



Murrumbidgee
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Australian Government



New South Wales
Government

MIA EnviroWise program has been made possible thanks to funding from the Australian and NSW Government's National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must have successfully completed the MIA EnviroWise FarmWise education program to be eligible for the incentive.
- The applicant must own a farm enterprise and be a shareholder in Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited with shares being attached to the landholding being claimed.
- At least 50% of the productive capacity of the enterprise must be located in the area defined by the MIA EnviroWise boundary. If you are uncertain regarding this point please consult with the MIA EnviroWise Coordinator.
- Funding is not available to applicants that have already claimed for a similar incentive under MIA EnviroWise or other funding programs such as FarmBiz.
- Conditions associated with this incentive will be attached as a schedule to the Landholders Member Contract.
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation Implementation Officers must be consulted prior to commencing training and /or education to determine eligibility.
- Applications will be processed and approved based on provision of receipts and certificate and/or proof of completion.
- The incentive is up to a maximum of \$2000.00 per farming enterprise.
- The incentive covers the tuition/training fee of short courses and training which directly relates to the objectives and outcomes of MIA EnviroWise. It does not cover travel and accommodation expenses, meals, resource material not covered in the tuition fees, etc.
- Contractors and landholders may be randomly audited.

Grower Initiated Training:

- Must be consistent with MIA EnviroWise objectives.
- Participants must be a Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) shareholder/customer.
- The grower initiated training/event must be approved by Murrumbidgee Irrigation prior to commencement.
- A maximum subsidy will apply. This will be determined on a case by case basis.
- Grower initiated training payments will be limited to \$500 per farming enterprise.
- Accommodation, meals and drinks are not covered by the MIA EnviroWise Incentive.
- Each grower initiated training/event will be organised in collaboration with the MIA Education Facilitator including the clarification of objectives and the trip itinerary.
- Until approved in writing by MI, all expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the organising group.
- It will not be necessary that a MI staff member attend the grower initiated training/event.
- The total cost of the initiated training/event (excluding travel costs) will be divided by the participants. This amount can then be deducted from the individuals MI education incentive account. If this account is not in credit the individual will be required to make this payment at least 7 days prior to trip departure.
- Quotations for the costs must be presented to MI, along with a plan of the itinerary to be finalised and approved by MI at least two weeks prior to the event. MI must be notified in the event of an itinerary change and approve the changes. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of funding.
- All attendees will be asked to complete an evaluation form on the field experience. This will be collected by the key organiser of the event and returned to MI Education Facilitator.
- Invoices for expenses incurred are to be forwarded to MI within 5 days of completion. Note: no invoices are to be in Murrumbidgee Irrigations' name.

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For further information: contact an MIA EnviroWise Implementation Officer on 6962 0200.
<http://www.mirrigration.com.au/EnviroWise.htm>