



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW 12/08

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FUNDS FLOW FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Grants totalling \$4.6 million have been awarded to 14 irrigation water providers to develop modernisation plans for reducing water loss in the water infrastructure that they own and operate.

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong said: “The purpose of the grants is to help these water providers identify and consider the range of options available to them to modernise their water delivery infrastructure.

“The water saved by modernising delivery infrastructure will be used to keep our rivers healthy. It can rejuvenate wetlands and floodplains, and help to conserve the native fish, plants and animals in our rivers, and reduce the risk of salinity and algal blooms.”

Senator Wong said the grants of up to \$500,000 would allow water providers to obtain independent professional expertise and facilitate workshops to assist with modernisation planning.

“For example, Southern Rural Water in Victoria’s Gippsland is receiving \$500,000 to undertake an extensive study of the options to replace its 90 year old infrastructure with a modern supply system.”

“Tatalia Water Supply Incorporated, near Moama in NSW, is receiving \$16,000 to develop a plan for replacing an old existing pipe and open earth channel distribution system with a fully piped delivery system.

“The scope of the modernisation plans will suit the conditions in each irrigation district. I expect each modernisation plan to consider issues affecting the individual irrigation district in a strategic and integrated manner. Consultation with stakeholders, including irrigators and the wider community, is essential to this process.

“An example of this is the North and South Burdekin Water Boards in Queensland, which are working together to undertake an assessment of its current water delivery systems and the efficiency of local water use, as well as an analysis of alternative infrastructure and the type of crops grown in the area.”

Senator Wong said successfully obtaining Irrigation Modernisation Planning Assistance does not guarantee funding for on-ground infrastructure work.

“A separate application and assessment process will be undertaken in relation to on-ground infrastructure works, the details of which will be released soon,” she said.

A list of all the successful grant applicants is attached.

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Attachment to media release National Water Plan Funding Starts to Flow

A. \$4.6 million for Irrigation Modernisation Planning – successful applicants

Applicant	Location	Funding	Irrigators (holdings)	Area (hectares)	Water Entitlement	Main Business	Proposed Modernisation Activity
Southern Rural Water	Maffra, Gippsland, VIC	\$500,000	971	40,000	274.8 GL	Dairy industry	Consideration of options to replace 90 year old infrastructure with a modern supply system
Murray Irrigation Ltd	Deniliquin, NSW	\$500,000	1,600	748,000	1,615 GL	Rice, pasture (for dairy), winter cereal crops, fruit and vegetables	Three stage analysis of options and development of a business case for investment in modernisation
Goulburn-Murray Water	Tatura, VIC	\$490,000	32,886	6,800,000	1,761 GL	Dairy farming, horticulture and viticulture	Modernisation planning, including considering soil types and infrastructure usage, with the objective to secure water saving and provide a more efficient, modern and cost effective service
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited	Griffith / Leeton, NSW	\$500,000	3,200	660,000	1,476 GL	Horticulture (citrus, viticulture), vegetables, rice, winter cereals crops	Planning to ensure the long-term viability of the company and sustainability of the irrigation area
SunWater	SunWater channel irrigation systems at Theodore, Mareeba, St George, Emerald, Bundaberg, Mackay, Maryborough and Ayr, QLD	\$500,000	2,750	200,000	1,398 GL	Cotton, sugar cane, cereals, irrigated pasture, tropical tree crops and annual horticultural crops	The project will build on existing plans for the management of water loss from open channels and develop strategies for improving the efficiency of water delivery
Harvey Water	Harvey, WA	\$320,000	-	112,000	68 GL	Dairy farming, beef grazing and horticulture	Planning for irrigation distribution system upgrade and the application of modern water technology in the Collie River Irrigation District
Trangie-Nevertire Co-operative Ltd	Trangie, NSW	\$300,000	70	102,000	68 GL	Irrigation for dry land agriculture, horticulture and livestock production	Development of strategies to achieve sustainable water use outcomes through modernisation of water delivery infrastructure and increased water use efficiency
Tenandra Irrigation Scheme	Warren, NSW	\$120,000	18	7,600	35.5 GL	Cotton with winter cereals, irrigated lucerne and pasture	Evaluation of options to reduce water transmission losses
Wimmera-Mallee Water	Horsham, VIC	\$80,000	216	3,000	28 GL	Livestock production	An investigation of issues affecting modernisation of the water delivery system, including an assessment of water losses, to assist with planning future supply reconfiguration options

The Renmark Irrigation Trust	Renmark, SA	\$500,000	260	4,700	47.5 GL	Viticulture, stone fruits, citrus, nuts, pomefruit, tropical fruits and pasture	The project will involve the development of a range of options for the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and greater water use efficiency
Jemalong Irrigation Limited	Forbes, NSW	\$300,000	100	90,000	82 GL	Irrigation for dry land agriculture, horticulture and livestock production	Explore alternative strategies to increase water use efficiency, including options for the modernisation of ageing water delivery infrastructure
Tatalia Water Supply Inc.	Moama, NS W	\$16,000	20	N/A	1.1 GL	Viticulture, horticulture, stone fruits, general farming	Replace an old existing pipe and open earth channel distribution system with a fully piped delivery system
North Burdekin Water Board	Ayr, QLD	\$300,000	600	15,658	156 GL	Sugar cane, horticulture and livestock production	This is a joint venture project with the South Burdekin Water Board and will involve an assessment of current water delivery systems, related water use efficiency and an analysis of alternative infrastructure, water application and crop production options
South Burdekin Water Board	Home Hill, QLD	\$200,000	1000	26,222	99 GL	Sugar cane, horticulture and livestock production	See comment above