



# MEDIA RELEASE

**Senator the Hon Penny Wong**

***Minister for Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water***

PW 86/10

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## **IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NSW IRRIGATION COMMUNITIES**

Irrigation schemes in New South Wales will save 21 billion litres of water entitlement through a roll out of new irrigation infrastructure projects.

The Minister for Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water, Senator Penny Wong, announced funding of up to \$101 million for these irrigation infrastructure projects during a visit to Coleambally.

The funding – allocated under the *Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program* in New South Wales (PIIOP) – has been awarded to Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Limited and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited.

These operators will be responsible for rolling out irrigation infrastructure upgrades in their local communities.

“This infrastructure investment is all about helping our farming communities in the Riverina to do more with less water,” Senator Wong said.

“Projects will include replacing irrigation channels with pipelines, installing water management technologies and reconstructing channels.

“These projects will assist in reducing water losses, while creating jobs and helping support vibrant farming communities across New South Wales.”

Today’s funding takes the total investment in the first round of PIIOP to \$263 million across New South Wales, following yesterday’s announcement in the Macquarie River catchment.

The 69 billion litres of water entitlement saved for the environment through this \$263 million investment will be returned to the Basin’s rivers and wetlands.

“These improvements will provide a welcome boost for communities throughout New South Wales which have suffered from reduced water availability due to drought and climate change,” Senator Wong said.

“We need to become more efficient in how we use our water resources. We are working hard to smooth the transition for Basin communities to these lower limits on water use.”

PIIOP is funded from the \$5.8 billion *Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program* under the Australian Government’s *Water for the Future* initiative. It is anticipated that a second round of the program will be announced later this year.

More information is available at: [www.environment.gov.au/water](http://www.environment.gov.au/water).

**Round one of the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program in NSW  
List of the successful recipients in the Riverina**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Catchment</b>	<b>Description of Projects</b>	<b>Funding subject to contract negotiation (GST Exclusive)</b>
Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Limited	Murrumbidgee	Measures aimed at improving scheme efficiencies including channel lining of known hot spots, on-farm upgrades, installation of water management technologies and provision of stock and domestic pipeline.	\$51,218,330
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited	Murrumbidgee	Measures aimed at improving scheme efficiencies including modernisation of supply system and rationalisation.	\$50,000,000