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For immediate release

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FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IRRIGATION MODERNISATION

Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) today welcomed Senator Wong's announcement of \$50 million of funding in the first round of the Commonwealth Government's Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators (PIIO) Program in New South Wales.

MI's Managing Director, Mr Brett Tucker said that "we have always said that the water savings and buy-back programs should go hand in hand so it's good to see the modernisation funding dollars begin to filter into regional areas.

The \$50M for system works will give MI the ability to commence its modernisation program and deliver one part of a comprehensive modernisation plan delivered to the Commonwealth in 2009. If MI and its customers are to survive and prosper in a future with less water then we firmly believe the entire modernisation plan must attract Commonwealth funding," he said.

The Company has been invited by the Federal Government to apply for a second round of funding.

MI's Chairman, Mrs Gillian Kirkup said that "whilst we are disappointed with the results from the first round, we will work closely with the Commonwealth to put forward a strong application to the Government for subsequent rounds. The projects we put forward following consultation with our customers are important for the long term viability of our region and its communities."

In the coming weeks, detail will be provided by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) to MI regarding the funding specifics.

Ends

For further information regarding this media release, please contact Brett Tucker, Managing Director, Murrumbidgee Irrigation on 02 6962 0294.