

NSW SUSTAINING THE BASIN *Irrigated farm modernisation*

Update Bulletin 7

May 2013

This bulletin is designed to provide updates on the implementation of the NSW Sustaining the Basin: Irrigated Farm Modernisation (STBIFM) project. This project is funded by the Australian Government's *Water for the Future* initiative.

It will keep interested stakeholders informed of key dates and activities for the duration of the project.

It will also alert you to opportunities for training and learning more about emerging issues and technologies.

DPI encourages you to be involved and stay informed using this service. You can, of course, unsubscribe at any time.

For more detailed information on any aspects of the project please send an email to IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au or visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin

Round 2 completed

Round 2 of infrastructure funding closed on Tuesday 30 April. DPI is now currently in the process of assessing the 76 applications submitted during this funding round.

DPI internal review of STBIFM

Following two successful rounds of funding delivering positive outcomes for irrigators, DPI is currently conducting an internal review of the NSW Sustaining the Basin Irrigated Farm Modernisation project. The review is part of DPI's internal governance processes and will be completed before details of Round 3 are announced.

DPI advises that while the review is being conducted irrigators can continue to submit an [Eligibility Check Request](#) for funding under the project at any time.

Notification of eligibility will not be provided until the review is complete but DPI encourages any interested irrigators to register their interest in readiness for an announcement of Round 3.

For further information on the IFWUEA funding process or any other aspect of STBIFM please email IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au or contact your [regional project staff member](#).

Update on IFWUEAs

NSW DPI advises that approvals for new IFWUEA applications will be temporarily suspended effective Tuesday 4 June 2013.

Applications for **new** IFWUEAs will only be accepted if they are received by COB Monday 3 June 2013.

No approvals to proceed will be provided to **new** applicants until the details of Round 3 are announced.

IFWUEAs which have **already been approved** will proceed without change.

For further information on the IFWUEA funding process or any other aspect of STBIFM please email IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au or contact your [regional project staff member](#).



Peter Smith & Stuart Bray of DPI with irrigators at a recent centre pivot training day in the Namoi region.

Round 1 successful projects

DPI staff are currently liaising with the 32 successful Round 1 applicants to ensure projects are implemented in accordance with works contracts.

Irrigators will be working with Rob Hoogers and Damien Doyle in the Macquarie Valley and Stuart Bray and Peter Smith in the Peel, Namoi and Border Rivers regions. All have a great deal of experience in establishing infrastructure on-farm and will work closely with irrigators to assist them in managing their projects efficiently.

DPI will be showcasing the various projects as they progress in the lead up to an announcement of Round 3. Irrigators are encouraged to submit an [Eligibility Check Request](#) to register their interest in readiness for an announcement of Round 3.

Field days showcasing water savings projects

A number of field days have been held by DPI across the project region to demonstrate on-ground works that can be implemented with STBIFM infrastructure funding.



Centre pivot system at Manilla

Irrigators were given insight into upgrading a centre pivot system at irrigator Robert Moore's property "Yarranbool" near Manilla.

Approximately 30 irrigators attended the field day, many being successful applicants from Round 1. They received an overview of the benefits and drawbacks of using a centre pivot system.

Robert Moore shared his experiences and NSW DPI Irrigation Officer Peter Smith provided technical expertise.

Robert Moore emphasised the importance of establishing an irrigation plan and choosing a system that will provide adequate water supply to the crop.

"My experience has shown that using old infrastructure to deliver water to new pivots is not a good idea.

"You must ensure you have adequate capacity to meet the crop water needs and testing the new system to make sure it is running to manufacturers specifications is essential," Mr Moore said.

Peter Smith also recommended that irrigators choose the appropriate sprinkler package to be able to deliver water efficiently through the system to meet crop needs.

"Days like this are invaluable to irrigators making the change to centre pivots to learn from others experiences and get the full benefits from their new infrastructure," Mr Smith said.



Peter Smith, DPI Irrigation Officer Tamworth discussing centre pivot systems with irrigators at a recent field day at Manilla NSW.

Long term look at centre pivot performance

The performance of centre pivot and lateral move irrigation systems over a number of growing seasons was discussed at a farm walk near Trangie in April, organised by DPI as part of the STBIFM project.

Damien Doyle, Project Officer Sustainability with DPI, said the pre-harvest farm walk was an excellent opportunity for irrigators to re-visit sites showcased last season to see how the infrastructure performed this year.

"Last growing season was very cool, and this season was one of the hottest irrigators have experienced in some time. It was interesting to see how efficient the systems were in terms of costs to run and the crop performance".

To discuss how the systems performed contact Damien Doyle in Dubbo on 0427 787 241 or damien.doyle@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Bankless channel irrigation: a possible alternative?

Another point of discussion during the Trangie field walk was the use of bankless channel irrigation systems, with information shared by Irrigation Officer Michael Grabham of DPI.

Michael completed his PhD titled "Performance evaluation and improvement of bankless channel surface irrigation systems" through the University of Southern Queensland in conjunction with the CRC for Irrigation Futures.

He emphasised the importance of planning and design work to gain peak performance out of the system.

"Those considering a bankless channel system, like any system, need to have a good understanding of their soils, field slopes and flow rates, as they are particularly critical aspects in the design of these systems".

For more information, contact a member of the [STBIFM team](#) or email IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au.



A bankless channel system.

How can I participate in STBIFM?

For more information of to register your interest in STBIFM, please contact your DPI regional project staff member, send an email to IFM.Info@dpi.nsw.gov.au or visit the website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin

Ms Janelle Montgomery
Irrigation Officer, MOREE
Phone: (02) 6750 6476

(Rep for Border Rivers
and Gwydir Valleys)



Mr Damien Doyle
Project Officer
Sustainability, DUBBO
Phone: (02) 66881 1270

(Rep for Macquarie
Valley)



Mr Peter Smith
Irrigation Officer,
TAMWORTH
Phone: (02) 6763 1262

(Rep for Namoi/Peel
Valley)



Mr Robert Hoogers
Irrigation Officer, YANCO
Phone: (02) 6951 2628

(Rep for Macquarie
Valley)



Mr Stuart Bray
Project Officer,
GUNNEDAH
Phone: (02) 6741 8333

(Rep for Namoi/Peel,
Border Rivers and Gwydir
Valley's)



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