

NSW SUSTAINING THE BASIN *Irrigated farm modernisation*

Update bulletin 4

February 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

REMINDER

Round 2 now open, closing on 30 April 2013

Please email IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au for more information or contact your local project staff member.

Round 1 of funding - outcomes

The first funding round closed on 30 November 2012.

Thirty two applications were successful out of the 70 applications (including one application from a consortium) received from irrigators across the Macquarie, Namoi/Peel and Border Rivers regions.

All successful applicants have been notified and are currently being issued with their on-farm works contracts.



Rod Jackson, Project Leader, DPI. Image: S. Bray

Rod Jackson, Project Leader said DPI was very pleased with the response to Round one.

"Generally the applications were pretty good and represented a wide range of activities including the installation of centre pivots, storage reconstructions, pump station upgrades, supply channel upgrades and subsurface drip systems through to field redevelopment."

"We will provide more detail on the various infrastructure projects soon once the contract phase is completed, to show other irrigators in the region what can be achieved within a project like this," Mr Jackson said.

"This is a positive outcome for both irrigators and the local regions and I would encourage other irrigators to submit an Eligibility Check Request form and consider participating in Round two," he said.

“We have already received enquires from other irrigators wanting to submit project proposals for Round two. Also a number of irrigators who were unsuccessful in Round one have indicated they intend to resubmit a revised application in Round two.”

[Want to apply to participate?](#)

IFWUEA funding currently available

Irrigators will be reimbursed 80 % of the cost of engaging an Approved Irrigation Consultant (AIC) up to a maximum of \$4000 per farm. Initially only one IFWUEA per farm business (ABN) will be funded.

Fifty IFWUEAs were approved during the first funding round with irrigators who have completed their IFWUEA currently being reimbursed the 80% incentive.

The IFWUEA highlighted some areas where we can make improvements and also helped with determining the costs and the most efficient way to go.

Peter Winter, Moree. Images: S.Bray, J Montgomery



An IFWUEA report conducted by an [Approved Irrigation Consultant](#) (AIC) is very useful to plan suitable, cost-effective infrastructure improvements and provides a level of confidence in the projections made in potential water savings.

Many irrigators in the region have found it a very useful process to undertake prior to investing in high cost infrastructure upgrades.

[Review some of their comments](#) or take a look at an [example IFWUEA report](#).

DPI encourages all **eligible** irrigators to apply to undertake an IFWUEA and make use of the funding while it is available. Once approved, the approval is valid for six months and there is **NO** requirement to proceed to developing an infrastructure project and give up water entitlement.



The IFWUEA picked up some inefficiencies in my present system. It showed our distribution uniformity was 20 per cent below what it should have been, so we were able to rectify that straight away.

Pieter Mayne, Bonshaw. Images: J Easey



Common questions from the community meetings held in November

Irrigators interested in submitting an infrastructure project in Round two may be interested in the questions raised at the application development workshops held in November 2012.

Irrigators raised a variety of issues during the discussions at the community meetings which DPI staff responded to on the day.

To follow up, DPI has updated the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to provide responses to the issues raised.

Here is a sample of the more common questions.

- Will infrastructure projects only be assessed against other projects in the same water management area?
- How do you assess value for money?
- Will the \$83M be divided equally between the four water management areas?
- When can I commence my infrastructure project?

Please refer to the updated [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for comprehensive answers to these and other questions.

DPI will be adding additional FAQs shortly following the review of Round 1.

[Interested in viewing the information presented by DPI at the workshop?](#)

What can be achieved with infrastructure funding?

There are a range of case studies and slide shows available on the project website that demonstrate what can be achieved with infrastructure funding.

DPI has prepared case studies on many of the on-farm infrastructure projects funded as part of the pilot project run during 2010/2011 and will develop more once the outcomes of Round 1 are known.

Interested irrigators are encouraged to review the [Eligibility Criteria](#) for further information on the types of projects that would be eligible for

funding as well as discuss the project you are considering in greater detail with DPI [regional project staff members](#).

DPI project staff are there to guide you in developing an eligible project - so give your local contact a call.

In the meantime have a look at some of the projects that irrigators in the region have completed with on-farm infrastructure funding.

[The Estens Family, Moree \(pdf\)](#)

[The Estens Family, Moree \(slide show\)](#)

[The Bartel & Williams Families, Moree \(pdf\)](#)

[The Bartel & Williams Families, Moree \(slide show\)](#)

[Mark & Peter Winter, Moree \(pdf\)](#)

[Angelo Saccon, Bonshaw \(pdf\)](#)

[Peter Birch, Moree \(pdf\)](#)

[Anthony Barlow, Mungindi \(pdf\)](#)

[Australian Food & Fibre, Moree \(pdf\)](#)

DPI also has other examples of irrigator's success in modernising their on-farm infrastructure.

[Converting a furrow irrigation system to a centre pivot, Ben and Pru Coulton, North Star](#)

[Converting furrow irrigation to drip, Stahmann Farms, Moree](#)

Ben Coulton says he initially underestimated the potential of the centre pivot and the improvements in water use efficiency and labour savings that would come with changing systems."



Contacts

For more information or 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 Peter Smith
Irrigation Officer, TAMWORTH
Phone: (02) 6763 1262

(Rep for Namoi/Peel Valley)



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

(Rep for Macquarie Valley)



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

(Rep for Macquarie Valley)



Mr Michael Grabham
Irrigation Officer, BATHURST
Phone: (02) 6332 1215

(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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