

NSW SUSTAINING THE BASIN *Irrigated farm modernisation*

Update bulletin 8

June 2013

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

The bulletin 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



First Round One project completed!

STBIFM is away to a flying start with the first Centre Pivot erected at 'Bundillee' near Somerton Park in the Peel River valley.

Scott and Amanda Waters came to the Peel Valley almost seven years ago from western NSW. Recently they purchased "Bundillee", an irrigated lucerne farm on the Peel River for fattening steers for the heavy supermarket trade.

The couple were successful applicants in Round 1 and are the first in the Peel Valley to have their Pivot installed and operational.

When the Waters' took over 'Bundillee' almost two years ago they inherited an 80 ha handshift irrigation system and an inefficient travelling boom requiring a lot of labour.

With STBIFM funds plus their own contributions, Scott and Amanda have purchased a 'Valley' centre pivot that will apply 12 mm a day over 40 ha. They will sow forage crops such as oats, cow peas and sorghum to fatten the 600 steers that will be sold off 'Bundillee' each year.

Mr Waters said the pivot will be a great asset to the farm and add value by providing all year round green feed security for the cattle.

"The application process was easy to follow and it provided me with a machine that will improve water use efficiency with the potential to improve profitability on the farm as well."

"We couldn't be happier," Mr Waters said.

Scott Waters of 'Bundillee' ready to turn on his new centre pivot funded in Round 1 of STBIFM. Image: S.Bray.

Its all go in the regions!

DPI is pleased to announce that projects funded in Round One are progressing well across the project region.

To keep irrigators informed of how things are going DPI is initiating regular district podcast updates from our Project staff in each region.

Many of you will know them well but just to recap.....

Namoi & Peel Valleys



*Stuart Bray, Project Officer based in Gunnedah.
Image: A.McCaffery*

Stuart Bray is no stranger to many of you in the irrigation industry. Stuart, based in Gunnedah, has been an integral member of the DPI Irrigation Team in northern NSW for some years.

He brings a wealth of knowledge of all types of irrigation systems and their management from his years of experience as a Water Use Efficiency Officer.

Stuart will be working closely with successful applicants from Round One to ensure their on-farm projects are progressing and will provide regular updates on the progress being made.

[Namoi/Peel Regional Update, June 20, 2013 \(Podcast\)](#)



Macquarie Valley

Unprecedented success in achieving funding in Round One means the Macquarie Valley will be serviced by two DPI Officers.

Rob Hoogers, even though based in Yanco, has been known to irrigators in the Macquarie Valley for some time. Rob has been part of the DPI Irrigation team for over 20 years and prior to that spent some of his youth in Narromine.

Rob has been a leader in the development of relevant training for irrigators in a wide range of irrigation systems. Most recently, he has been involved in developing the skills of irrigators in Cambodia.



Rob Hoogers, Project Officer for the Macquarie Valley ahead of the pack. Image: R. Hoogers

[Macquarie Valley Regional Update, June 20, 2013 \(podcast\)](#)



Some of the works being currently being completed in the Macquarie Valley. Images: R.Hoogers



Damien Doyle, Project Officer for the Macquarie Valley based in Dubbo. Image: DPI

Damien Doyle, based in Dubbo is new to the region. Prior to STBIFM he was a Project Officer involved in the WaterSmart Farms project in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment.

'Damo' is no stranger to large incentives programs. He was an integral member of the [WaterSmart Farms](#) team delivering \$13M of incentives and training to improve water and nutrient management across the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment.

Damien and Rob will be working together with irrigators with successful projects from Round One and will provide regular updates on the progress being made.

Reminder

DPI advises that STBIFM is currently in recess undergoing an internal review as part of our project governance processes.

Interested irrigators are encouraged to still submit an [Eligibility Check Request](#) to register an interest in the project. However, eligibility will not be assessed and notified until the details of Round Three are finalised.

Further information on STBIFM is available by contacting your [regional project team](#), [emailing your enquiry](#) or visiting the [project website](#).

Interest strong at the Cotton Trade Show

Janelle Montgomery, Moree and Annette McCaffery, Orange recently attended the Cotton Trade Show in Moree.

STBIFM had a collaborative stand with the team from our sister project in Queensland, Healthy Headwaters.

The interest in STBIFM was constant with many irrigators from all over the project region taking time to find out the opportunities available to them once Round Three is announced.



Janelle Montgomery, Rosie Hannah (QLD), Annette McCaffery and Sarah Rossiter (QLD. Image: DPI)

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