



On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program

Waterfind
Newsletter

13 NOVEMBER 2013

Waterfind & On-Farm

by Waterfind

This inaugural newsletter is the first of a series of newsletters that will be sent each quarter to update Waterfind's proponents and stakeholders on the works that are currently being completed through funding from Round 3 of the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program.

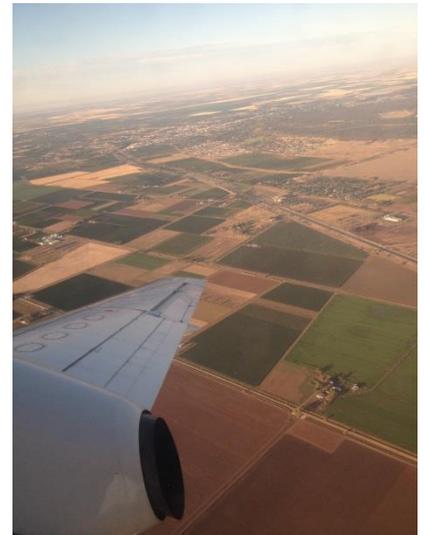
Each newsletter will review the status of the projects and showcase the regional benefits associated with the works that are being completed through the program.

Program History

In July 2012, Waterfind applied to become a Delivery Partner through Round 3 of the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program. On 10 December 2012, the Minister announced \$100 million of in-principle funding approval for 5 projects. Waterfind was the only Delivery Partner chosen in Round 3 of the program who had not been a previous participant.

Over the following few months, Waterfind On-Farm team members traveled across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia visiting potential proponents, discussing projects and completing the required information for the Australian Government in regards to project works.

On 16 August 2013, Waterfind was the first Delivery Partner from Round 3 to sign the funding agreement, enabling Waterfind to be the first Delivery Partner to help irrigators start projects across the three states.



*View of irrigated land between
Griffith & Narrandera*

Waterfind's On-Farm Projects

Waterfind is helping deliver over \$12 million to irrigators in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia through Round 3 of the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program.



Irrigated land due to be upgraded through on-farm works

Waterfind has two main sub-project types through Round 3 of the program. The first sub-project type includes laser grading and irrigation infrastructure upgrades and/or design projects through New South Wales and Victoria. Waterfind's second sub-project type, laser grading, is located in South Australia and will conduct works to support dairy farming.

These projects are expected to save a total of 8,888ML with 5,807ML being returned to the Commonwealth for environmental use. Savings will be gained through a number of activities including:

- laser grading which increases efficiencies in water use and reduces the instances of pooling and water wastage
- variable speed pumps which reduces the power required per ML pumped
- irrigation monitoring sensors resulting in water efficiencies
- drainage water recycling systems
- enclosed pipes and riser systems which reduce farm evaporation and seepage

These projects are due to be completed within 36 months of commencement, with most projects being completed within the first two years.

Round 4

On 29 July 2013, the former Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Urban Water, Amanda Rishworth, announced the opening of a fourth funding round of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program worth \$100m. The submission deadline for this program was 14 October 2013. Based on previous rounds, it is expected that the earliest date for an announcement of in-principle funding is March 2014.

Waterfind has submitted an application to be a Delivery Partner for Round 4 of the program and will be in contact with those who have submitted expressions of interest in the program in regards to any announcements as they arise.

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