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SPECIAL EDITION Waterfind Newsletter

On-Farm Irrigation
Efficiency Program
(Round 3)

MAY 2014

Waterfind & On-Farm Field Day

by Waterfind

On the 26 February, Waterfind hosted its first On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program – Round 3 Field Day at Dehne Vinnicombe’s property near Jarklin to showcase the works completed and benefits of the Australian Government’s OFIE program. We would like to extend a big thank you to Dehne and his family for welcoming us to the property and their assistance in organising the day.

Speeches were made on the day by Martin Ward (Waterfind Consultant – Advance Survey Design), Tom Rooney (Waterfind CEO) and Dehne to a group of approximately 20 before a tour on the property and catered lunch for attendees.

Waterfind received great feedback on the program, its benefits and the difference it will make to the participant’s lives.



Dehne speaking about his experience with the program



Waterfind Field Day

Key comments from the day

- The program gives irrigators the opportunity to save time while increasing production
- Having paperwork prepared before stage 2 of the application enables you to meet the short timeframe requirements
- Checking the details of your farm plan to ensure it matches what you need is critical
- It’s important to allow for extended timeframes and possible increased costs in your budget

The Project

Dehne's project was approved under Round 3 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program through Waterfind's sub-project: Laser grading and irrigation infrastructure upgrade and redesign.

Dehne and the contractors have worked hard over the last few months (in some very hot conditions!) finishing the all landforming, completing the re-use system and installing new channels. With only the automation to now be installed, the project is close to completion.

Benefits of the project include:

- Increased production and reduced irrigation (11.6ML/ha to 8.7ML/ha)
- Water savings of 2.9ML/ha across all fields
- Re-use system allowing the capture and reuse of runoff

Dehne has returned 218ML of water to the Australian Government for environmental use. Dehne speaks highly of the program and when asked if he would apply again he said, "Yes, I would apply again. For the people who can apply, I would recommend applying."

Round 4

Waterfind is pleased to announce that we have been approved as a Delivery Partner for Round 4 of the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program and awarded over \$32,000,000 of in-principle funding to invest in projects across the Southern Murray-Darling Basin.



Tegan, Ron, Dehne, Henry and Sarah
Photo by Andrew Tatnell, © Department of the Environment



Group tour of the project



Martin Ward speaking about importance of planning
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