



WATERFIND NEWSLETTER

On-Farm Irrigation
Efficiency Program

September 2014

WATERFIND & ON-FARM

by Waterfind

Welcome to the fourth edition of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program Waterfind Newsletter. This edition will provide progress updates on the completion of Round 3 projects funded through Waterfind as well as our Round 4 negotiations.

Update: Waterfind's Round 3 On-Farm Projects

How time flies, Waterfind is already 12 months into its Round 3 On-Farm program. Projects are all progressing very well with several now reaching completion and we have now distributed almost \$7 million to local contractors and irrigators who are carrying out the works.

It has been an exciting process for our team to be involved in the roll out of the program seeing the changes to irrigation properties and the functionality of farm businesses.

Upcoming Round 3 Field Day

Waterfind and its Round 3 Proponents Joe and Alice Dal Broi will be hosting a field day in the Griffith area during the last week of September 2014.

Joe and Alice have operated the property since 1974, starting with sheep and cotton evolving to current where they predominantly grow rice, cotton and winter crops. Their project aimed to increase efficiency and reduce labor through the conversion from lasered square bays to the terraced twin bankless system. Last summer they grew their first cotton crop on land completed time for sewing with great results yielding 11.2 bales/Ha which is an improvement of half bale/Ha in previous years.

SEPTEMBER 2014 FIELD DAY

Further details and invitations will be distributed in the coming weeks. If you would like to express an interest to attend please contact our team on 1800 890 285 or email on-farmiep@waterfind.com.au



Cotton crop on an ungraded field, Griffith NSW



Proponent Nick Ryan and Daughter with their completed riser with blade valve, and I-Bee automation, Lancaster Vic.

Progress on Waterfind's Round 4 On-Farm Projects

On 1 April 2014, Senator Simon Birmingham, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, announced \$158 million of in-principle funding for irrigation efficiency improvement projects through Round Four of the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program.

Waterfind was successful in gaining up to \$32 million of in-principle funding under Stage 1 of the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program for the administration of of Round 4 sub-projects.

Types of works which Waterfind will assist in completing through Round 4 of the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program include:

- Upgrade of surface irrigation systems including landforming, channel upgrades and installation of re-use systems
- Installation of pipe and riser systems
- Reconfiguration of surface irrigation layouts
- Conversion to surface or sub-surface drip systems
- Upgrade of inefficient existing drip irrigation systems

Waterfind has now lodged over 45 sub-projects to make up the in-principle funding granted for assessment by the Australian Government. We hope to move through this assessment and negotiation phase to maximise the delivery of the in-principle funding to sub-projects across NSW and Victoria.

KEY DATES

Round 3

- **Last week September**
Waterfind On-Farm Field Day, Griffith area
- **31 October** End of next R3 payment cycle
- **November** inspections of works completed

Round 4

- **Late 2014 / Early 2015** estimated to sign agreement(s)
- **Early 2015:**
 - works to commence once agreement(s) signed
 - Water transfers settle
 - First payments distributed

Note – Round 4 dates are estimates only to provide an indicative guide



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