



WATERFIND NEWSLETTER

On-Farm Irrigation
Efficiency Program

December 2014

WATERFIND & ON-FARM

by Waterfind

Welcome to the fifth edition of Waterfind’s On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (OFIEP) Newsletter. This edition provides progress updates on the completion of Round 3 projects, the Round 4 funding agreement and the fifth and final OFIEP round announcement made recently.

ROUND 3 CASE STUDY: Dehne Vinnicombe

We first met Dehne, a dairy farmer from Jarklin, Victoria, back in Issue 2 of our newsletter. Since our first visit to Dehne’s property at the start of the year, a recent tour has highlighted the significant changes that have been made through his participation in Round 3 of the Program. In comparison to our first visit in January 2014, it is clear easy to see the changes and benefits which are being realised.



Dehne Vinnicombe

The project has allowed Dehne to put 200 acres of unproductive land into production and has reduced labour costs significantly through the installation of outlet automation. When asked about water savings he said, “Automation has allowed me to eliminate the effect of over watering losses, which with high flows I could lose up to 40% of the water I put on.” He made mention of his usual stress levels coming into a watering period which have now virtually disappeared and the flexibility he has now allowing him to focus on other jobs on the farm.

Dehne is in the final stages of his project and was very excited about its conclusion and realising the true functionality of the system. When asked if he would participate in the program again he said “I would definitely do it again and the program brought value for money for my farm’s future.”

Update: Waterfind’s Round 3 On-Farm Projects

Round 3 projects continue to progress and are on track for completion within the expected timeframes, with some projects finishing up ahead of schedule.

Recent visits to proponents are showing signs of the difference the Program is making to regional farm businesses through efficiencies, productivity gains and reductions in labour costs.

Waterfind continues to receive positive feedback from proponents and the communities who are benefiting from the Australian Government funding.



Field Day at Dehne’s Property February 2014



Tour of the Joe and Alice Dal Broi's property at their field day

Round 3 Field Day

Waterfind held their second Field Day on the 24 September 2014 at the property of Joe and Alice Dal Broi in Benerembah, just outside of Griffith. Local growers, current proponents, farm planning consultants and Joe's agronomist attended the Field Day where Waterfind showcased the works completed on the property.

The day commenced with speeches by Tom Rooney (Waterfind), Gary Polkinghorne (PHL Surveyors) and Joe. Attendees were invited on a tour of the property where they were able to ask Joe about his new system and the program at several stops along the tour.

Joe and Alice have been very passionate proponents and are very appreciative of the benefits that the Australian Government's OFIE Program has brought for them. They thanked Waterfind staff for their assistance throughout the process, in particular with their initial application and budget management. Joe was able to complete his works much quicker than he had anticipated due to contractor availability and Waterfind's flexibility of managing the funds.

Waterfind would like to extend a big thank you to Joe and Alice for welcoming everyone to their property and for assisting in making the Field Day very successful.



CONTACT

Tel 1800 890 285
 Fax 1800 890 248
 Email on-farmiep@waterfind.com.au
 Web waterfind.com.au

Round 4 Update

Waterfind has recently signed a funding agreement with the Australian Government for Round 4. Proponents will be able to commence their projects once their works agreements have been signed and their water settled with the Commonwealth.

Waterfind is continuing negotiations with the prospect of including additional sub-projects under this round of funding.

Round 5 Announcement

On 21 October 2014 the Hon. Simon Birmingham, then Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, and the Hon. Kevin Humphries, NSW Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water announced \$125 million of funding for a further round of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program within New South Wales.

The funding will be targeted to projects in the Murrumbidgee, NSW Murray and the Lower Darling that are specifically designed to improve the efficiency and productivity of on-farm water use and management

Expressions of Interest can be made through our website <http://www.waterfind.com.au/onfarm-eoi-form.html>