



The Hon Niall Blair MLC Minister for Primary Industries Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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IRRIGATORS – DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE WATER

Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Lands and Water, Niall Blair, today reminded irrigators to apply for the latest round of funding through the NSW Sustaining the Basin: Irrigated Farm Modernisation Program (STBIFM) before applications close on 13 May 2015.

Mr Blair encouraged eligible irrigators in the NSW Border Rivers, Lower Namoi and Barwon-Darling regions, who have already submitted an Irrigated Farm Water Use Efficiency Assessment for verification, to submit an application.

“This successful program is an opportunity for irrigators to apply for funding to improve on-farm water use efficiency,” Mr Blair said.

“Already more than 40 projects have been completed as part of the \$83 million program, which makes it easier for NSW farmers to do business while meeting water saving targets.”

Funding for rounds four and five has been expanded to include:

- general security (B Class), high security and supplementary entitlements in the NSW Border River;
- general security, high security and supplementary entitlement in the Lower Namoi; and
- unregulated (Class B and C) entitlement in the Barwon-Darling

Mr Blair said farmers could achieve water savings through modernising irrigation infrastructure, boosting productivity of their operations.

“The program delivers vital water savings back to the environment and will improve the long-term sustainability of regional communities,” Mr Blair said.

Some examples of infrastructure projects include:

- water application infrastructure;
- installing overhead travelling irrigators;
- earthworks to improve irrigation field efficiency;
- drip, sprinkler or micro-sprinkler systems;
- reconfiguration of pipe or channel systems; and
- replacing channels with piping systems

STBIFM will fund up to 80 per cent of the ex-GST cost of infrastructure modernisation works in exchange for at least 50 per cent of water savings – up to a maximum of 100 per cent-recovered by the infrastructure improvements.