



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

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### IRRIGATION FUNDING DEADLINE EXTENDED

Irrigators intending to apply for funding under round five of the Sustaining the Basin Irrigated Farm Modernisation program now have until Monday 15 June 2015 to complete a water use efficiency assessment of their operations.

Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water Niall Blair said the two-week extension will allow more irrigators to take up the opportunity.

"Some irrigators need more time to undertake the water use efficiency assessment and have it verified by the Department of Primary Industries," Mr Blair said.

"It's important that the irrigators who want to take up the funding have every opportunity to make sure they can progress to a full application."

Round five of the program funding is available to eligible irrigators in NSW Border Rivers, Barwon-Darling and Lower Namoi.

Irrigated farm water use efficiency assessments are a prerequisite under the program and helps irrigators identify water savings opportunities.

Those with a verified water use efficiency assessment are then eligible to submit an application for infrastructure funding by 29 July 2015.

While the deadline has been extended, those that are ready to submit now do not need to wait and can now send their completed assessment through for verification.

Getting the assessment in as soon as they are ready allows more time for the preparation of the infrastructure funding application.

In round five, the following water entitlement types within those catchments are eligible:

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

The program, funded by the Australian Government's Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program, aims to improve on-farm irrigation water use efficiency and achieve water savings.