

# Bulletin 2

September 2012

This bulletin is designed to provide updates on the implementation process and the progress made to date of the NSW Sustaining the Basin: Irrigated Farm Modernisation (STBIFM) project.

It will keep interested stakeholders informed of key dates and activities for the duration of the project.

It will also alert you to opportunities for training and learning more about emerging issues and technologies.

DPI encourages you to be involved and stay informed using this service. You can, of course, unsubscribe at any time.

For more detailed information on any aspects of the project please send an email to [IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin)

## Funding Round 1

10 September – 30 November 2012

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) wish to advise irrigators with general security water entitlements operating in the NSW Border Rivers, Gwydir, Namoi/Peel and Macquarie/Cudgegong water management areas that a competitive round of funding will open on 10 September 2012, with applications due by the 30 November 2012.

A second round will close on 30 April 2013. The total number of funding rounds that are offered under STBIFM will be dependent on the success of these two rounds in achieving value for money investment for the Australian Government and the extent to which the budget is committed.

Irrigators are encouraged to complete and submit an 'Eligibility Check Request' to ensure they are eligible to participate in the program. Once an irrigator has been assessed as eligible to participate, the full application package will be provided.

Further information on the [eligibility criteria](#), the [Eligibility Check Request form](#) and the [application processes](#) can be found at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin) or by emailing [IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Community information meetings

DPI will be conducting a series of community meetings across the project area commencing on 12 September 2012.

Irrigators and their advisors are encouraged to attend to receive current information on the process and timeframes to apply for planning and infrastructure modernisation funding and the training opportunities available.

See the schedule at the end of this document.

## **Financial incentives on offer**

The following financial incentives will be offered to eligible irrigators.

### **Irrigation Farm Water Use Efficiency Assessments (IFWUEAs)**

STBIFM will offer funding for IFWUEAs conducted by an Approved Irrigation Consultant (AIC) to determine the best infrastructure options to improve on-farm water management. Irrigators will be reimbursed 80 per cent of the cost of engaging an AIC up to a maximum of \$4000 per farm. Initially only one IFWUEA per farm business (ABN) will be funded.

Where a farm plan exists that has been created with the previous assistance of Government, funding for an IFWUEA will be limited to the amount necessary to update the plan.

Funding is only available for IFWUEAs completed by an AIC.

Irrigators do not need to complete an IFWUEA to be able to apply for funding. This opportunity is being offered to assist irrigators in identifying all possible water use efficiency options and to assist in completing the project application. It is not a mandatory requirement of the application process to undertake this step.

### **On-farm infrastructure**

STBIFM will invest in on-farm infrastructure projects that aim to achieve water savings and improvements in water use efficiency.

Up to 80 per cent of the project costs will be funded in return for at least 50 per cent of the projected water savings in equivalent general security water entitlements. These entitlements are to be permanently transferred to the NSW Government, with a minimum transfer of 10 megalitres. The remaining water savings will stay with the irrigator.

### **Training activities**

Eligible irrigators can access a program of strategic training. The program will be finalised and made available following the receipt of the 'Eligibility Check Request' forms. Please indicate your preference for training so project staff can plan an appropriate voluntary training schedule.

## Approved Irrigation Consultants (AICs)

The first round of expressions of interest for suitably qualified and experienced irrigation professionals to be included on a 'Register of Approved Irrigation Consultants' (the Register) has closed and an independent assessment committee has assessed the applications.

The register of AICs will be made available to eligible irrigators following the commencement of the funding round and be kept updated at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin)

Interested consultants can apply for consideration to be placed on the Register by completing and submitting an Expression of Interest form. The assessment panel will convene monthly to assess any new applications.

## Contacts

For more information or to register your interest in STBIFM, please contact your local DPI project staff member, send an email to: [IFM.Info@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:IFM.Info@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or visit the website at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin)

### Regional contacts

Ms Janelle Montgomery  
Irrigation Officer  
NSW DPI, PO Box 209, MOREE NSW 2400  
Phone: (02) 6750 6476  
Fax: (02) 6752 4859  
Email: [janelle.montgomery@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:janelle.montgomery@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Mr Rod Jackson  
Irrigation Officer  
NSW DPI, Locked Bag 1000, NARRABRI 2390  
Phone: (02) 6799 1537  
Fax: (02) 6799 1503  
Email: [rod.jackson@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rod.jackson@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Mr Peter Smith  
Irrigation Officer  
NSW DPI, 4 Marsden Park Road, CALALA NSW 2340  
Phone: (02) 6763 1262

Fax: (02) 6763 1222

Email: [peter.smith@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:peter.smith@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Mr Damien Doyle

Project Officer Sustainability

NSW DPI, PO Box 865, DUBBO NSW 2830

Phone: (02) 66881 1270

Fax: (02) 6881 1295

Email: [damien.doyle@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:damien.doyle@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Mr Michael Grabham

Irrigation Officer

PO Box 1386, BATHURST NSW 2795

Phone: (02) 6332 1215

Fax: (02) 6332 1458

Email: [michael.grabham@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:michael.grabham@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### Schedule of community information meetings

Location	Date	Time	Venue
Goondiwindi	Wednesday 12 September	8.30 – 10.00 am	Goondiwindi Training & Technology Centre 15 – 21 Russel St
Mungindi	Wednesday 12 September	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Mungindi Golf Club Boomi Rd
Moree	Thursday 13 September	8.30 – 10.30 am	Max Function Centre Cnr Balo & Heber St
Wee Waa	Thursday 13 September	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Wee Waa Bowling Club, Alma St
Tamworth	Monday 17 September	8.30 – 10.30 am	NSW DPI Sustainable Farming Training Centre Calala
Gunnedah	Monday 17 September	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Gunnedah Bowling Club 313 Conadilly St
Narromine	Tuesday 18 September	8.30 – 10.30 am	Narromine United Services Club 58 Dandaloo St
Warren	Tuesday 18 September	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Warren Services Club 87A Dubbo St