

NSW SUSTAINING THE BASIN *Irrigated farm modernisation*

Update Bulletin 3

October 2012

This bulletin is designed to provide updates on the implementation of the NSW Sustaining the Basin: Irrigated Farm Modernisation (STBIFM) project. This project is funded by the Australian Government's *Water for the Future* initiative.

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 or visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin

1.0 Community meetings, September 2012

The community meetings recently held across the project region were well attended.

DPI staff provided information on a range of relevant topics including the:

- incentives available
- eligibility criteria
- application guidelines
- details on the proposed funding rounds
- application assessment process, and
- water transfer and contractual phase of the project.

Generally, participants were positive about the project. As discussion progressed and specific

questions were answered, attendees developed a greater understanding of the requirements for participation with most indicating that the meeting was well run and informative.

If you weren't able to attend one of the meetings have a look at the [presentation](#).

See what some [irrigators and consultants said at the meetings](#).

To receive a copy of the information pack which was distributed at the meetings, contact your [regional project staff](#) member or email IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au



2.0 Common questions from the community meetings

Attendees raised a variety of issues during the discussions at the community meetings which DPI staff answered on the day or took questions on notice to be addressed in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the website.

DPI has now updated the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to provide responses to the comments and questions raised during the meetings.

Here is a sample of the more common questions.

- Will infrastructure projects only be assessed against other projects in the same water management area?
- How do you assess value for money?
- What is the amount of money available in round one?
- When can I commence my infrastructure project?

Please refer to the updated [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for comprehensive answers to these and other questions.

3.0 Eligibility Check Requests

DPI is very pleased with the response from irrigators in submitting Eligibility Check Requests (ECRs). To date ECRs have been received from across the project region and assessed for eligibility.

DPI encourage irrigators to submit an [ECR form](#) for assessment.

Once assessed as eligible, irrigators can access [Irrigated Farm Water Use Efficiency Assessment \(IFWUEA\)](#) funding, [on-farm infrastructure funding](#) and [subsidised training](#).

The infrastructure funding rounds opened on 10 September 2012. Round 1 closes on 30 November 2012 and Round 2 closes on 30 April 2013.

Further information: [Eligibility Criteria](#) and the [ECR form](#).

4.0 Irrigated Farm Water Use Efficiency Assessments (IFWUEAs)

STBIFM offers [funding for IFWUEAs](#) conducted by an [Approved Irrigation Consultant \(AIC\)](#) to determine the best infrastructure options to improve on-farm water management.

Irrigators **do not** need to complete an IFWUEA to be able to apply for infrastructure funding and if an IFWUEA incentive is received they **do not** have to submit an application for on-farm infrastructure funding.

This opportunity is being offered to assist irrigators to identify all possible options to improve water use efficiency.

IFWUEAs must be completed by an [Approved Irrigation Consultant](#) to receive funding.

See what other irrigators have said about the [benefits of IFWUEAs](#) and have a look an [example IFWUEA](#) to see what useful information it could provide to you for planning.

5.0 On-farm infrastructure

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

Refer to the [Eligibility Criteria](#) for further information on the types of projects that would be eligible for funding or discuss the project in greater detail and your ideas with DPI [regional project staff members](#).

Case studies have been prepared on many of the on-farm infrastructure projects funded as part of the pilot project implemented by DPI and the BRG CMA during 2010/2011 to give irrigators an idea of what can be considered.

Have a look at some of these projects to see what irrigators in the region have completed with on-farm infrastructure funding.

[The Estens Family, Moree \(pdf\)](#)

[The Estens Family, Moree \(slide show\)](#)

[The Bartel & Williams Families, Moree \(pdf\)](#)

[The Bartel & Williams Families, Moree \(slide show\)](#)

[Mark & Peter Winter, Moree \(pdf\)](#)

[Angelo Saccon, Bonshaw \(pdf\)](#)

[Peter Birch, Moree \(pdf\)](#)

[Anthony Barlow, Mungindi \(pdf\)](#)

[Australian Food & Fibre, Moree \(pdf\)](#)



Gavin Bartel, Moree erecting a new centre pivot in 2011. Image J Montgomery

6.0 Resources on the website

DPI maintains an STBIFM website to allow you to access key information regarding the project at all times. We encourage you to have a look at the site at:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/sustainingthebasin

Apart from key project information we also provide a lot of useful resources and links that may help you to develop your project application or assess your options. Have a look at the [Useful resources](#) page.

The major sections on the website are:

- [Eligibility and incentives](#)
- [IFWUEAs and Approved Irrigation Consultants](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Useful resources](#)
- [Useful links](#)
- [Update bulletins](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Contacts](#)

A secure section on the website has also been established for **eligible** irrigators and AICs to access electronic versions of the funding application forms and guidelines for developing project applications. Login details for this site are provided to irrigators with their notification of eligibility.

We are happy to accept both good and bad feedback on the website or suggestions for new content or facilities. Please send your comments to IFM.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2012). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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7.0 Contacts

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

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