

HARVEY WATER

DID YOU KNOW ?

IMPORTANT (and EXCITING) INFORMATION FOR IRRIGATORS

The Federal Government has announced a funding opportunity under the National Program for Water Security (NPWS) in which it will provide the full cost of improving on-farm water delivery systems in return for the irrigator developing a water efficiency plan for his farm and giving up 25 ML of water.

The program is named the On Farm Efficiency Program and can be found at www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/on-farm.

This is a very exciting opportunity for irrigators as it builds on the efficiency created by the new pipe scheme to help irrigators make similar improvements in water use efficiency on their farms. It is open to all irrigators in all 3 HWIA districts.

The program works by the NPWS selecting a Delivery Partner like Harvey Water who is prepared to act as an agent to help irrigators put in better irrigation systems under the funding scheme.

The idea is that an irrigator will be helped by DAFWA to develop a water efficiency plan for their farm. This plan will include any new systems an irrigator wishes to install, such as a centre pivot or trickle irrigation.

If successful, an irrigator's infrastructure will be 100% funded by the NPWS program.

In return for this funding the irrigator will be required to give up 25 ML of water up front when they sign the agreement. This water will go to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder who will use it for environmental purposes.

The program will only fund infrastructure for on-farm irrigation and will not fund new or expanded areas, or works which have already started or have been completed.

The initial applications for this program closed on 10 December 2007 and Harvey Water put in an application in the belief that it would be of interest to irrigators.

If the program works as planned it is expected that the funds will start to flow in July next year so new systems can be installed over summer 2008/9. The program will run for 3 years so it is not necessary for final decisions and the work to start immediately.

Harvey Water was not able to fully consult with irrigators but would like to do so now. We will be holding a meeting in January 2008 to provide information on the program so that irrigators have time to think it over.

Could any irrigator who is interested in taking part in this program over the next 3 years please register their interest with the Harvey Water office by phone, fax or e-mail giving details of their name, the type of improvement planned eg pivot; trickle etc and the area involved.

Harvey Water thinks this is a very exciting opportunity the like of which come along very, very rarely. We encourage all irrigators to think carefully and creatively about the possibilities.

HARVEY PIPE PROJECT.

Irrigators will have noted the pipes being installed along the South West Highway south of Yarloop. Work is going very well and Stage 3 is expected to be complete before the end of the financial year. Thank you for putting up with any inconvenience while the work proceeds.

INFORMATION UPDATE

The irrigators cooperative's management systems will be needing an information update.

Early in the New Year all cooperative shareholders will be receiving a questionnaire requesting information update, of a general nature, but information that is required to efficiently and effectively run your cooperative.

Management would be very appreciative shareholders could complete the form and send it back as soon as possible after receiving it.