

# Media release

Thursday 22 January 2015

## Contracts issued for Round Four of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program

In December 2014 the Commonwealth Government signed a Funding Agreement with Murray Irrigation Limited for \$20,700,224.10 (GST inclusive) under Round Four of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (OFIEP).

Murray Irrigation issued Infrastructure Works Contracts to its customers with projects being funded under the program in mid-January.

Murray Irrigation Interim CEO, Dr Steve Gumley, said there were a total of 107 projects involved in Round Four.

"The majority of the projects involve upgrading existing surface irrigated areas," Dr Gumley said.

"There are also some spray projects, which involve converting surface irrigated areas to lateral move or centre pivot spray systems.

"These projects are scattered throughout Murray Irrigation's entire area of operations, from Berrigan to Moulamein."

In December 2014, the Commonwealth Government announced up to \$125M for Round Five of the OFIEP.

Murray Irrigation is planning to submit a Delivery Partner application for Round Five.

"To support this, we held a series of customer workshops mid-January to provide details about the program's criteria and how to complete the Expression of Interest process. Around 30 people attended," Dr Gumley said.

"We also encouraged customers to consider how their plans for upgrading their on-farm layouts would fit in with our Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program for upgrading irrigation outlets and our channel supply system.

"The Round Five program is an opportunity for customers to consider how investment will assist them alter their farm irrigation layouts to be more future proofed."

Expressions of Interest for Round Five of the OFIEP are due by 5.00pm Friday 20 February 2015.

For more information, or to obtain an Expression of Interest information pack, contact Senior Administration Officer On-Farm Projects, Peter Osborne, via Murray Irrigation's reception on T. 1300 138 265.

*The On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program is part of the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program which invests in rural water use, management and efficiency, including improved water knowledge and market reform, and water purchase for the environment.*

Ends

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