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## Irrigation infrastructure forum a success

Irrigation companies from around the region travelled to Deniliquin earlier this month to attend the second Riverina Irrigation Infrastructure Forum, hosted by Murray Irrigation.

The forum was held at the Deniliquin Coach House on Thursday 11 August, where more than 20 irrigation infrastructure experts gathered to discuss a range of topics. Guest speakers from Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Murray Irrigation and Brown Project Solutions took the floor to present on key issues currently impacting irrigation projects across the region.

Since the inaugural event, held in April this year, both Murrumbidgee Irrigation and Murray Irrigation have announced further Australian Government funding opportunities through the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) program. These announcements will result in over \$250 million being invested throughout the region over the next three years.

With such a high level of investment being rolled out across the area Murray Irrigation Executive Manager Major Engineering Projects, Warren Jose, said the forum aimed to foster discussion relating to common infrastructure-related issues and take away key learnings from past projects.

“The guest speakers presented information and results on relevant topics that all irrigation companies are dealing with. By working together, we can achieve greater results across the board,” said Mr Jose.

Mr Jose said the forums have provided an opportunity for irrigation companies to meet regularly and compare their infrastructure upgrades, including the PIIOP program.

“By meeting on a regular basis, we can keep our communication channels open and continue to discuss new topics as they arise,” Mr Jose said.

“We are all focussed on similar outcomes, being modern, responsive and efficient irrigation systems and it is sensible to compare notes across the projects, on aspects such as safety and risk management,” he said.

New agenda topics are featured at each forum, which allows a wider range of topics to be discussed. This also provides opportunity for a diverse range of guest speakers.

“We have received feedback from attendees that they gained valuable information from the forum, which will assist in future infrastructure projects across the wider region” Mr Jose concluded.

The next Riverina Irrigation Infrastructure Forum will be held in Griffith during October, and on a bi-monthly basis thereafter.

For more information on Murray Irrigation’s PIIOP project, visit: [www.murrayirrigation.com.au/piiop/](http://www.murrayirrigation.com.au/piiop/).

*Murray Irrigation’s PIIOP Programs have been funded through the Australian Government’s Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) in NSW. PIIOP Round 2 received funding of \$169.2 million and PIIOP Round 3 received funding of \$153.3 million.*

**Ends.**

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