

# Major project update

January 2017: PIIOP Round 2 and 3



## Major projects

Murray Irrigation's PIIOP projects are set for a big 2017. PIIOP Round 2 is scheduled for completion later this year and PIIOP Round 3 will generate designs for its sub-projects and commence winter works on the Berrigan Canal. See below for more details on the 2017 goals for each major project.

### PIIOP Round 2 work remaining

**Total budget: \$206 million**

PIIOP Round 2 was designed to upgrade how our customers connect to our system to provide a more accurate and flexible water delivery service. The project is over 60 percent complete and is scheduled for completion by October 2017. The project is currently tracking to be delivered on time and on budget.

The following work remains:

- **Regulators**

The project scope includes upgrading 584 fully automated Rubicon sites and 734 Murray Irrigation designed Central Remote Controlled (CRC) sites. The regulator program is currently 62 percent complete, and is forecast for completion by October 2017.

- **Outlets**

2,100 outlets have been identified for upgrades in the project scope. This project is 55 percent complete and is also scheduled for completion in October 2017.

- **Reconfigurations**

The project scope involves reconfiguration of 29 channel sections and decommissioning of 41.3km of irrigation channel. The project is currently 24 percent complete, and forecast for completion in October 2017. This project has exceeded targets with 66km of channel decommissioned or transferred to customer ownership to date.

*Murray Irrigation's PIIOP Round 2 project has received approval for funding of \$169.2 million from the Australian Government's Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) in NSW.*

### PIIOP Round 3 funding deed and budget

**Total budget: up to \$120.7 million**

PIIOP Round 3 will optimise the Murray Irrigation system to complement the outlet upgrades and lead to a cost-effective and efficient irrigation network. In order to reduce system losses and create an efficient network, Australian Government funding has been secured to investigate, design and implement a number of sub-projects.

Murray Irrigation's PIIOP Round 3 funding agreement was signed by Chairman Mark Robertson on Friday 2 December 2016.

*Murray Irrigation's PIIOP Round 3 project has received approval for funding of up to \$114.8 million from the Australian Government's Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) in NSW.*



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## PIIOP Round 3 approval process

Murray Irrigation has entered into an agreement with the government to investigate, design and implement projects that build on the works and upgrades currently being rolled out under PIIOP Round 2.

The agreement allows both Murray Irrigation and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to comprehensively evaluate sub-projects and water savings prior to proceeding with implementation. We need to see real water savings before we proceed. If our initial design shows no savings at each sub-project, then we can negotiate to redesign or not proceed with the sub-project.

## PIIOP Round 3 scope of work

The following projects are included in the PIIOP Round 3 project scope:

- **Upgrading Mulwala Canal and Main Channel Infrastructure**

This project proposes a review and assessment of the infrastructure within the main channels, with the potential to upgrade 65 regulating structures.

- **Upgrade Escapes**

This project will upgrade identified escapes (including the Edward River Escape), enabling Murray Irrigation to discharge water from our system in the future via accurate metering and remote control.

- **System Optimisation Study**

An in-depth system optimisation study will be carried out as part of the preliminary planning stages for PIIOP Round 3. The study will involve research and testing of soil types, infrastructure assessment, current cropping trends and customer demand analysis. Murray Irrigation will also host open discussion sessions with customers during the first half of 2017 to better understand customer needs and identify possible opportunities to optimise the network.

This research will be used as a planning tool to optimise the channel network using some or all of the following sub-projects:

- **Channel Reconfigurations**

The proposed project will deliver conveyance water savings and long term operational savings to Murray Irrigation by reducing the footprint.

- **Sub-system Retirement**

The proposed project will seek out mutually beneficial opportunities to remove a small number of landholdings from the Murray Irrigation network, and convert these properties to dry land farming.

- **Stock and Domestic Scheme**

This project proposes to partner with identified landholdings to convert properties to dry land farming by installing stock and domestic systems. Channel rationalisation will result in water savings from General Security entitlements and conveyance water savings.



Want to learn more about PIIOP?

Watch our video:

<https://youtu.be/7xM52ENt18g>