



Waterfind Newsletter

On-Farm Irrigation
Efficiency Program

(Round 3)

13 MAY 2014

Waterfind & On-Farm

by Waterfind

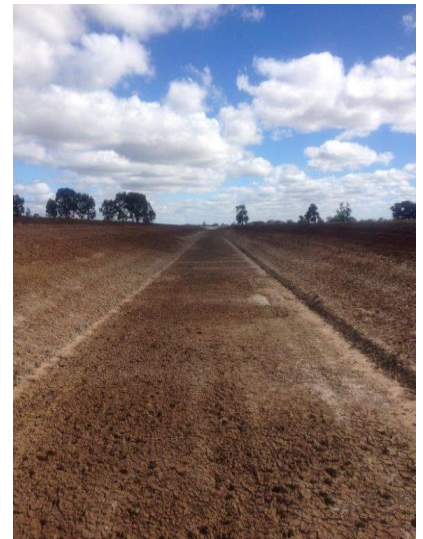
Welcome to the third edition of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program – Round 3 Waterfind Newsletter. This edition will showcase some lessons learned by proponent while completing projects through funding from the Australian Government's OFIE program.

Update: Waterfind's On-Farm Projects

Over the last three months, all of Waterfind's sub-projects have commenced works on their farms. Over the period, two of Waterfind's projects have finalised, enabling irrigators to realise the benefits of the works completed on their farms.

Over the last three months, payments have been made for numerous activities including earthworks, pump installation, completion of channels and much more. As of 28 April 2014, Waterfind has distributed over \$4.5 million to local contractors and irrigators who are carrying out the works.

The Waterfind On-Farm Team also hosted a Field Day on one of our proponent's farms near Echuca, Victoria. Attendees of the event included local irrigators, representatives from irrigation supply companies and water authority staff who were able to view the benefits of the program and ask questions about the works. The Waterfind On-Farm Team gave attendees a tour of the property and finished the event with a BBQ lunch. A special edition newsletter is attached for you to get more details of the Field Day.



*Works being completed near
Echuca, Victoria*

Waterfind's On-Farm Case Study - Lessons from Proponents

Waterfind's proponents have been working extensively on projects across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Through this time, many of them have come across points to consider when completing works.



Drainage sump near Deniliquin, New South Wales. Site where pump will be installed.

Lesson One – Know your budgets

Understand that quotes for works and infrastructure assets (such as pipes and pumps) can change from the time of the quote to the time of purchase. Make sure to review the timeframes that the quotes apply to so that your budget is as accurate as possible.

Lesson Two – Confirm your farm design

To complete the works, proponents have completed farm and irrigation plans. To ensure that your quotes on works and structures are accurate, ensure that you review your farm design and work with an experienced professional so that your plan is correct and what you have asked for. Picking this up early avoids cost blow outs at the time you are starting the project

Lesson Three – Use project management strategies

The timing of works may interfere with crop cycles. To minimise the amount of time you are unable to use your land for production, plan the timing of the project and book in required contractors as early as possible.

Round 4

On 1 April 2014, Senator Simon Birmingham, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, announced \$158 million for irrigation efficiency improvement projects through Round Four of the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program.

The program is one of the most cost effective Australian Government water infrastructure investments and is managed by private and non-government entities which are required to perform at the highest commercial standards.

Waterfind is one such entity and expects to be responsible for the administration of over \$32 million of Round 4 funds.

Contact Details

(p) 1800 890 285
 (f) 08 8125 6583
 (e) on-farmiep@waterfind.com.au
 (w) www.waterfind.com.au



Andrew Tatnell, © Department of the Environment

SPECIAL EDITION Waterfind Newsletter

On-Farm Irrigation
Efficiency Program
(Round 3)

MAY 2014

Waterfind & On-Farm Field Day

by Waterfind

On the 26 February, Waterfind hosted its first On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program – Round 3 Field Day at Dehne Vinnicombe’s property near Jarklin to showcase the works completed and benefits of the Australian Government’s OFIE program. We would like to extend a big thank you to Dehne and his family for welcoming us to the property and their assistance in organising the day.

Speeches were made on the day by Martin Ward (Waterfind Consultant – Advance Survey Design), Tom Rooney (Waterfind CEO) and Dehne to a group of approximately 20 before a tour on the property and catered lunch for attendees.

Waterfind received great feedback on the program, its benefits and the difference it will make to the participant’s lives.



Dehne speaking about his experience with the program



Waterfind Field Day

Key comments from the day

- The program gives irrigators the opportunity to save time while increasing production
- Having paperwork prepared before stage 2 of the application enables you to meet the short timeframe requirements
- Checking the details of your farm plan to ensure it matches what you need is critical
- It’s important to allow for extended timeframes and possible increased costs in your budget

The Project

Dehne's project was approved under Round 3 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program through Waterfind's sub-project: Laser grading and irrigation infrastructure upgrade and redesign.

Dehne and the contractors have worked hard over the last few months (in some very hot conditions!) finishing the all landforming, completing the re-use system and installing new channels. With only the automation to now be installed, the project is close to completion.

Benefits of the project include:

- Increased production and reduced irrigation (11.6ML/ha to 8.7ML/ha)
- Water savings of 2.9ML/ha across all fields
- Re-use system allowing the capture and reuse of runoff

Dehne has returned 218ML of water to the Australian Government for environmental use. Dehne speaks highly of the program and when asked if he would apply again he said, "Yes, I would apply again. For the people who can apply, I would recommend applying."

Round 4

Waterfind is pleased to announce that we have been approved as a Delivery Partner for Round 4 of the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program and awarded over \$32,000,000 of in-principle funding to invest in projects across the Southern Murray-Darling Basin.



Tegan, Ron, Dehne, Henry and Sarah
Photo by Andrew Tatnell, © Department of the Environment



Group tour of the project



Martin Ward speaking about importance of planning
Photo by Andrew Tatnell, © Department of the Environment

Contact Details

(p) 1800 890 285

(f) 08 8125 6583

(e) on-farmiep@waterfind.com.au

(w) www.waterfind.com.au