

# On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program – Round 4

## What is the Program?

The *On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program* is part of the Australian Government's \$5.8 billion *Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program* component of *Water for the Future* package.

The Australian Government has committed \$450 million to the program awarded through competitive funding rounds.

To date the **South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Board** has been successful in obtaining approximately \$50.0m in funding for over 320 projects across the first three rounds of the program.

## How does the program work?

An assessment of each individual irrigator project takes place to determine the water savings generated by improving on-farm irrigation infrastructure and/or management.

A minimum water saving of 20 megalitres (ML) must be generated for each irrigator project, of which at least 50% or 10ML must be returned to the Australian Government for environmental purposes.

## What types of projects are eligible?

- Conversion to, or upgrade of existing drip irrigation
- Pump upgrades (conditions apply)
- Main line (conditions apply) and sub main upgrades
- Automation and control system upgrades
- Filtration & fertigation upgrades
- Installation of new, or the expansion of existing soil moisture monitoring networks



Automatic main filtration

## Expected water savings?

Activity	Water Saving (ML/Ha)
<b>Almonds</b>	
Under canopy sprinklers to drip	2.0 - 2.5
Existing drip upgrading to improve efficiency	1.0 - 1.5
<b>Citrus</b>	
Over canopy sprinklers to drip	2.5 - 3.0
Over canopy sprinklers to micro sprinkler	2.0 - 2.5
Under canopy sprinklers to drip	2.0 - 2.5
Existing drip upgrading to improve efficiency	1.0 - 1.5
<b>Grapes (Maximum Production)</b>	
Over canopy sprinklers to drip	2.5 - 3.0
Under canopy sprinklers to micro sprinklers every vine row	1.5 - 2.0
Under canopy sprinklers to drip	2.0 - 3.0
Micro sprinklers every vine row to drip	1.5 - 2.0
Existing drip upgrading to improve efficiency	1.0 - 1.5
<b>Other Activities Water Savings</b>	
Automation of an irrigation system	0.5
Soil moisture monitoring	0.5
Filtration upgrade	0.2
Pump upgrading, addition of variable speed drive for improved scheduling flexibility	0.1

**^Disclaimer:** Water savings are provided as a guide only and irrigators are encouraged to contact their local irrigation advisor to further discuss potential project water savings.

## For more information

To register your interest, or to obtain more information please contact the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Team at the Natural Resources Centre, Berri

Applications need to be received by the SA MDB NRM Board by **4pm on Friday 20 September 2013**

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Natural Resources  
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