Supporting resilience in the Murray-Darling Basin - the Water Efficiency Program

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Progress so far: water recovery

- Water usage reduced under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan
- Healthy rivers, strong communities and sustainable food and fibre production in the Murray-Darling Basin
- 2,100 GL has been recovered for the environment, including 700 GL through infrastructure projects
- 50 GL still to be recovered for gap bridging
- An additional 450 GL to be recovered through efficiency measures
Commonwealth expenditure in the MDB

[Graph showing Commonwealth expenditure in the MDB from 2007-08 to 2019-20, with two lines indicating purchase and infrastructure spending.]
Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM)

- **Supply Measures** – increase the supply of consumptive water while achieving equivalent environmental outcomes
- **Efficiency measures** – increase efficiency of water use while providing more water for environment
- **Constraints measures** – improve ability to deliver environmental water
Efficiency Measures

- Commonwealth is providing more than $13 billion for irrigation infrastructure improvement programs - delivered since 2007/08 through states and directly by the Commonwealth

- Providing much needed employment in rural communities

- Efficiency improvements have helped farmers and irrigation networks cope better with less water
  - reduced losses
  - improved control of delivery
  - improved control of on-farm application
  - greater flexibility in water decisions
  - flexible crop choices lifestyle improvements
Water Efficiency Program

- $1.5 billion available to 2024
- Funding projects that will save water for the environment
- Open to water-rights holders across the Murray-Darling Basin

Project streams:
- Urban
- Industrial
- Off-farm
- Metering
- On-farm
How does Water Efficiency Program work?

- Every project must:
  - achieve real water savings
  - be socio-economically neutral or positive
  - be assessed by a qualified professional to certify minimum technically feasible water savings
  - provide valid tradeable water entitlements in return for funding (1.75 x market value)
  - meet agreed milestones and provide progress reports including a final, evidence-based and audited report

- Projects can be brought forward through Delivery partners, or directly from Project partners, or as State-led projects.
Eligible Projects

- Irrigation infrastructure
- Working wetlands
- Saleyards
- Urban stormwater
- Desalination plants
- Water re-use
- Refineries
- Working wetlands
More information:


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