



20 May 2013

Irrigation farmers asked to spare a few minutes for questionnaire on water use

Farmers across NSW are being asked to spare a few minutes to answer a simple on-line questionnaire about their current water use.

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, said the questionnaire, which is being undertaken by the NSW Office of Water (NOW), would provide updated data on farm development for use in predicative water modelling.

“The NSW Office of Water has developed and regularly uses models to understand and assess the behaviour of river systems in NSW,” said Mr Harriss.

“The models are used to help assess the impacts of current and future water management on water users and the environment across the state.”

“Outputs from the models are also used to assess economic and environmental impacts under different water management options, such as those contained in water sharing plans.”

Mr Harriss said the information being sought from irrigation farmers in this questionnaire would be used to improve NOW’s ability to accurately model any proposed changes to the six major regulated river water sharing plans across the state which are being reviewed under their 10 year life span.

“This questionnaire is important to water users to ensure all factors relating to their respective enterprise are considered when their local water sharing plan is reviewed.”

“Some of the information used to run the predictive models was last updated several years ago – this could have implications for many water users if they have changed their farm operations or water use patterns.”

Acknowledging this is a busy time of year for most farmers, Mr Harriss said it was important they take a few minutes to complete the on-line questionnaire.

“I certainly understand the difficulty of finding time to fit everything into a farmer’s busy schedule, that’s why we have made the questionnaire as simple as possible and available on-line.”

“People can access the questionnaire day or night. It only takes few minutes to ensure their on-farm operations are adequately considered in future water management decisions,” Mr Harriss said.

The questionnaire can be access by logging onto the NSW Office of Water website at the following link –

<http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Modelling/IQQM>

The questionnaire will run until 17 June 2013.
ENDS

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