



## MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 3 May 2021

### Best practice incentives for irrigators released

The Mallee Irrigation Incentive Program is a specific program for irrigators in the Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) region. The program aims to encourage better water use efficiency on-farm through improved irrigation management, enhancing farm production while minimising or reducing impacts on the environment.

The program is part of an integrated package of measures to encourage better management of irrigation and drainage systems, and the development of information resources. The program provides financial assistance for improved irrigation management, skills development, system improvements and planning.

All financial assistance is based on cost sharing arrangements between the Mallee Irrigation Incentive Program and irrigators. The incentives complement and build on delivering priorities through the Mallee Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan 2020-29. A key change to the program is irrigators can lodge an Expression of Interest at any time throughout the year.

To be eligible for the incentives:

- the property must be located in the Mallee CMA region - this includes all irrigators from the Nyah Irrigation District through to Lindsay Point on the South Australian Border and Murrayville areas;
- the applicant must be registered with the Australian Tax Office as a primary producer;
- the land has been irrigated and/or licensed and has been irrigated for at least 10 years;
- the applicant may be ineligible if works and services have been started prior to receiving a formal Mallee CMA Letter of Offer and entering into a Management Agreement.
- incentive applicants must adhere to and provide evidence of adherence to the processes, conditions and standards as described in the guidelines;
- For a full list of criteria visit the Mallee CMA website.

Assistance and advice for irrigators on their eligibility and the incentives available can be obtained from the Irrigation Extension Officer, Maxine Schache at Agriculture Victoria, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions at Irymple.

More information and Expression of Interest forms are available by contacting Agriculture Victoria on 5051 4500, or by accessing the Mallee CMA website at [www.malleecma.vic.gov.au](http://www.malleecma.vic.gov.au) (click on 'Grants and Incentives').



Expressions of Interest can be submitted anytime via the Mallee CMA website, with rolling applications accepted throughout the year. Irrigators who are ready to undertake the works are encouraged to apply.

The guidelines and application form can be downloaded from the Mallee CMA website at [www.malleecma.com.au](http://www.malleecma.com.au) or contact the Mallee CMA to request a printed copy be sent to you.

For more information on the Incentives contact the Mallee CMA via (03) 50514 377, or email [salinityirrigation@malleecma.com.au](mailto:salinityirrigation@malleecma.com.au)

**Quotes attributable to Mallee CMA CEO Jenny Collins:**

*The incentives on offer cover a range of options for irrigators including system checks, soil surveys, scheduling equipment and system upgrades.*

*The incentives are a strong commitment to the Mallee regions irrigators to ensure irrigation best practice continues throughout our region.*

*The application process has been streamlined to ensure a simple process for irrigators to access the program, with the opportunity to submit applications online through our website now available.*

*Ongoing support and advice are also available through the Mallee CMA office and Irrigation Extension Officer at Agriculture Victoria. 03 5051 4500.*

**Ends**

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**MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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**Background information:**



The Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a statutory authority established to ensure that natural resources in the region are managed in an integrated and ecologically sustainable way. Its work is based on science and delivered through meaningful partnerships with local organisations such as Landcare, community groups, and government agencies in the Victorian Mallee.

For more information visit [www.malleecma.com.au](http://www.malleecma.com.au)