

Subsidy for Purchase of Water Entitlements for Irrigation Farm Dams to Close 7 April 2009

The Minister for Water has approved the closure of the subsidy for the purchase of water entitlements for irrigation farm dams. The subsidy was part of a transitional grant package which also included incentive grants for farm plans, environmental assessment and engineering design. All the incentive grants closed on 7 April 2007.

The grants package was initiated following the Irrigation Farms Dams Legislation that came into effect in April 2002 bringing commercial and irrigation dams within the licensing framework. The subsidy allowed eligible applicants to recover 50% of the cost of purchasing water entitlements for their new irrigation or commercial dam within capped catchments (where no new water was available), up to a maximum of \$400 per ML, with a cap of \$20,000.

The subsidy scheme for the purchase of water entitlements will be closed on **7 April 2009**; 7 years after the legislation came into effect.

The subsidy is still available for any new applications that fit the eligibility criteria made before this date and any applications currently in progress. Applications received at Goulburn-Murray Water, Tatura office after **7 April 2009** will not be eligible for the subsidy.