



Media Release

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Purchase Program for the Broken System

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed the announcement by Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW) and publically listed environmental flows company Water for Rivers to implement a targeted water purchase program of 8307 megalitres of high reliability and 1745 megalitres of low reliability water entitlements in the Broken System.

VFF Water Council Chairman Richard Anderson said the program would provide an additional 3000 megalitres on top of the minimum proposed to maintain reliability of supply for irrigators that remain on the Broken System.

"The VFF recently wrote to Victorian Minister for Water Tim Holding requesting that areas be targeted which offer the most gains in irrigation efficiency to provide improved supply reliability. The VFF is pleased that the government has accepted all offers from these targeted areas even though the volumes exceed the target, ensuring an equitable outcome for irrigators," Mr Anderson said.

"We are pleased to see purchases are being targeted at the most inefficient areas of the system with a view to improving reliability, deliverability and savings. This will improve the efficiency of the decommissioning of Lake Mokoan."

"The VFF, together with local irrigators, has worked hard on this issue since the Victorian Government's decision to proceed with the decommissioning in 2007."

"The VFF approached Minister Holding in late 2007 to develop a package for farmers who would be adversely affected by the decision. Since then, the VFF has worked with government, irrigators and the wider rural community to secure the best outcomes for Broken System irrigators."

"The VFF has established an open and cooperative dialogue with the State Government to ensure a timely conclusion to the decommissioning. The VFF has also been instrumental in engaging the Valuer-General, through the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), to provide independent advice on the value of water."

"A VFF sub-committee, including local irrigators, has met regularly with representatives of the DSE and G-MW to consider options aimed at minimising the impact of Lake Mokoan's decommissioning on irrigators."

"The VFF welcomes this purchase program and any further measures aimed at improving reliability and efficiency for Broken System irrigators," Mr Anderson concluded.

Media Contacts

Brendan Rowswell, VFF Public Affairs Manager, 0417 165 784

Richard Anderson, VFF Water Council Chairman, 0428 832 210