# How Off-farm efficiency projects work – Transcript

The Off-farm Efficiency Program is helping achieve a sustainable and certain future for the Murray-Darling Basin, its people, irrigators, rivers and wetlands.

The program is designed to recover up to 450 gigalitres of water for enhanced environmental outcomes included in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan – while also sharing water savings to provide a greater volume of secure, usable water for irrigators.

This is done by improving the efficiency of how, where and when water is delivered to farms through irrigation networks. Improved network infrastructure means less water lost from the system.

So how does this work?

When a farmer orders water it is transported from the river offtake to the farm through irrigation networks. Inefficient irrigation infrastructure loses large volumes of water to evaporation and seepage during transport. These are system losses.

Off-farm efficiency projects reduce losses by improving infrastructure – such as lining and remodelling open irrigation channels or replacing channels with pipelines.

This creates water savings that can be shared between irrigation networks, their farmers and the environment.

Improving off-farm irrigation infrastructure will help us meet important environmental targets while also providing a greater volume of secure, usable water for irrigators. Making it a win for farmers and for the environment.

For more information on the Off-farm Efficiency Program, visit our website.