# Case study 2: Warren Doecke, dairy farmer

Video transcript. Project funded under an efficiency measures pilot program

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## Introduction

This is the transcript of a video case study produced by the Department of Agriculture and available on the [department’s YouTube channel](https://youtu.be/UxB0RpxZNXw).

We have produced this video to raise awareness of the Murray–Darling Basin Water Efficiency Program and its positive impact on Basin businesses and communities.

This video is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode). We invite Basin agencies, Basin governments and our program delivery partners to share this video with stakeholders to generate awareness and uptake of water efficiency projects being delivered across the Basin to support the Murray–Darling Basin Plan’s implementation.

## Transcript

[Video begins]

**Department text overlay**: Water Efficiency Program case study: Warren Doecke, dairy farmer.

**Warren Doecke**: There’s about 360 acres of irrigation, 290 of that’s flood-irrigated river flats, and the other 70 acres is permanent sprinklers, and we run about 600 head.

We’ve gone from just ordinary open irrigation channels to put rubber lining in to keep the weeds out, stop leaks around channel stops.

**Department text overlay**: Warren’s project saved 20 megalitres of water to help preserve the Murray–Darling Basin river environment.

**Warren Doecke**: The rubber lining has certainly made for more efficient irrigating. The water all goes where it’s supposed to when it’s supposed to.

We used to slash the grass out of the channel before we’d irrigate, so we’re saving ourselves the time of cleaning the channel. To get the water out at the furthest point away from the pump took between five and five-and-a-half hours pumping to get the water there.

The flood irrigation is water syphoned directly out of the River Murray. There’s about 24 megs a day comes through the syphon, and on a six-metre bay that works out to nearly a mega-litre per bay per irrigation.

Where we’re working on at the moment is replacing conventional open channel along what we call the Back Swamp, putting in pipe and riser. And once we get all the pipe and riser all in place and once you start the pump, the water will come out instantly available up the other end.

We’re probably saving a meg-and-a-half to two-and-a-half megs in filling the channel every time we water. That water is going straight out on your pasture instead of into filling the channel.

**Department text overlay**: Warren’s irrigation infrastructure upgrades were funded by the Australian Government.

**Warren Doecke**: If we have a drier season we’ve got more efficient use of our flood irrigation.

**Department text overlay**: The upgrades were delivered by the South Australian Murray–Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

**Warren Doecke**: Long term you know, you work out the cost of pumping for five hours and the water that’s being lost in the system versus going through the pipe … and all that water, it’s putting water straight out on the pasture.

There’s certainly efficiencies to be gained.

**Department text overlay**: For more information: <agriculture.gov.au/waterefficiency>.