Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Eligible Projects

Water Efficiency Program

Activities and items eligible for inclusion in a Project

A project may receive funding if it generates water savings. This includes, but is not limited to:

Urban Water Efficiency Projects

a. constructing, replacing, upgrading, improving, or refurbishing bulk water infrastructure such as water filtration plants

b. improving management of bulk water supply

c. upgrading, improving and/or refurbishing bulk water transport and/or distribution infrastructure

d. constructing, replacing, upgrading, installing, improving, or refurbishing filtration and/or water treatment infrastructure

e. constructing, replacing, installing, upgrading, refurbishing and/or improving the operation of urban water delivery infrastructure

f. improving systems for monitoring and predicting leaks

g. replacing surface water with fit-for-purpose water delivered from alternative supplies

h. constructing, replacing, installing, upgrading, improving or refurbishing stormwater and waste-water capture and quality improvement infrastructure

i. constructing, replacing, installing, upgrading, improving or refurbishing sewage treatment facilities

j. constructing, replacing, installing, upgrading, improving or refurbishing stormwater and waste-water reuse infrastructure and/or devices including stormwater harvesting, management and reuse

k. improving management, use and/or integration of urban water sources

l. constructing, replacing, upgrading, installing, improving or refurbishing water sensitive urban design infrastructure and/or landscaping

m. constructing, replacing, installing, upgrading, improving and/or refurbishing water efficient devices and/or technology

n. installing alternative household and/or community water supplies

o. metering and/or pressure management

p. reducing demand through demand management.

q. undertaking water audits and/or offering rebates

r. water efficiency installation scheme for houses in a local government area

s. consolidating and/or returning water entitlements where existing available water is no longer required for urban or other use

t. improving economic regulation, competition and/or governance arrangements that lead to an increase in efficiency, availability, effectiveness and/or sustainability of the urban water sector such as improving the organisational capability to administer delivery of the services

u. other activities improving the water efficiency of a water delivery system.

Industrial Water Efficiency Projects

a. replacing water supply with fit-for-purpose water delivered from alternative supplies such as greywater treatment and reuse or stormwater harvesting, management and reuse

b. constructing, replacing, installing, upgrading, improving and/or refurbishing water efficient devices and/or technology

c. upgrading, improving and/or refurbishing production/manufacturing equipment to increase water efficiency

d. changing the water efficiency of the goods produced to improve their water efficiency

e. changing production practices to more water efficient production methods

f. changing production practices to produce more water efficient goods

g. decommissioning of infrastructure

h. other activities improving the water efficiency of a water delivery system.

Off-Farm Irrigation Infrastructure Projects

a. installing new or upgrading existing irrigation infrastructure and associated technology/infrastructure for water delivery, for example:

   i. improving/lining and/or reconstructing channels
   ii. replacing channels with piping systems
   iii. repairing or replacing pipes and pumping infrastructure
   iv. in line storages

b. installing new or upgrading existing irrigation infrastructure or technology, such as automated water management systems and sensing equipment intended to improve efficiency through better decision-making about supply of water, for example:

   i. installation/upgrading of flow control regulators, remote sensing and telemetry control systems
   ii. system automation and control (including computing equipment, telemetry systems, etc.)

iii. improving management and measurement points, with intermediate automated control stations coupled with appropriate on-stream or off-stream storage facilities

iv. installing meters that meet national standards

c. installing piping for stock and domestic water supply purposes

d. installing new or upgrading associated technology/infrastructure for water delivery, for example:

i. power supply systems and/or electrical works

e. costs to permanently decommission sections of a water delivery system identified for closure, for example:

i. earthworks to fill decommissioned channels
ii. removal of pipes or channel off-takes
iii. acquisition of water entitlements from irrigators retiring from irrigation as part of a channel rationalisation process, stock and domestic schemes for retiring irrigators, and removal of on-farm irrigation layouts

f. computing/automation equipment to help manage farm water delivery operations

g. other activities that improve the water efficiency of a water delivery system.

Metering

a. connection to a Pattern Approved water metering system that meets the Australian Standard 4747

b. removal of existing meters

c. removing existing foundations (if necessary)

d. installing new foundations (if necessary)

e. purchasing (approved compliant) meters

f. connecting power or solar supply as required

g. installing new pipe connections to the meter

h. installing meters

On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Projects

a. installing new or upgrading existing irrigation infrastructure and associated technology/infrastructure for water delivery, for example:

i. pressurised, overhead, spray or surface drip systems
ii. surface/gravity (flood) and pipe and riser irrigation systems
iii. improving irrigated area layout or design, including laser/GPS levelling, reshaping embankments or other land forming
iv. water filtration, fertigation or dosing systems
v. water re-use/drainage/recycling systems (including hydroponics)

vi. water storage systems (including sub-surface storages) – improving/reconfiguring
vii. soil moisture and water level monitoring equipment (gauges, sensors, probes, etc.)
viii. improving/lining and/or reconstructing channels
ix. replacing channels with piping systems
x. repairing or replacing pipes and pumping infrastructure
xi. mainlines

b. installing new or upgrading existing irrigation infrastructure or technology, such as automated water management systems and sensing equipment intended to improve efficiency through better decision-making about supply of water, for example:

i. installation/upgrading of flow control regulators, remote sensing and telemetry control systems
ii. system automation and control (including computing equipment, telemetry systems, etc.)
iii. improving management and measurement points, with intermediate automated control stations coupled with appropriate on-stream or off-stream storage facilities

c. installing piping for stock and domestic water supply purposes

d. improving the water efficiency of a farm, for example:

i. developing a Farm Irrigation Modernisation Plan
ii. to deliver water savings without detrimental environmental or cultural/Indigenous heritage impacts
iii. water-saving soil treatment/mulches
iv. increased night watering
v. netting or windbreaks
vi. temperature mitigation strategies to reduce overwatering
vii. frost protection measures that reduce watering needs
viii. soil treatments that improve water holding capacity and nutrients/quality such as manuring, fertilising, composting, pH treatments, etc.
ix. water harvesting
x. reconfiguring or diversifying crops, or changing cropping times to reduce water use
xi. changing to non-irrigation production systems
xii. changing water supply from river water to recycled, desalinated or groundwater

e. changes to farm production systems that increase production using less water, such as a glasshouse or shedding dairy cows

f. changing land or environmental management

g. transforming to intense production systems

h. permanent plantings that improve water efficiencies, such as:

i. water efficient root stock

i. installing new or upgrading associated technology/infrastructure for water delivery, for example:

i. power supply systems and/or electrical works

j. costs to permanently decommission sections of a water delivery system identified for closure, for example:
   i. earthworks to fill decommissioned channels
   ii. removal of pipes or channel off-takes

k. installing new or upgrading existing water-related farm infrastructure, for example:
   i. energy efficiency components such as solar power systems
   ii. structures to protect your equipment e.g. pump housings

l. computing/automation equipment to help manage farm watering operations

m. other activities that improve the water efficiency of a water delivery system.

A project (in any stream) may also include activities or items that support water delivery system productivity and efficiency if the cost of those activities/items does not exceed the limit of the project funding. Examples include (but are not limited to): improving energy efficiency of the delivery system (e.g. alternative sources of energy); infrastructure to protect equipment; and other activities that improves the long-term viability and financial position of the delivery system.

Ineligible for inclusion in a Project

Adding new water entitlements or business partners to project proposals that have not been specified in the initial contract negotiations.