



Barmah Choke Feasibility Study Gets the “Go Ahead”

Murray Irrigation welcomes the announcement by the Federal Government today that it will fully fund the Barmah Choke Feasibility Study, with a commitment of \$3 million.

Deputy Chair Noel Baxter said ‘we hope this study will be a turning point for the Murray Valley and we expect that Murray Irrigation delivery infrastructure network will be a key to running rivers better. The study will potentially increase water availability and improve services for our shareholders; at the same time reducing damage to the Barmah Choke.’

Mr Baxter also said, “Murray Irrigation is proposing an “Optimisation Study” of our channel system. If we can reduce water losses in the Murray system around the Choke, then we will seek improvements in the reliability of the General Security Water Entitlement.”

“We have argued strongly there must be no new Choke bypass and we see optimisation as one way to prevent this”.

Importantly, the study will look at options to deliver existing demand within current trade restrictions – this means that there will be no change to the choke net trade rules.

“We must protect our water,” said Noel Baxter, “so that water security is there for farmers. This is all about our farmers.”

The Federal Government has committed the funding; the NSW Government will provide administrative oversight for the project. The Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce recently approved the funding, which was announced by Member for Farrer Sussan Ley on ABC radio this morning.

The study, expected to be completed in late 2022, will also provide advice to Basin governments on the options to improve current water delivery capacity as part of broader policy considerations for the River Murray.

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