

NWMS NEWSLETTER

Message from our Project Sponsor, Aidan Dalglish

Welcome to the first issue of the NWMS Newsletter.

Since 2008, when the Australian Government made the decision to invest in the development of a National Water Market System we have made significant progress. Most recently the National Water Market System has:

- Completed a round of engagements with Commonwealth stakeholders about their business requirements and how NWMS may be able to support those requirements.
- Engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to develop a business case to assist in taking the project into the next phase.
- We are also almost finished project mobilisation (planning and initiation) workshops with all states and territories participating in the Common Registry Solutions (CRS) project, with the aim of ensuring that states and territories are ready to work with an IT partner to build the CRS.

I am delighted to see the relationships being developed between the states and territories and the NWMS project team. This contributes to the project's success. Our ability to provide current and reliable national water market reports to the community is absolutely dependent on the ongoing delivery of up to date water market data so we can rapidly ingest that data and convert it into information. I would like to thank the states and territories for their cooperation and assistance in this very significant step in providing a national water market reporting service.

Aidan Dalglish
Assistant Secretary, NWMS

Update

Here is a quick update on how the CRS project is tracking and some key milestones:

- Five of the six planning design and mobilisation workshops are complete.
- The Solution Blueprint has been published on AusTender for public consumption
- State and Territory team sites have been established on Govdex for communication and collaboration purposes.
- The RFT pack is being finalised to be ready for an end November 2011 release, pending Ministerial approval

Success!

Congratulations to those states and territories who have finalised the recruitment of key staff to their project teams, we welcome you all to the project.

We also welcome the following new starters to the NWMS project team:

- Sandi Keynes – Administrative Support Officer
- Fabio Machado – Application Architect
- Wade Smith – Project Office Manager

A full list of project team members will be published on GovDex (<http://www.govdex.gov.au/>). Govdex is designed to promote effective and efficient information sharing to assist with cross teams communications and collaboration. The NWMS Community has been set up on Govdex and all interested CRS stakeholders can access the NWMS Community by emailing nwmssdi@environment.gov.au

Outlook

Now that most of the state and territory project teams are established, we are concentrating our efforts on:

- Supporting project teams with requirement gathering and project planning;
- Final preparations for the release of the RFT;
- Gaining approval for the Project Agreements from the Federal Minister; and
- Holding the inaugural Architecture Reference Group meeting, planned for 9 November 2011 (further details to be advised separately).



Q1. Why are we developing a National Water Market System?

NWMS is designing and developing Common Registry Solutions and enhancing water registries in QLD and Vic that address some water trading issues, including:

- A lack of consistent information: water market definitions vary significantly across jurisdictions. This confuses participants and impedes water trading, as it increases transaction times, and limits information about who owns water entitlements. The lack of information on water products and their prices also impedes trade, making it more costly for buyers and sellers to determine an accurate price for water.
- Information cannot easily be transmitted across state boundaries. This is currently a manual process which delays water trades in some cases.

Q2. What are the benefits to stakeholders?

The benefits to stakeholders as a result of the NWMS Program will be:

- Improved water trading experiences because transaction times for trades and other dealings are not limited by water register processes or functions
- Maximising the value of irrigated agriculture through efficient movement of water to its highest valued use
- Easy access to current information about the water market
- Increasing market transparency allowing for more informed water trading decisions
- Jurisdictions will have high-performing water registers that accurately record water rights and supports water accounting and resource management

NWMS visits Irrigators

In October, NWMS team members met with representatives from Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Ltd. At the meeting Coli provided us with feedback on NWMS and suggested how NWMS could improve efficiencies with water trading. We learnt a great deal about the issues some irrigation corporations face. Following the meeting Coli's Chairman, Trent Gardiner, drove us to the irrigation district to inspect their water infrastructure. The new set up has improved water delivery in many ways and contributed significantly to farming efficiencies. We left Coli feeling very impressed with their innovations in irrigation and much better informed about the issues some irrigators face. Many thanks to Trent, Anne, Broni, Eric and the rest of the team at Coli for taking the time to meet with us and for welcoming us so warmly.

Right: Chris Biesaga, Trent Gardiner and Mark Macfarlane at the water channel with new irrigation infrastructure at Coleambally.



Contributions

Your contributions to the NWMS Newsletter are welcome. Please send your questions, suggestions and stories to nwms@environment.gov.au

Contact us

For information about NWMS visit www.nationalwatermarket.gov.au or email nwms@environment.gov.au