

IRRIGATORS WELCOME BROKEN HILL PIPELINE

(16 June 2016)

NSW Irrigators Council (NSWIC) has applauded the NSW Government's decision to build a new water pipeline from the Murray to Broken Hill, following the announcement of the project by Premier Baird today.

The new pipeline for Broken Hill will mean the city will no longer be wholly reliant on the Menindee Lakes for its water needs; meaning the Lakes can be better managed to avoid huge losses to evaporation.

NSWIC CEO Mark McKenzie said this will be a significant boost to NSW meeting its water recovery targets under the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

"Currently the Menindee Lakes lose over 400,000 megalitres of water to evaporation every year, so having more flexibility in managing the Lakes to reduce these losses has the potential to save very large volumes of water that can be counted towards the recovery gap still to be found in NSW as part of our State's commitments under the Basin Plan."

"This remaining water recovery is likely to come from the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee irrigation districts unless we can find water savings elsewhere, so every litre saved at Menindee is one less that has to be found from irrigators in our major irrigation areas. It has been estimated that the new Broken Hill pipeline will save over 100,000 megalitres of evaporation by eliminating the need to hold over 300,000 megalitres of water in reserve in the Lakes to supply the city - most of which evaporates. The Premier's announcement today is enormously important in ensuring the Commonwealth will not need to go back into the market to purchase more water from NSW irrigators," Mr McKenzie said.

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Approved TG /RS

For Further Information

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