2019-20 Victorian Mallee Irrigation Incentives Program Guidelines
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"Mallee Irrigation Incentive Program"

*In partnership with Mallee Catchment Management Authority, Agriculture Victoria and Victorian Mallee Irrigators.*
1. Introduction and Overview

The Mallee Irrigation Incentive Program is a specific program for irrigators in the Mallee Catchment Management Authority (Mallee CMA) region. The program aims to encourage better water management on-farm through improved irrigation systems and management, resulting in improved farm production while minimising/reducing impacts on the environment.

This program is part of an integrated package of measures to encourage improved irrigation and drainage, upgrade of irrigation systems, and development of information resources.

It provides financial assistance for irrigation management improvement, systems upgrades, skills development and planning at the farm level. All financial incentives are based on cost sharing arrangements between the Mallee Irrigation Incentive Program and irrigators.


We recommend all people participating in the incentive program to consider their investment as part of a complete business plan.

2. Disclaimer

Growers taking advantage of this opportunity are advised of the follow:

- **Eligibility Disputes**: The final decision on growers’ eligibility for incentive payments rests with the Mallee CMA.
- **Funding Constraints**: Funding is only guaranteed until 1 June 2020 to irrigators who apply for and receive a Letter of Offer on Mallee CMA letter head and enter into a contract.
- **Liability for Loss**: No Liability for Loss, however arising, will be accepted by the State of Victoria, its servants, contractors, or by any person connected with the Mallee Catchment Management Authority for any costs, loss or damage incurred by any applicant for incentive payments under the said Program, where an incentive for any reason has or has not been granted.
- **Fraudulent Claims**: Providing false and fraudulent receipts is considered a criminal offence. If you are found to have made a fraudulent claim you will sacrifice your original claim and the ability to make any further claims with the Mallee Irrigation Incentive Program. Where it is established that landholders have made a claim using false accounts, Agriculture Victoria together with Mallee CMA may initiate proceedings to recover amounts paid together with exemplary or punitive damages.
- **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Registration and Australian Business Number (ABN)**: It is strongly recommended that irrigators provide the Mallee Catchment Management Authority with their ABN and indicate whether or not they have registered for GST. This will ensure the full incentive amount is paid to the claimant. In the event that the irrigator does not provide an ABN, Mallee Catchment Management Authority will be compelled to withhold 48.5% of the incentive payable unless an exemption is provided.
- **Review of Guidelines**: These eligibility guidelines may be subject to review by the Mallee CMA at any time and without notice.

The applicant agrees that they, entirely at their own risk, use the information obtained from any certified irrigation designers, registered soil surveyors or other approved services or product provided by any person selected by the applicant from a list provided by any Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer or any other authority in the course of making an application. To the full extent permissible at law the Mallee CMA and its agents excludes all warranties express or implied regarding any such services or products. The applicant acknowledges that Mallee CMA and its agents will not be liable for any special, direct, indirect or consequential damages.
3. Eligibility Criteria

Please read through this first to make sure you are eligible for the incentives.

To be eligible:

- your property (Definition: A property is defined as an area of land serviced by one pump, headworks or outlet; or, is under one title (whichever is the larger)) has to be located in the Mallee Catchment Management Authority region - this includes all irrigators from the Nyah Irrigation District through to Lindsay Point on the South Australian Border and Murrayville areas;
- you have to be registered with the Australian Tax Office as a primary producer;
- your land has been irrigated and/or licensed prior to August 1993; or, licensed and has been irrigated for at least 10 years;
- the works/services must be started after 30 April 2019 and must adhere to the processes, conditions and standards as described in these guidelines; and,
- An Expression of Interest is lodged by 4pm Monday, 1 July 2019.

Please note that works and services started before 30 April 2019 will not be eligible. Systems checks must be completed in the period from 30 April 2019 to 12 July 2019. Funds are not guaranteed until a formal Mallee CMA Letter of Offer has been received and Contract has been signed by the irrigator and returned to the Mallee CMA.

Mallee CMA Letters of Offer and Contracts will be sent to successful applicants around August 2019. If starting works and services (other than systems checks) prior to receiving a formal Mallee CMA Letter of Offer and entering into a Contract, to remain eligible for incentives applicants must adhere to and provide evidence of adherence to the processes, conditions and standards as described in these guidelines.

Please note:
- Works on properties that were subject to the Small Block Exit Grant will not be eligible; and,
- Works that are fully funded or partially funded through other incentive/rebate programs including the Australian Government’s On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program will not be eligible.

If you find you are not eligible for this irrigation incentive program contact the Agriculture Victoria Irrigation Extension Officer to find out if you are eligible for any other available funding.

Other specific eligibility criteria and requirements apply to some of the incentives. Please read the guidelines for each incentive you are claiming for.

Please Note:
- All Expressions of Interest are prioritised based on the salinity benefit and water use efficiency made from undertaking the prescribed works;
- Expressions of Interest that do not include all required information will not be prioritised;
- Expressions of Interest will only be taken with quotes for works that meet the standards;
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring quotes and all relevant information is received by Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer by the closing date;
- Incentives are not transferrable between properties; and,
- Incentives are not transferrable between incentive types within properties.
4. Mallee Irrigation Incentive Program Process

- Contact Agriculture Victoria Irrigation Extension Officer May 2019

  - Complete Expression of Interest (EOI) form; including quote(s) for service and equipment, water use figures, map of property, system check report (if available) and benchmarking scores if appropriate. Return EOI to Irrigation Extension Officer by 1 July 2019.

  - Systems check completed (if required) by the 12 July 2019

  - Prioritisation of all EOI forms 12 July 2019 - August 2019.

- Systems check claim form & paperwork submitted to Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer

- Irrigation Incentives allocated in August 2019

  - Return signed contract to Mallee CMA

  - Works are to be undertaken and all conditions must met by 1 June 2020

  - Claim form & paperwork submitted to Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer by 12 June 2020

  - Inspection carried out against agreed standards & conditions

  - Incentive paid
5. Checklist of Details required to complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) form

- Name
- Address
- Property location (including block number and street location, Crown Allotment and Section number; and, Lot and Plan number)
- Property plan detailing the location of intended works (example below)
- Property size and size of area to be improved
- Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Current irrigation system and scheduling method
- Irrigation records for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (minimum accepted is annual water use figures for the area(s) you are interested in applying for irrigation incentives)

Irrigation Records
Lower Murray Water customers can obtain water use records by going to the Lower Murray Water website, water ordering page:


2) For customers within the pumped irrigation districts, click on the ‘Log in’ link
   a. Enter your outlet number and PIN as normal when ordering water and login
   b. Click on ‘metre readings’ at the top of the page
   c. Click on ‘previous years’ to find the correct years readings and print.

3) For private diverters click on ‘Usage, Trading and ABA Information’ and follow the links.

Property Plans
Maps can be hand drawn (see example below) or alternatively those irrigators with computers and access to the internet can produce maps by following these instructions:


2) Read the terms and conditions and if you agree, accept the conditions by clicking on ‘I Agree’

3) Use the enlarge tool to locate your property (the magnifying glass with a “+” sign)

4) Click on the arrow head tool and then your property to highlight your property

5) Create a printable file of your map by clicking on the type writer symbol

6) Click on ‘create map’

7) Open the printable file by clicking on ‘Open Map’ (if another window displaying your map does not appear on your screen)

8) Print a hard copy of your map by printing to your printer

9) Hand draw the area applicable to the incentive
Example of a hand drawn mud map

Example Mud Map
Name: Ag Vic Complex
Address: Cnr Eleventh Street & Koorlong Avenue, Irymple
Example of a computer generated map
6. Incentive Types

6.1 Claiming a Systems Check Incentive

A 90% incentive (up to a maximum claim of $990 GST incl per property) is available for an irrigation system check to measure the efficiency of your current system and recommend where improvements can be made.


Step 2: Irrigator contacts their irrigation design company or a systems check supplier from the Irrigation Australia Ltd Certified Irrigation Designer (IAL CID) approved supplier (see page 14) and obtains a quote.

Step 3: The irrigator completes an ‘Expression of Interest’ form and forwards it with the quote(s) for the service(s) to the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer. Applications will only be considered if accompanied by quote(s) from approved suppliers. Applicants are responsible for ensuring quotes are received by the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer by the due date. No late or partial applications will be accepted.

Step 4: If funding is approved a formal Mallee CMA Letter of Offer and Contract will be sent to the irrigator detailing the works agreed to be funded and conditions. To secure these funds the letter must be signed by the irrigator and sent back immediately. In accepting the Letter of Offer and signing the Contract, the irrigator commits to improving irrigation management, being involved in an evaluation process and participating in an Irrigation Management Course/Refresher.

Step 5: The systems check is completed and a report written by an IAL CID accredited designer within two weeks of signing the letter of intent. All systems checks are to be completed and claimed by 12 July 2019.

Step 6: Irrigator discusses the findings with the designer.

Step 7: Irrigator contacts the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer to make an appointment when works are completed.

Step 8: Irrigators provide paid receipts and copy of report to the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer and signs incentive claim form.

Step 9: Payments will be made according to the value of paid receipts received on completion of the works. However, the total of the incentive payment will not exceed the amount estimated from the original quote, as stated in the letter of offer and Contract.

Note: To be eligible for any incentive payment the irrigator has to complete an approved Irrigation Management Course (IMC) by the 12 June 2020. Where attendance at the IMC was more than three years ago, a refresher course is required to be undertaken.
6.2 Claiming a Scheduling Equipment Incentive

A 50% incentive is available to purchase and install approved scheduling equipment with the following limits applying according to the size of the area under improvement:

- where the area under improved scheduling is less than 20ha the maximum incentive available per property is $11,000 GST incl;
- where the area under improved scheduling is greater than or equal to 20ha but less than 40ha the maximum incentive available per property is $16,500 GST incl; and
- Where the area under improved scheduling is greater than or equal to 40ha the maximum incentive available per property is $22,000 GST incl.

**Step 1:** Read the 2019-20 Irrigation Incentive Guidelines. The guidelines and the ‘Expressions of Interest’ forms are available at the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer or from the Mallee CMA website at [www.malleecma.vic.gov.au](http://www.malleecma.vic.gov.au) click on grants and incentives tab.

*Note: An irrigation system check is required in order to qualify for a scheduling equipment incentive.*

**Step 2:** Irrigator contacts a scheduling equipment provider and obtains a quote for the equipment.

**Step 3:** Irrigator completes an ‘Expression of Interest’ form and forwards it with the quote for the equipment and system check (if applicable) to the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer. Applicants applying for scheduling equipment only (but including the obligatory systems check) are required to complete additional information. Please refer to page 4 of the Expression of Interest form. *Applications will only be considered if accompanied by quotes for works that meet the standards. Applicants are responsible for ensuring quotes are received by the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer.*

**Step 4:** Irrigator has irrigation system check carried out on irrigation system by an Irrigation Australia Ltd Certified Irrigation Designer (IAL CID) approved supplier as soon as possible (See ‘Claiming a System Check Incentive’); and, makes an appointment with the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer when works are completed.

**Step 5:** All ‘Expressions of Interest’ are prioritised based on water use efficiency and salinity benefit obtained from the proposed works.

**Step 6** If funding is approved a formal Mallee CMA Letter of Offer and Contract will be sent to the irrigator detailing the works agreed to be funded and conditions. To secure these funds the letter must be signed by the irrigator and sent back immediately. In accepting the Letter of Offer and signing the Contract, the irrigator commits to improving irrigation management, being involved in an evaluation process and participating in an Irrigation Management Course/Refresher.

**Step 7:** Equipment installed to manufacturer’s specifications and commissioned.

**Step 8:** Irrigator contacts Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer to make an appointment when works are completed.

**Step 9:** Site inspection by the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer to verify equipment is installed according to set standards.

**Step 10:** Irrigator provides paid receipts to the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer and signs claim form – can be completed during the site inspection.

**Step 11:** Payments will be made according to the value of paid receipts received on completion of the works. However, the total of the incentive payment will not exceed the amount estimated from the original quote, as stated in the Mallee CMA Letter of Offer and Contract.

*Note: to be eligible for any incentive payment the irrigator has to complete an approved Irrigation Management Course (IMC) by the 12 June 2020. Where attendance at the IMC was more than three years ago, a refresher course is required to be undertaken.*
6.3 Claiming an Irrigation & Drainage Management Plan (IDMP)

A 50% incentive payment (to a maximum claim of $5,500 GST incl per property) to undertake a soil survey, backhoe hire, purchase an aerial photo, have a report generated and any reasonable cost associated with developing an Irrigation and Drainage Management Plan.

**Step 1:** Read the 2019-20 Irrigation Incentive Guidelines. The guidelines and the ‘Expressions of Interest’ forms are available at the Ag Vic Complex, Irymple or from the Mallee CMA website at [www.malleecma.vic.gov.au](http://www.malleecma.vic.gov.au)

**Step 2:** Irrigator contacts soil surveyor(s) from Victorian Mallee Registered Soil Surveyor list (See Appendix 7.1 for full list) and obtains quote(s) for the intended work; including, a soil survey, backhoe hire and an aerial photo.

**Step 3:** Irrigator completes an ‘Expression of Interest’ form and forwards it with the quote for the service to the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer. Applications will only be considered if accompanied by quotes from approved suppliers. Applicants are responsible for ensuring quotes are received by the Ag Vic Extension Officers.

**Step 4:** All ‘Expression of Interest’ applications are prioritised based on water use efficiency and salinity benefit obtained from the proposed works.

**Step 5:** If funding is approved a formal Mallee CMA Letter of Offer and Contract will be sent to the irrigator detailing the works agreed to be funded and conditions. To secure these funds the letter must be signed by the irrigator and sent back immediately. In accepting the letter of offer and signing Contract, the irrigator commits to improving irrigation management, being involved in an evaluation process and participating in an Irrigation Management Course/Refresher.

**Step 6:** Soil survey carried out by a Victorian Mallee Registered Soil Surveyor (See Appendix 7.1 for full list) - recommendations are made and report written.

**Step 7:** Irrigator discusses results with the soil surveyor.

**Step 8:** Irrigator provides the soil survey report, maps and paid receipts to the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer. Soil survey results are discussed and IDMP developed. The irrigator signs incentive claim form.

**Step 9:** Payments will be made according to the value of paid receipts received on completion of the works. However, the total of the incentive payment will not exceed the amount estimated from the original quote, as stated in the letter of offer and Contract.

*Note: to be eligible for any incentive payment the irrigator has to complete an approved Irrigation Management Course (IMC) by the 12 June 2020. Where attendance at the IMC was more than three years ago, a refresher course has to be undertaken.*
6.4 Claiming a Systems Upgrade

An incentive is available for up to 25% of the cost of an irrigation system upgrade (including costs associated with headworks and fieldworks) with the following limits applying per property size:

- where the size of the upgrade area is less than 20ha the maximum incentive available per property is $11,000 GST incl;
- where the size of the upgrade area is greater than or equal to 20ha but less than 40ha the maximum incentive available per property is $22,000 GST incl; and
- where the size of the upgrade area is greater than or equal to 40ha the maximum incentive available per property is $33,000 GST incl.

**Step 1:** Read the 2019-20 Irrigation Incentive Guidelines. The guidelines and the ‘Expressions of Interest’ forms are available at the Ag Vic Complex, Irymple or from the Mallee CMA website at: [www.malleecma.vic.gov.au](http://www.malleecma.vic.gov.au)

**Step 2:** Irrigator contacts service providers for a quote for a system check (for upgrade from pressurised systems only), soil survey and system upgrade.

**Step 3:** Irrigator completes an ‘Expression of Interest’ form and forwards it with the quote(s) for the system to the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer. **Applications will only be considered if accompanied by quotes from approved suppliers. Applicants are responsible for ensuring quotes are received by the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer.**

**Step 4:** All ‘Expressions of Interest’ are prioritised based on water use efficiency and salinity benefit obtained from the proposed works.

**Step 5:** If funding is approved a formal Mallee CMA Letter of Offer and Contract will be sent to the irrigator detailing the works agreed to be funded and conditions. To secure these funds the letter must be signed by the irrigator and sent back immediately. In accepting the letter of offer and signing Contract, the irrigator commits to improving irrigation management, being involved in an evaluation process and participating in an Irrigation Management Course/Refresher.

**Step 6:** For a ‘pressurised system upgrade’ only: systems check carried out by Irrigation Australia Ltd Certified Irrigation Designer (IAL CID) (see system check guidelines). Recommendations will be discussed with Ag Vic extension Officer to determine eligibility for the system upgrade.

**Step 7:** Soil survey carried out by the registered provider (see soil survey guidelines).

**Step 8:** Irrigator discusses soil survey findings with the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer to develop IDMP.

**Step 9:** Irrigator re-evaluates original quote and design; and, decides on appropriate irrigation system that suits management needs based on the IDMP results.

**Step 10:** Irrigator takes IDMP to the IAL CID accredited irrigation designer (along with systems check recommendations for pressurised systems).

**Step 11:** Irrigation upgrade undertaken and new system commissioned with verification works completed meeting IAL CID standards.

**Step 12:** Irrigator contacts Ag Vic Officer to make an appointment when works are completed.

**Step 13:** Ag Vic Officer inspects new work and verifies claim on-site.
Step 14: Irrigator provides paid receipts to the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer and signs claim form – can be done during the site inspection.

Step 15: Payments will be made according to the value of paid receipts received on completion of the works. However, the total of the incentive payment will not exceed the amount estimated from the original quote, as stated in the letter of offer and Contract.

Note: to be eligible for any incentive payment the irrigator is required to complete an approved Irrigation Management Course (IMC) by the 12 June 2020. Where attendance at the IMC was more than three years ago, a refresher course has to be undertaken.

6.4.1 Irrigation Australia Ltd (IAL) contact details

Irrigation Australia’s website maintains a list of their Certified Irrigation Designers. It can be found at www.irrigation.org.au

Alternatively the Ag Vic Irrigation Extension Officer will have a full list of Irrigation Australia Ltd Certified Irrigation Designers.

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix 1 - Registered Soil Surveyors

*Please note: this is a list of every soil surveyor who have gained registration. This list is not maintained or updated by the Mallee CMA, as such irrigators are advised to make their own enquires about the availability of these service providers.*

Jenny Hanna
PO Box 361 Gumeracha SA 5233
Ph: (08) 8389 1963 Fax: (08) 8389 1963
Mobile: 0427 891 963

Rodney Haywood
RB & SR Haywood
149 Bookpunong Terrace Loxton SA 5333
Ph: (08) 8584 6901 Fax: (08) 8584 6901
Mobile: 0429 673 147

Geoff Kew
Kew Wetherby Soil Survey & Land Evaluation
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Second Valley SA 5204
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Kym Luitjes
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Ph: (08) 8524 8501 Fax: (08) 8524 8501
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