

Resilient Rivers Water Infrastructure Program: NSW Southern Irrigation Districts: Building Resilient Infrastructure Feasibility Project

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth New South Wales
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 31 August 2025.
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will support the delivery of the NSW Southern Irrigation Districts: Building Resilient Infrastructure Feasibility Project as funded under Stream D of the Resilient Rivers Water Infrastructure Program.</p> <p>The NSW Southern Irrigation Districts: Building Resilient Infrastructure Feasibility Project will investigate water infrastructure saving opportunities in the Southern Irrigation Districts operated by Murray Irrigation Limited, Murrumbidgee Irrigation, and Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Limited. The project will develop water balance models to understand the different water use scenarios that can deliver water savings; assess the feasibility of relevant technology and engineering solutions to deliver water savings; and inform how to incorporate the preferred solutions into existing operations.</p> <p>This Schedule is approved on the basis that the NSW Southern Irrigation Districts: Building Resilient Infrastructure Feasibility Project and activities identified satisfy s86AD of the Water for the Environment Special Account (Pt 2AA of the <i>Water Act 2007</i>) and intend to lead to application/s to the Australian Government's Resilient Rivers Water Infrastructure Program.</p>

<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to New South Wales of \$6.02 million (GST exclusive) in respect of this Schedule.</p> <hr/> <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="477 428 867 464">(\$ million)</th> <th data-bbox="867 428 980 464">2024-25</th> <th data-bbox="980 428 1094 464">2025-26</th> <th data-bbox="1094 428 1208 464">2026-27</th> <th data-bbox="1208 428 1321 464">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 470 867 506">Estimated total budget</td> <td data-bbox="867 470 980 506">5.02</td> <td data-bbox="980 470 1094 506">1.00</td> <td data-bbox="1094 470 1208 506">0.00</td> <td data-bbox="1208 470 1321 506">6.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 512 867 579">Less estimated Commonwealth contributions</td> <td data-bbox="867 512 980 579">5.02</td> <td data-bbox="980 512 1094 579">1.00</td> <td data-bbox="1094 512 1208 579">0.00</td> <td data-bbox="1208 512 1321 579">6.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 585 867 653">Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</td> <td data-bbox="867 585 980 653">0.00</td> <td data-bbox="980 585 1094 653">0.00</td> <td data-bbox="1094 585 1208 653">0.00</td> <td data-bbox="1208 585 1321 653">0.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(\$ million)	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total	Estimated total budget	5.02	1.00	0.00	6.02	Less estimated Commonwealth contributions	5.02	1.00	0.00	6.02	Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<p>Funding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Total funding from the Commonwealth to New South Wales under this Schedule will be up to a maximum of \$6.02 million (GST exclusive) with any project costs above this amount provided by New South Wales. Funding is provided to the following sub-projects/activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern Irrigation Districts feasibility project costs \$5,733,595 NSW Project administration costs \$ 286,405 <p>Financial Reporting statements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> New South Wales will provide an income and expenditure report containing a statement of payments and receipts in respect of any activities. The report is to be certified by a person undertaking the role of Chief Financial Officer of the organisation (or a comparable role) and must include a statement that the financial accounts are true and fair. <p>Governance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Project Control Group meetings will be held for the NSW Southern Irrigation Districts: Building Resilient Infrastructure Feasibility Project with New South Wales and any project partners at least every two months. The Commonwealth will participate as an observer and as a funding partner but will not participate in decisions on project implementation. New South Wales will arrange for a written progress report to support these meetings and provide to all participants prior to the meeting. The report should demonstrate progress since the last meeting and identify activities planned for the period up to the next meeting. 																				

5. Through New South Wales's existing project governance arrangements, New South Wales will notify the Commonwealth should any matters arise that would inhibit complete and timely delivery of the NSW Southern Irrigation Districts: Building Resilient Infrastructure Feasibility Project.

Project Terms

6. New South Wales will be responsible for all aspects of delivering on the approved outputs as set out in the schedule.
7. New South Wales will report outside this schedule to Resilient Rivers Water Infrastructure Program agreed governance committees.
8. Activities undertaken from funding within the schedule must be aligned to NSW Southern Irrigation Districts: Building Resilient Infrastructure Feasibility Project activities that will assist New South Wales and proponents to make application/s to the Resilient Rivers Water Infrastructure Program. Programs and/or projects should have genuine chance of leading to projects that can provide water recovery to the Commonwealth before 31 December 2027 through Efficiency Measures.
9. The feasibility report is to be finalised before 27 June 2025 and if a feasible project has been identified then an application is to be submitted under the Resilient Rivers Water Infrastructure Program before the 27 June 2025 deadline.

Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary		
Performance milestones for New South Wales	Report due	Payment
<p>Milestone 1 – Project commencement</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of a Report detailing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of the project manager and associated project management resources Commonwealth-State governance arrangements for the project have been established Monthly project control group meetings scheduled with Terms of Reference drafted Current Risk Management Assessment and Management Plan Current Stakeholder Register Current Project Management Plan 	<p>Within 30 days of execution of agreement</p>	<p>\$5,020,000</p>
<p>Milestone 2 – Final Report</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of a final report that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Financial Officer (or comparable role) certified income and expenditure report for the project Overall evaluation and findings of the project (including options explored for achieving water savings and value for money along with their benefits and disbenefits) Independently verified water savings methodology Risk reporting – this also includes a finalised risk register for the feasibility project with risks closed out as appropriate Supporting information/reports from the feasibility that would inform a full project application (e.g., reports, site surveys, plans, detailed designs, detailed costings, schematics, hydraulic modelling, geotechnical engineering assessments, photographs, project risk assessment, media releases, analysis of approvals and licensing requirements, lessons learned) Evidence of an application submitted under the Resilient Rivers Water Infrastructure Program before the 27 June 2025 deadline if the project was found feasible 	<p>14/07/2025</p>	<p>Actual expenditure for the project up to a maximum of \$1,000,000</p>

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



The Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for the Environment and Water

[Day] [Month] [Year]

13 2 25

Signed for and on behalf of the State of New South Wales by



The Honourable Rose Jackson MLC
Minister for Water

[Day] [Month] [Year]

3-3-25