Surface Water Management in Northern Victoria
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Outline

• The need for drainage
• Design standard
• Legislation
• Red Tape
• Considerations
• Operation & Maintenance

Northern Victoria

Northern Victoria
GMID
Irrigation impacts

- Changed hydrologic regime
- Widespread shallow watertables
- Waterlogging
- Salinisation

General Design Considerations

- Removing irrigation induced rainfall runoff
- Removing residual floodwater
- Providing outfall for salt disposal
- Protection/enhancement of values
- Acceptable downstream impacts

General Benefits

- Increased production
- Reduced groundwater control costs
- Catalyst for improved practices
- Opportunities for strategic reuse
- Environmental enhancement

SWMS Components
Kinnairds - Muckatah

Legislation/Policy
- Water Act, 1989
- Victorian Irrigation Drainage Program Strategic Direction
- Planning & Environment Act, 1987
- Irrigation Drainage Memorandum of Understanding
- Environment Protection Act, 1970
- Commonwealth EPBC Act, 1999

Implementation
- Guiding strategy
- Detailed design
- Planning Permit/Planning Scheme Amendment
- Construction
- Land Acquisition
- O & M (including monitoring)

Key Considerations
- Level of Service
  - Agricultural requirements
- Environmental
- Cultural
- Safety
- Community Engagement
- Community Expectations
Key Considerations

- Maintain level of service
- Regulate connections
- Monitor impacts
- Recover costs

Operation of SWMS

Learnings

- Change is inevitable
- Sustainable irrigation requires effective SWMS
- Role and operation of SWMS often poorly understood
- Partnerships the key

Further Information

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