



Irrigators' Share Consultative Committee

Short Terms of Reference

- 1. The Committee will develop and recommend a model to distribute the irrigators' share of water recovered through stage 1 of the Connections Project, in line with the delivery share review finding that the benefits of water recovery be distributed on the basis of delivery shares.**

Specifically, the committee will be responsible for:

- Confirming the principles that must be adhered to in identifying, evaluating and recommending mechanisms for distributing the benefits of the irrigators' share.
- Identifying the potential mechanisms for distribution, understanding the requirements to implement and administer the potential mechanisms, and evaluate the mechanisms against the confirmed principles.
- Advising on interim distribution approaches should any water from the irrigators' share become available prior to confirmation of the enduring distribution mechanism.
- Ensuring consistency with the principles that underpin the Victorian water entitlement framework and adhering to all relevant regulatory and legal requirements.

The committee will make a recommendation to the Department on their preferred mechanism

Additionally, the committee will advise the Department on strategies to engage and consult with the broader GMID irrigation community on the activities of the Committee and the distribution mechanism(s) being considered.

2. Scope of distribution

The irrigators' share will be distributed across the six gravity irrigation areas of the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District, in recognition of the investment contribution made by each area and the location of water recovered. This acknowledges how the Connections Project has evolved, with water recovered from all six districts, and complements previous infrastructure modernisation in the GMID.

3. Water to be distributed

The committee consider the water known as the irrigators' share, one-third of the long-term average annual yield (LTAAY) of water recovered through Stage 1 of the Connections Project.

No other water savings will be considered as part of the core work of the committee, however the model recommended for the irrigators' share may serve as a model for any other recovered water to be distributed to irrigators.