



## **The Hon Michael McCormack MP**

Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Leader of The Nationals  
Federal Member for Riverina

## **The Hon Keith Pitt MP**

Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister  
Federal Member for Hinkler

## **Andrew Broad MP**

Federal Member for Mallee

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 13 June 2018

## **SUN SHINES ON SUNRAYSLIA AS FURTHER IRRIGATION MODERNISATION FUNDING ANNOUNCED**

The Coalition Government has announced a further \$3.025 million to modernise water infrastructure in Victoria's Sunraysia region, near Mildura, supporting more local jobs and economic growth from agriculture.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Michael McCormack said the announcement built on the Government's 2016 investment of \$103 million toward the first phase of the Sunraysia Modernisation Project.

"This investment will continue our efforts to improve the Sunraysia region's water infrastructure and expand irrigated agriculture," Mr McCormack said.

"We expect this to create up to 30 indirect jobs in the Sunraysia region and generate around \$16 million of activity for the Victorian economy – including \$10 million in the local region alone."

Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister Keith Pitt, joined local Federal Member, Andrew Broad to announce the funding today which will significantly expand irrigation capacity.

"Over the next two years approximately, the scheme will be expanded to deliver up to 25,000 megalitres of extra water for irrigation agriculture each year, to be purchased from elsewhere in the Murray-Darling Basin," Assistant Minister Pitt said.

"The Sunraysia Modernisation Project 2 will boost water supply to 8,652 hectares of land," Mr Pitt said.

"This will support increased production of a range of irrigated crops including lucerne hay, oaten hay, almonds and wine and table grapes."

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The Hon Michael McCormack MP

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Mr Broad said this additional investment would further enhance the region as one of nation's most important agriculture producers within the Murray-Darling Basin.

"The project will involve construction of an 80 megalitre dam at Merbein West, new channel offtake and gravity pipe connection between Merbein channel and storage and upgrade pipeline termination structures at Merbein West and Red Cliffs," Mr Broad said.

"It will also include channel modernisation works such as replacement of regulator structures, two kilometres of bank raising works, 5.1 kilometres of channel re-profiling and channel lining."

The project will be delivered by the Victorian Government in partnership with Lower Murray Water.

The Coalition Government has committed \$3.025 million to the \$6.1 million in partnership with Lower Murray Water.

The Australian Government commitment will be delivered under the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. For more information visit <https://infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/water-infrastructure/nwi-development-fund/>.

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