

# Fish friendly Irrigation screens

## Screen subsidies available for the Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open for irrigators seeking to install diversion screening technology on irrigation pumps along the Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers within the Central West Local Land Services region.

The Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers provide habitat to a variety of native freshwater fish and other aquatic species, some of which are listed as threatened. Significant numbers of native fish are destroyed every year by water extraction from our rivers. These unnecessary losses can be reduced with the installation of a fish friendly pump screen.

### What do screens do?

Screening pumps and diversions fitted with self-cleaning screens will:

- Reduce fish losses by 90%
- Make water delivery more efficient and improve water quality
- Save water users time and money in maintenance
- Boost rural economies through increased production.

These benefits have been proven in the United States where over 10,000 screens have been installed, along with trials here in Australia.



Self cleaning fish screen attached to a pump site.  
Photo: Craig Boys



Local Land  
Services

### Commonly asked questions

#### **'How much will the fish screen cost to maintain?'**

The screens are self-cleaning. This means when they screen out fish, they also screen out debris which saves time and money as they reduce blocked pumps and spray nozzles allowing for efficient pump operation.

#### **'How many fish do you think are affected?'**

The lowest estimate is 1.3 million native fish per year in NSW, however it could be one hundred times more. To put a dollar figure on it, at 60 cents each, it would cost \$834,000 to re-stock those fish.

### Feedback from past participants

*'We aim to demonstrate and showcase best farming practices and saw the fish screen project as a way to demonstrate the improved technologies in waterway health and increased irrigation efficiencies that the fish screen would provide.'*

**Central West Farming Systems**



### What assistance is available?

**Installation of a fish screen** to an existing pump site (capped at \$25,000/project).

Additional costs associated with the installation of the fish screen to be contributed by the landholder.

### Disclaimer:

- Funding is limited, which may mean some projects will not be funded.
- Central West Local Land Services reserves the right to refuse funding for projects or project components which provide insufficient environmental benefit for their cost.
- Assessment of environmental benefit is at the sole discretion of the Central West Local Land Services.

Want to know more? Visit [www.centralwest.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.centralwest.lls.nsw.gov.au)

# Fish friendly screens

## Expression of Interest form (EOI)

### EOIs close 5pm Wednesday 2 September 2020

<b>To find out more</b> please contact: <b>Dominic Nowlan</b> on 0409 915 695 or <b>dominic.nowlan@lls.nsw.gov.au</b>	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:incentives.centralwest@lls.nsw.gov.au">incentives.centralwest@lls.nsw.gov.au</a> <b>Hand deliver:</b> To any Local Land Services office (due to COVID restrictions, an appointment must be made prior to attending any of our offices in person)
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<b>Full name of Applicant:</b> Please include first and last name, not initials	
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Mailing address:</b>	
<b>Property name:</b>	
<b>Town:</b>	<b>Lot/DP:</b>
<b>ABN Entity name:</b>	<b>ABN:</b>
<b>Full Name of legal land owner:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Annual extracted ML:</b>	

**Proposed activity** (please provide a brief response to the following questions):

What size of pump/ & suction line from river ? What type of system i.e. Flood, Spray, Other? What type and area of crops do you irrigate ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Could you monitor/measure water quality improvements and savings i.e. frequency of back-flush, volume of back-flush water or check filter clean outs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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