



Fish friendly irrigation screens

Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) supports land managers and community in working together to build resilient communities in productive healthy landscapes. This project is provided by Central Tablelands Local Land Services through funding from Catchment Action NSW.

About the project

Irrigators seeking to install diversion screening technology on irrigation pumps along the Upper Macquarie River system are encouraged to register an Expression of Interest (EOI) for subsidies.

The Upper Macquarie River system provides 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 caught up every year in water extraction pumps along our rivers. These unnecessary losses can be reduced with the installation of fish friendly screens.

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.

What assistance is available?

Landholders can register an EOI for funding towards the installation of a fish screen to an existing pump site - **capped at 80% of the total cost or \$10,000 per project** (whichever the lesser).

Additional costs associated with the installation of the fish screen must be covered by the landholder.

Please note that funding is limited, which may mean some applications will not be funded.

Central Tablelands 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 Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

More information:

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**Local Land
Services**

Fish friendly irrigation screens



"My self-cleaning screen is saving me a minimum of eight hours a week maintenance, and I can now pump efficiently in low flows."

Ian Pengilly - Gooloogong

How to apply:

Submit an Expression of Interest via the online form on our website:

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-tablelands/financial-assistance

Important dates:

EOIs open - Tuesday 20 October 2020

EOIs close - Friday 12 November 2020

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for funding you must meet the following criteria:

- you must have an active irrigation licence
- must be located on a named stream within the Upper Macquarie River system in the Central Tablelands NSW
- previous agreements with LLS or Catchment Management Authority must be completed
- outstanding LLS rates need to be paid
- you must have \$10 million public liability insurance
- you must be able to complete all on-ground activities by **31 May 2021**

Project standards

Over the term of the agreement you are required to keep records of water use, labour used in irrigation nozzle blockage maintenance, energy consumption and pump impeller wear rates on the river pump plus monitor production levels per hectare against the existing systems bench mark figures.

NSW Screens in Streams Committee will specify individual specifications for each successful project.

Frequently asked questions

How much maintenance do the fish screens require?

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.