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Case Study

Irrigation Upgrade Provides Jobs Boost for Northern Victoria

The Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project is a \$2 billion initiative to upgrade ageing, inefficient irrigation infrastructure in northern Victoria. A new, world-class irrigation system will reduce water losses and secure the region's future as an internationally competitive food producing region. An important aspect of the project for this drought-affected region of Victoria is the potential for this major investment to create new jobs and opportunities for businesses and contractors in the region.

ICN has been working closely with staff from the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP) – a state-owned entity that was established to design and deliver the project – ensuring maximum local content since the project began in 2008. Hundreds of local businesses and contractors have benefited from work with the project to date. ICN estimates that 90 per cent of the \$200 million invested since the project began in 2008 has gone directly to regional businesses in drought stricken communities.

The 2009 winter works program is expected to create more than 200 jobs in areas including civil contracting, concreting, logistics, earthmoving and many more. Labourers, skilled tradesmen, factory workers and consultants will all be required and NVIRP is committed to continuing to work with ICN to identify local businesses for work with the project wherever possible.

For more information on the project or to register your interest visit ICN's Regional Industry Link website – www.regionalindustrylink.com.au.