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VCE Geography Unit 3: Water use and management in Murray Darling Basin
Fieldtrip support – Shepparton Irrigation Region Planning for 2015
I can offer support in 2015 for schools wishing to undertake the fieldtrip based on the LandLearn publication Water use and management in Shepparton Irrigation Region found on the resource Water and Food: Futures Thinking. Bookings and enquiries can be made now – the sooner we can confirm dates the better for all concerned.

Availability
See attached calendar.

Fieldtrip options
A. Assuming travel from Melbourne or beyond the Shepparton region, a full day fieldtrip meeting me at Goulburn Weir (Site 2) and finishing at Reedy Swamp (Site 11) near Shepparton, with 4½ hours of fieldtrip support.

B. As for option A, assuming travel from Melbourne or beyond the Shepparton region but with reduced hours of fieldtrip support, meeting near Tatura at approx 11am with 3 hours of fieldtrip support. Notes are provided to assist teachers at the Sites before the meeting point. (Note: this is my preferred option for most Mondays and Tuesdays, but I can be flexible so should be able to meet needs of schools.)

C. Variations can be negotiated, especially for schools doing 2 day fieldtrips and local schools.

Updates and changes
On-farm upgrades and some system delivery works continue as part of the irrigation renewal project, so early 2015 I will seek updated information from the relevant authorities and farmers.

Goulburn Valley Freeway bypass of Nagambie
The freeway now bypasses Nagambie so updated directions will be included on the Running Sheets. For teachers undertaking the fieldtrip without my support, if you want to go into Nagambie you need to take the turnoff south of Nagambie, then follow the old highway; otherwise you bypass Nagambie and turn off to Goulburn Weir approx. 10km north of the town. The upgrade to the bridge over the Main Eastern Channel outlet on the Weir Road has been completed so the load restrictions no longer apply.

Fees
For option A and in most cases option C:
$250 per school / group for up to 25 students / participants and up to 5 hours of my time including travel time to meeting point (30 minutes). Groups over 25: $10 each per additional person.

For option B:
$200 per school / group for up to 25 students / participants and up to 4 hours of my time including travel time to meeting point (20 minutes). Groups over 25: $8.00 each per additional person.

Resources
It is assumed teachers have access to and use the fieldtrip notes provided in Water and Food: futures thinking. I will provide some updates to the notes where appropriate but generally the notes and resources are still relevant. LandLearn, the former DPI education program, is no longer funded but the resources developed by LandLearn staff are available on www.landlearn.net.au and on the GTAV website. I have a few copies of the CD available if anyone prefers that format.

Bookings and more information
Teachers wishing to enquire about or book for 2015, please contact me via email with possible dates and to request a booking form and quote. I will confirm bookings as soon as possible, as I prefer to finalise the fieldtrip programme by end of 2014 school year. I will be difficult to contact in January and week one of February.