

News Release **Minister Geoff Brock**

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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New agreement to deliver world class training in the Riverland

The Riverland's leading irrigation practices will be showcased to the world through a State Government agreement to deliver new training courses in water resources management at Loxton.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said the agreement with the International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management (ICE WaRM) would result in the Loxton Research Centre being used to deliver training to international delegations, River Murray communities and other Australian users.

ICE WaRM was established in South Australia in 2004 as a consortium of the nation's leading education and research providers in the water industry.

"As the foremost broker of training in this field, ICE WaRM is a gateway for sharing South Australia's expertise in irrigation and water management with scholars from around the world," Mr Brock said.

"Through its national and international industry networks, it has established a range of scholarships and international exchanges and is well-placed to develop new training courses to further showcase our innovative practices."

The Loxton Research Centre is to undergo a \$7.5 million redevelopment as part of the six-year, \$265 million South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program.

Mr Brock said the agreement with ICE WaRM would involve the organisation using the Loxton Research Centre's facilities as the hub for training and development of international delegations. It would also promote the centre to its networks.

Consultation and planning for the design of the redeveloped centre are still being undertaken.

"The vision is for the centre to become a world-class centre of excellence for primary production, business innovation and economic diversification," Mr Brock said.

"Water resources management will be a key element of that work, both for Australian and international courses."

ICE WaRM Chief Executive Richard Hopkins said: "We are delighted to be more closely involved with this redevelopment in the Riverland.

"The practical application of best practices in both irrigated and dryland agriculture in the region have long been a highlight for our international visitors

“The planned upgrade of the Loxton Research Centre will add to that experience and we look forward to further local engagement, and sharing the learning even more widely.

“ICE WaRM has been collaborating with the relevant departments and agencies of the South Australian Government since our inception and this is a welcome additional step in our journey together,” Mr Hopkins said.