MODERN FISH PROTECTION KEY MESSAGES (APRIL 2024)

* Modern fish-protection screens are good for farms and good for fish. They represent a new best practice for water users, with real benefits for businesses and biodiversity.
* Modern screens work. They protect 90% of native fish and supply cleaner water to farmers. They keep fish and debris where they belong – in our rivers and out of irrigation infrastructure.
* Millions of native fish are lost every year. They’re sucked into pumps and diverted into channels. This is likely to be impacting native fish populations and undermining efforts to restore our river systems.
* Modern fish screens are available for all water diversions. Different types of screens are available for pumps and gravity-fed irrigation channels of any size - it’s horses for courses, screens for streams.
* Modern fish screens are self-cleaning. They feature self-cleaning brushes and water jets that keep the surface clean. That means less maintenance and downtime for farmers.
* Fish Screens Australia is helping water users modernise their water diversions. We have worked with manufacturers to do the research and development, so farmers can be confident that modern fish screens work.
* Modern screens are an important complementary measure for environmental restoration efforts. They ensure benefits of environmental flows are maximised for native fish populations.
* The benefits of modern fish-protection screens are clear.
* Protect 90% of native fish.
* Make water delivery more efficient.
* Save farmers time and money in maintenance.
* Reduce energy consumption.
* Reduce the need to backflush pumps.
* Keep debris out of channels.
* Boost rural economies through manufacturing and installation.
* Replace out-dated and ineffective ‘trash racks’.
* No one sells a screen like a farmer with a screen. Modern fish-protection screens are already being installed. To date, 25 sites have been retrofitted with this new technology and farmers are already reporting the benefits.
* New opportunities are available to help water users modernise their water diversions. A range of incentive programs provide financial incentives and support.
* To see messaging in action and access answers to FAQs, check out the fish screening stakeholder website, administered by OzFish. [www.fishscreens.org.au](http://www.fishscreens.org.au/)