



Channel decommissioning

Due to the large number of planning permits required for channel decommissioning in the area serviced by the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, GWMWater is working with councils and other key stakeholders to simplify the approval process.

We are currently receiving a steady number of enquiries from rural customers in Supply Systems 1 and 5 who are starting to plan for this year's crops and would like to take advantage of the extra land that channel backfilling will provide.

While the full process is not expected to be formalised until December 2008, GWMWater is working to implement an interim approach which may enable farmers to fill in selected channels in time for this year's cropping program.

The potential impact of each of the following will need to be considered before any channels are backfilled or decommissioned:

- Significant ecological values (native vegetation, protected plant and animal species)
- Local drainage or flooding
- Erosion control provided by the channel
- Supply to recreational lakes or environmental water
- Water to supplement natural catchment dams
- Cultural heritage values

Further information about this process will be advised as it is developed. In the meantime we ask that landowners refrain from backfilling any channels at this stage. More information is available by contacting Paul Atherton on 1300 659 961.

Hindmarsh residents set to celebrate!

The Hindmarsh Shire Council is inviting residents to celebrate the arrival of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline by attending a community event on the Four Mile Beach at Lake Hindmarsh on Friday, 18 April 2008. The day will kick off at 4pm, with official proceedings scheduled for 7pm.

The free family event will include an open-air concert, rotisserie meal, games, give-aways and stalls promoting local produce. Those attending are asked to bring a chair or picnic rug. For further information please phone the Hindmarsh Shire Council on 5391 1811.

Lake Hindmarsh will be one of the major beneficiaries of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, sharing in the 83,000 ML of water savings that the project will return to the environment each year.

Did you know?

- The Longerenong pump station is currently pumping an average of 29.94 litres per second or 2.58 megalitres per day.
- New town storages will be lined with a High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) to maintain water quality. A layer of geotextile fabric will provide protection from sharp stones beneath the liner.

Contact us

GWMWater welcomes enquiries about the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project. You can source more information on the project by:

- Dropping into the Horsham Piping It office at 42-44 Kalkee Road, Horsham
- Phoning 1300 659 961
- Sending an email to info@gwmwater.org.au
- Logging onto our website www.gwmwater.org.au



A message from the Managing Director

2008-13 water plan

GWMWater has submitted an updated 2008-13 Water Plan to the Essential Services Commission, seeking a 3.4% increase in total revenue each year for years two to five of the regulatory period, plus the consumer price index.

The proposed 3.4% increase for years two to five translates into a 1.2% price increase for rural domestic and stock customers and a 3.6% price increase for urban customers for each year of this four year period.

Consistent with the Water Plan submitted in October 2007, the updated Water Plan seeks a 14.3% increase in total revenue for year one, plus the consumer price index. This translates into an 11.7% price increase for rural domestic and stock customers and 15.4% and 11.2% respectively for urban water and wastewater customers in 2008-09. These price increases will take effect from July 2008.

Additional contributions towards the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline by the Victorian and Australian Governments has meant that the Board has been able to keep price increases for our customers to relatively modest levels.

This is a pleasing outcome given the magnitude of the capital works program that GWMWater will deliver during this period – the \$688 million Wimmera Mallee Pipeline plus \$75 million in other major project works.

The updated 2008-13 Water Plan is available through the ESC website at www.esc.vic.gov.au or the GWMWater website at www.gwmwater.org.au. We welcome and encourage customer feedback on the Water Plan.



Pipeline progress

Over 2,500 kilometres of the 8,800 km Wimmera Mallee Pipeline trunk main and distribution network has been installed since construction commenced in November 2006.

We are very pleased with construction progress, with piped water now being supplied to several towns. Emergency supplies are progressively being switched on to farms in the western part of the region relieving the demands of water carting.

Coordination of pipeline construction, emergency piped water supplies, tender evaluation, managing metering contracts and planning for the next phase of works are all major challenges that our staff are responding to extremely well.

Ensuring good communication with the regional community remains an ongoing priority, with all customers within the pipeline footprint now being impacted on by the project in some way.

We remain on target to have the project completed by 2010, well ahead of the original 10-year timeframe proposed.

Jeff Rigby
GWMWater Managing Director

Community celebrations

The Wimmera Mallee Pipeline will deliver water to customers living in the Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack, Buloke, Swan Hill, Gannawarra, Loddon, Northern Grampians and Horsham Rural City Councils.

GWMWater is working with councils to arrange community events to celebrate the pipeline coming to each municipality. These kick off in the Hindmarsh Shire with a community celebration at Four Mile Beach, Lake Hindmarsh on Friday, 18 April 2008. See the back page for further information. Details of other events will be advertised as details are confirmed.





Construction updates

Supply System 1

The trunk main and distribution systems are complete. The pipeline is now supplying water to towns and some farms from Longerenong to Yaapeet.

Supply System 2

The trunk main is complete from Longerenong to Woomelang supplying water to Brim and Beulah. The distribution network is currently being installed around Warracknabeal, with the link to Murtoa in place. Completion is scheduled for mid 2008.

Supply Systems 3 and 4

The trunk main and distribution pipe routes have been finalised and Land Liaison officers will confirm meter locations with landowners during the next phase of discussions. The successful tenderer will be announced in April 2008, with construction scheduled to commence in mid 2008. Works at the Wimmera River crossing at Lubeck have commenced to enable construction to be completed prior to the wet season.

Supply System 5

The trunk main and distribution network is complete. Pressure testing and the installation of tapping points and meters is progressing. The pump station at Pental Island (Swan Hill) is now operational. Initial supplies to some farms commenced in late February 2008, with all farms accessing piped water by the end of March 2008.

Supply System 6

Consultation with landowners is continuing. Information sessions held in February 2008 gave landowners the opportunity to review preliminary designs, discuss supply arrangements and construction processes. Individual visits by Land Liaison officers will commence in mid 2008 to clarify arrangements and determine meter locations.

Supply System 7

The steel transfer main between Lake Bellfield and Taylors Lake has been installed and pressure testing with water from Lake Bellfield is progressing well.

Pump stations

GWMWater will be opening each pump station constructed as part of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.

Customers serviced by each pump station will be invited to attend the openings, which will commence with Supply System 1 and Supply System 5 in the first half of 2008. Watch your local media for more information!



Longerenong pump station



Pipeline products tariff

GWMWater has developed a fact sheet to assist customers in understanding how they will be charged for water delivered through the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.

The new pipeline tariffs have been included in GWMWater's 2008-13 Water Plan and will be implemented from 1 July 2008, subject to approval by the Essential Services Commission. It is also intended to move to quarterly billing for all rural pipeline customers from 1 July 2008.

The new pipeline tariffs will only apply to customers when they are connected to and are receiving a piped supply. Customers not connected to the pipeline will continue to receive charges associated with their dam fill until they are connected.

To view a copy of our 'Pipeline tariff product' fact sheet, visit www.gwmwater.org.au or phone our customer contact centre on 1300 659 961.

WIMMERA MALLEE PIPELINE SUPPLY SYSTEMS

