



## Farming With Pipes Expo held in Donald

Over 250 people attended the second 'Farming with Pipes Expo' held in Donald on 16 September 2008.

The Expo, held in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Victoria, featured demonstrations, trade shows and information sessions.

Customers learnt about the opportunities that the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline will provide and gained practical advice on connecting their property to the pipeline.



Photo courtesy David Fletcher

## Water carting arrangements

Due to low levels in the region's bulk water supply reservoirs, GWMWater is unable to provide a house dam fill to rural properties in Supply System 3, 4 and 6 areas.

The domestic water carting program will be reintroduced in these areas, delivering 28,000 litres of water every second month for domestic use only. Additional water will be made available to rural customers free of charge for crop spraying and stock watering purposes however, the cost of carting arrangements will be the responsibility of the customer.

The Wimmera Mallee Pipeline remains on target to have all customers in Supply System 3, 4 and 6 areas connected to a piped water supply by early 2010.

To view a copy of our 'Water Carting' fact sheets, visit [www.gwmwater.org.au](http://www.gwmwater.org.au) or phone our Customer Contact Centre on 1300 659 961.



Photo: Glass reinforced plastic pipe being laid south of Donald

## Did you know?

- A section of glass reinforced plastic pipe is being laid south of Donald. The pipe is 450 mm diameter and in 12 metre lengths.
- The project is utilising 250 layers of data in the Geographic Information System, including environmental, survey, landowner contact and construction information, totaling about one terabyte (1,000 gigabytes or 1,000,000 megabytes).
- A pump station will be built near Wooroonook Lake on the Borung Highway. It will pump water for the Wycheproof and Charlton trunk main.

## 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](mailto:info@gwmwater.org.au)
- Logging onto our website [www.gwmwater.org.au](http://www.gwmwater.org.au)

## Construction update

### Supply System 1

Construction is complete. GWMWater's operations group is now managing this section of the pipeline, with water from Lake Bellfield supplying all towns and farms.

### Supply System 2

Construction is complete. Final commissioning to be completed by the end of 2008.

Celebrations for the arrival of piped water to Supply System 2 communities will be held during early 2009. Openings will be held for each pump station and customers will be invited to attend. Watch your local media for more information.

### Supply Systems 3 and 4

Pipe laying and storage construction is proceeding across these areas. The trunk main from Rupanyup to the north of Birchip is complete. The steel trunk main connecting the Lake Bellfield supply at Taylors Lake is scheduled for completion in early 2009. Storage works have commenced at Rupanyup, Donald, Marnoo, Minyip, Lubeck, Birchip, Wooroonook, Charlton, St Arnaud and Murtoa. Initial pressure testing is relying on water supplied via a temporary connection at Murtoa.

### Supply System 5

Construction is complete. GWMWater's operations group is now managing this section of the pipeline, with water from the Murray River supplying all towns and farms.

### Supply System 6

Construction is expected to commence in February 2009, following an extensive land liaison process and the evaluation of tenders. Completion of Supply System 6 is expected by early 2010.

### Supply System 7

Construction is complete with 68 kilometres of steel pipe installed, providing water from Lake Bellfield to Supply Systems 1 and 2.



A Compacting Wheel packs the soil around the pipe in the trench



## 1800 188 586

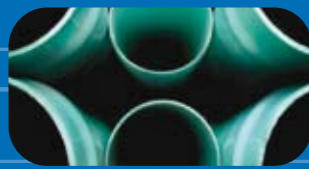
### 24 hour number for pipeline faults

1800 188 586 is the 24 hour phone number to report service difficulties and faults for the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline. This includes leaks during the pressure testing phase and interruptions to water supply. When you phone this number you will be asked to provide your name, contact phone number and the location of the service fault. If you are unsure of the fault location, the nearest meter number would assist our staff in identifying and locating the service fault in a timely manner.



## Piping It office

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## Channel decommissioning

Letters have been sent to all rural customers in the area to be serviced by the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline advising of the channel decommissioning process.

Landowners are reminded that it is still too soon to start filling in GWMWater owned channels. However, private drains on private property may be decommissioned in Supply Systems 1, 2 and 5 as well as in Supply Systems 3 and 4 where a piped water supply is available.

All GWMWater owned channels as well as structures have been assessed into the following 'traffic light' categories:

- GREEN** No longer required and may be decommissioned
- ORANGE** A detailed inspection and assessment is required
- RED** Not to be decommissioned under any circumstances

A first draft of the 'traffic light' approach was presented to Local Government, catchment management authorities and the Department of Sustainability and Environment in November and will shortly be issued for public comment.

## PROGRESS MAP

### Legend

- Completed
- Emergency Water Supplied
- Planning
- Tender
- Tender Awarded
- Under Construction



## Community cabinet

Members of the Victorian Government Community Cabinet showed a strong interest in progress of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project during their visit to the Wimmera in October.

Premier Brumby visited Wallup farmer Rob McRae to hear about on-farm infrastructure and the benefits of improved water quality and security that the piped system is delivering. The Premier took the opportunity to recognise a significant project milestone, announcing that over 5,000 of the 8,800 kilometre pipeline has been completed since construction started in late 2006.

Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Michael Crutchfield toured a number of Wimmera Mallee Pipeline sites, including construction works at Taylors Lake, the Longerenong Pump Station. He also inspected the successful rehabilitation of a Wimmera River crossing site.



Left Photo: Michael Crutchfield, Parliamentary Secretary for Water and Barry Clugston, GWMWater Chairman at the Longerenong Pump Station

Right Photo: Premier John Brumby visits Rob McRae's Wallup farm, photo courtesy Wimmera Mail Times

## Tender for Supply System 6

Tender bids for the construction of Supply System 6 closed in mid November 2008.

The Environmental Management Plan is in the final approval stages, following consultation with councils, catchment management authorities and government. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been approved by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and regional indigenous organisations, prior to construction commencing.

Extensive landowner liaison to establish access arrangements and identify local issues such as weed management and fencing is well advanced in preparation for construction.

This final section of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project will generate water savings of over 9,380 megalitres. Construction is planned to commence in February 2009 and be completed by early 2010, however timing will be dependant on the successful tenderer.

## Rural tariff update

Approximately 40 GWMWater customers attended an Essential Services Commission (ESC) public meeting in Horsham on Wednesday, 5 November 2008 to discuss the corporation's proposed rural pipeline tariff.

Initially the ESC did not accept the GWMWater rural pipeline tariff structure because of concerns with price, its impact on customers and the uncertainty relating to the proposed trading environment.

GWMWater submitted a revised rural pipeline tariff to the ESC which addressed the concerns raised. The key changes were:

- The step and excess components in the tariff have been removed to ensure that all consumption is charged at 75 cents per kilolitre and will apply for the first two years from a customer converting to a piped supply.
- Customers facing significant price rises under the transition to a piped water supply will be managed by the introduction of a 50% price cap on a customer's total water bill during the transition.
- Further detail is provided on how new customers not previously serviced by the channel system will be expected to contribute to any connection to the pipeline. Also, growth water from savings within the pipeline is unlikely to be available for the next few years whilst the regions supply remains heavily restricted.

The ESC released its final decision on the rural pipeline tariff structure on 27 November 2008 and accepted the revised tariff. In its decision the ESC also provided some concessions to Division 4 customers currently not serviced by the channel network as to when they might be expected to take supply and pay for a service from the pipeline.

Customers wishing to view the final decision as approved by the ESC may visit [www.esc.vic.gov.au](http://www.esc.vic.gov.au). To view a copy of GWMWater's 'Pipeline Tariff and Products' fact sheet, visit [www.gwmwater.org.au](http://www.gwmwater.org.au) or phone our Customer Contact Centre on 1300 659 961.



Photo: Representatives from the Essential Services Commission tour construction works at Taylors Lake as part of their visit to Horsham. L to R: Tyco Site Engineer, Kallard Ross, GWMWater's Communications Manager Helen Friend, Essential Services Commission representatives Sean Crees, Amanda Weier, Scott Harding and Christine May.