



Farm dams

Pipeline Design

The design of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline is based on meeting farm demands based on consumptive use requirements. The pipeline design does not specifically allow for evaporation and seepage losses from dams used to store water, nor to fill farm dams.

Am I allowed to fill my farm dam using pipeline water?

Water from the pipeline must go directly into an impervious tank or other suitable sealed and covered storages. This will assist in preserving the much higher water quality the pipeline will provide compared to the present channel system, and will provide security of supply during any system down time.

Farm dams may be filled from an impervious tank providing adequate water is available and customers meet the cost.

Retaining farm dams would continue some of the existing open channel system's inefficient water use as dams lose so much water to evaporation and seepage. For example, a dam with a 20 by 20 metre (400 square metres) surface area can lose 0.5 megalitres a year in evaporation while a 50 by 50 metre (2500 square metres) surface area can result in a three megalitre annual loss.

More information is available by contacting

GWMWater
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Water features

Some landowners might want an open water feature on their property for aesthetic, environmental or recreational purposes. There are many affordable alternatives and opportunities on properties to capture water which could be directed to a small open water feature. The pipeline system could be used to provide top up water to such water features.

Pond trial

A small trial at Brim Golf Course in 2003 created an environmental pond. A bobcat formed the pond's shape and profile, and the floor lined with heavy duty black plastic. One end was formed with a shallow incline to allow small birds and animals to wade in and out easily. Fully-moulded fibreglass or polyethylene ponds are ideal for this purpose as they eliminate seepage.

Several small rocks and logs were placed in the pond for small birds and insects to perch on.

To be environmentally-friendly, the pond would ideally have a range of native vegetation such as aquatic cumbungi, grasses, shrubs and trees and a range of habitat such as submerged woody debris, rock, timber, water of variable depth and perching areas.

The Brim pond had a water surface area of 65 square metres, a depth of 0.4 metres, and a volume of 28 kilolitres.

A water meter showed the pond used an average of 185 litres of water a day with peak consumption of 530 litres a day in January, one of our hottest months, and a total annual consumption of 66 kilolitres.

Cost

It is important to ensure that any open water feature on the property that is supplied from the pipeline is effectively constructed and maintained to minimise water loss and therefore the cost to the landowner.

Using catchment runoff, where possible, to provide water for water features would save water and money.

