



The future of Waranga channel

History

The Waranga channel, sourced from the Goulburn and Loddon River systems, has become a significant resource to supplement the Wimmera-Mallee channel system.

Following its extension through the Mallee in the 1930s, it has been an important source of supply during critical drought periods, such as the 1960s, 1970s and in the recent years of below-average rainfall.

GWMWater is entitled to receive 2000 megalitres (ML) each year during May and June for a small part of the system near the Avoca River, which the Grampians reservoirs cannot supply.

An additional entitlement of up to 24,000 ML is available in alternate years to supplement the Grampians supply for the rest of the channel area generally north of Wycheproof and around Lalbert, Berriwillock and Culgoa.

A piped supply

The main option for supply of the Wimmera-Mallee area through the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project does not use water from the Waranga channel. However, GWMWater is considering a number of supply options for receiving water from the Waranga channel.

Pipeline design consultants have investigated alternative sources of supply to the area east of the Avoca River.

Preliminary work suggests there could be small, but worthwhile capital and operating cost savings associated with a supply to this area being sourced from the Waranga system.

GWMWater is currently exploring issues to finalise this investigation. They include:

- > Cost
- > Water Quality
- > Environmental impacts

GWMWater is also considering options to use the Waranga channel for supply to recreation lakes at Green Lake, near Sea Lake, and Tchum Lake South, near Birchip.

GWMWater greatly values the Waranga supply, particularly in years of drought.

Community consultation

As information relating to these issues becomes available, GWMWater will talk to communities, catchment management authorities, and state and local government, to assess the merit of the Waranga system supplying part of the pipeline.

More information is available by contacting

GWMWater
phone 1300 659 961
email info@gmwwater.org.au
website www.gmwwater.org.au