



# Farmer eagerly waits for pipeline

Jung farmer Frank Baker is eagerly waiting for the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline to reach his property.

“The region has been suffering with dry weather for a long time. The lack of dam fills is a concern when you are running stock,” he said.

Mr Baker said some of his sheep were on agistment and all of these properties needed carted water to run the stock.

He sees the pipeline as a way to conserve the region's sparse water supplies.

“It is an undisputed fact that most of our water now goes down into the ground, instead of into dams,” he said.

“The system has not changed much over the last 100 years. Water still runs down the channels and most goes into the ground. It is a sinful waste of water.”

Mr Baker is looking forward to the secure supply of cleaner water that the pipeline will bring.

“As dams become lower, the quality of the water we're providing to our stock also becomes lower,” he said.

“I have also brought in water to use for spraying to ensure that I have enough on hand, and to also ensure it is of suitable quality for the sprays to work.”

Mr Baker said the lack of water in the region also had impacts on the community that were not always well known.

“I am secretary of the Jung Recreation Reserve and we have been buying water to have enough to flush our toilets, especially for the monthly Jung market,” he said.

“We also used to take water from the creek to water the oval. That hasn't happened for six to eight years,” he said.

Mr Baker said he would miss having his dams when the pipeline went through.

“But that is a small consideration to have access to a quality reliable water supply,” he said.

Further information is available by contacting the Horsham Piping It Office on 1300 659 961 or dropping into the office at 42-44 Kalkee Road.

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