



Piped supply impresses Manangatang farmer

Manangatang cereal and sheep farmer Neville Dawes is thankful that his region has access to a guaranteed water supply through the Northern Mallee Pipeline.

“With the last few years of low rainfall - if we were still relying on the Grampians system I think we would have been walking off the place,” he said.

“We wouldn’t have had dam fills for about five out of the last 10 years.”

Mr Dawes said he farmed in different areas and his properties had been connected to the pipeline in different stages, starting in 1994 and finishing in 2001.

“I didn’t have any hassles with installing on-farm equipment. It wasn’t a great expense for us but we were able to do it in stages,” he said.

Mr Dawes said his region had never been without water since the pipeline was installed.

A great advantage had been much better quality water in summer.

“In the past when it got to about autumn when the dams were getting low we would have very high salinity readings,” he said.

“Now the water is clean and the stock seems to do better on it. We also have water available for a garden,” he said.

Mr Dawes said he used less water with a piped system because he wasn’t losing water to evaporation or seepage from dams.

“Now with meters we know exactly how much water we have used. Back in the days when we received one channel fill a year you never really knew how much water you were using or how much you had been allocated,” he said.

Mr Dawes’ advice to Wimmera farmers planning their on-farm water reticulation systems for the Wimmera-Mallee pipeline was to install concrete troughs rather than plastic or poly troughs.

“They seem to keep the water cooler. Stock don’t seem to like the warmer water in the other troughs,” he said.

Mr Dawes also suggested that farmers carefully plan where to place troughs and to put them near sheltered timber if possible.

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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