



Farm set for pipeline

Alpaca grower Rowan Dagleish already has pipes and troughs on his Jung property, ready for the arrival of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.

He said installing a reticulated water system throughout his 350-acre property really didn't cost that much.

"I needed smaller paddocks for my 180 alpacas and have installed about 20 troughs. The system is working really well," he said.

Mr Dagleish is looking forward to the pipeline conserving water in the region.

"I was aghast when I found out that 85 percent of water is lost by the time water in the channel system reaches Rainbow and Jeparit," he said.

"Water is one of our greatest resources. We have to protect it as much as we can."

Mr Dagleish said he was concerned to still see people in Horsham hosing down their concrete driveways.

"Water is a resource that we should look after and use as wisely as we can," he said.

Mr Dagleish practises water conservation as much as possible on his property. He puts the bath water through the washing machine and afterwards uses it to flush the toilet.

He said he could not understand people who were against the pipeline.

"Everyone I know and everyone I have spoken to is in favour of it," he said.

"And from a conservation point of view it is a necessity. It might allow a return of water along the creeks and rivers they would have naturally gone down."

He said he was also concerned about misinformation regarding environmental impacts.

"People speak about the environmental impact of removing the channels, saying it will reduce wildlife," he said.

"These people have never really considered wildlife before and don't understand ecology and ecosystems.

"We have wiped out a lot of species from this area by clearing land. This has attracted kangaroos and corellas because this environment suits them and then when they become pests, people want to shoot them."

Mr Dagleish was a park ranger in the Northern Territory for eight years before moving to the Wimmera where he has worked as a lecturer with the University of Melbourne.

While looking for something he could do on a small block of land, he bought six alpacas more than six years ago.

"I have become addicted to the animals and have gradually increased the herd, buying more land to cope with the growing herd and developing a full-time business in the process," he said.

Mr Dagleish has a ready market for his alpacas as herd guards to protect lambing ewes from foxes and also from people wanting to build breeding stock. He has exported his animals to Switzerland and Germany.

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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