



# Securing the future of our region ... both now, and for our kids

The Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project is a major investment in regional water infrastructure. The project will provide:

- > a reliable, higher quality water supply to farms and towns across the region, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- > water for rural, urban and commercial growth and development
- > the return of 83,000 megalitres (ML) of water savings returned to government for a range of uses including environmental water releases to rivers and streams
- > up to 4,000 ML of water for 11 nominated recreational lakes and other local water bodies in the region with high conservation value




From 'Pipe or Perish' to 'Pipe It' to 'Piping It' - the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project has come a long way since its official launch in Melbourne in 2001.

## High profile launch

Since the high-profile launch by football and television star Tim Watson and Olympic sprint specialist Lauren Hewitt under the catchy cry 'Pipe or Perish', the project has moved through various stages to reach the momentous stage of 'Piping It!'. The tenacity of a dedicated group of Wimmera, Mallee and Glenelg people, municipal leaders and state and federal members of parliament has led the regional community closer to the reality of 'securing our kids' future'.

One of the major milestones for gaining the vital Federal Government backing was in May 2002, when a project steering committee personally presented more than 7000 letters of support for piping to Prime Minister John Howard.

## Quick facts

-  The current Wimmera Mallee stock and domestic open channel system, including losses from farm dams and town storages, wastes enough water each year to fill the Melbourne Cricket Ground 49 times.
-  This yearly waste also equates to the amount of water needed to fill 103,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
-  The new system will replace 17,500 kilometres of open, earthen channels with a piped water distribution system of about 8,800 kilometres. This system will reticulate water to about two million hectares and 36 towns throughout the Wimmera-Mallee.

## Passionate people

Minyip farmer, former shire councillor and mayor Stewart Petering, regional development leader Ms Jo Bourke, Warracknabeal district farmer Chris Hewitt and Hindmarsh Shire mayor and farmer Darryl Argall dedicated thousands of personal hours to gathering community and government support for 'Pipe It'. But they didn't do it alone - the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project has always been and will continue to be a 'whole of community' initiative.










The Wimmera Mallee Pipeline will build upon benefits achieved by the Northern Mallee Pipeline Project, which started in 1992 with construction of a pipeline system servicing 650,000 hectares from Swan Hill to Sea Lake, to Ouyen, Underbool and Manangatang. More recently, this system was extended to include Patchewollock and Speed then to the Cannie Ridge area north of Quambatook, bringing the total piped area to 820,500 hectares. These areas draw water from the River Murray.

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The main source of water for the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline system, will be Bellfield Reservoir near Halls Gap in the Grampians. Water from Taylors Lake will supplement the system as required. Wartook and Moora reservoirs will be used to supply a small area near Natimuk and Clear Lake, and the River Murray will also be the source of water for the Berriwillock-Culgoa area.

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The recreational lakes that the pipeline system will supply are:

-  Beulah, Brim and Warracknabeal Weir pools
  -  Donald Park (Caravan Park) Lake
  -  Green Lake near the town of Sea Lake
  -  Lake Batyo Catyo near Donald
  -  Lake Lascelles at Hopetoun
  -  Tchum Lake South near Birchip
  -  Watchem Lake
  -  Wooroonook Lake near Charlton
  -  Rich Avon Weir Pool
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The first stage of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline project has commenced and involves:

1. Constructing a trunk main from Lake Bellfield to Taylors Lake (Supply System 7).
2. Constructing Supply System 1 that will supply water to the Dooen, Pimpinio, Dimboola, Antwerp, Tarranyurk, Jeparit, Rainbow and Yaapeet areas.

## Real people, real stories

### Lalbert farmer praises pipeline

Lalbert cereal and sheep farmer Frank Fogarty has been connected to piped water from the Murray River in the Cannie Ridge section of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline for about two years.

He said the reliability of supply and quality of water received had been good.

“It has been a huge advantage for crop spraying and we have no work involved in dam or channel cleaning”, he said.

Mr Fogarty said everybody in his area was pleased to have water available given the region’s run of dry years.

“With the weather so dry and the danger of not getting a dam fill, we are pleased to have a piped supply”, he said.

Further information regarding securing our future for our region is available by contacting the **Horsham Piping It Office** on **1300 659 961** or by dropping into the office at **42-44 Kalkee Road**.

Last updated June 8, 2007

