



Water for recreational lakes

Recreational lakes are an integral part of community life through many parts of the Wimmera Mallee, providing a range of social, recreational and environmental benefits for the community. They also attract tourists and can be sources of water for fire-fighting.

Communities contribute an immense amount of time and effort to maintain and provide recreational water for local people to enjoy. Consultation during the pipeline planning stage has reinforced the importance of these lakes to the community.

GWMWater is committed to providing a top-up supply to the following nominated recreational lakes and weirs according to the levels developed in consultation with the community.

Recreational lakes

- > Beulah, Brim and Warracknabeal Weir pools
- > Donald Park Lake (Caravan Park)
- > Green Lake near the town of Sea Lake
- > Lake Batyo Catyo near Donald
- > Lake Lascelles at Hopetoun
- > Rich Avon Weir Pool near Donald
- > Tchum Lake South near Birchip
- > Watchem Lake
- > Wooroonook Lake near Charlton

As a result of the pipeline, up to 3000 megalitres of recreational water will be supplied each year to these important community facilities.

GWMWater is working closely with Local Government and the community to investigate the most efficient and cost-effective ways to deliver this water to these recreational lakes and weirs.

Both Lake Batyo Catyo and Rich Avon Weir are currently part of the GWMWater operational system. While these facilities will not be required once pipelining is complete, it is intended that these two water bodies will continue to receive a water supply for recreational purposes.

Subsidies

Feedback from customers during the consultative process of the GWMWater Pricing Review has provided substantial support for subsidising the cost of water for recreational lakes. The extent of the subsidy amount and how this will be met will be determined when GWMWater's overall pricing review is complete.

The pipeline system will mean that the supply to lakes will not be restricted as often as has been the case with the current channel system, which has seen recreational lakes restricted since 1999. However, even with the pipeline system, restrictions on supply to recreational lakes may apply in some years.

GWMWater has set an initial charge of \$40 per megalitre (ML) for water for recreational lakes in its 2006-2008 Water Plan. We are continuing to work with the community to investigate supply options to these lakes that can reduce costs in the long-term.

Management plans

Recreational Lake Committees are working with Local Government, GWMWater, the relevant catchment management authority, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Primary Industries and Parks Victoria to prepare a management plan for each lake.

GWMWater will consider the recreational values of the bulk water supply reservoirs, and their future operation, as a part of the reservoir review currently underway.

The community has also highlighted the recreational value of Green Lake near Horsham. Green Lake is one of GWMWater's bulk water supply reservoirs located around the Grampians. As such, Green Lake will be considered as part of GWMWater's review of the future operation of its reservoirs.

For more information on recreational lakes and environmental and recreational water refer to Fact Sheets: 'Future of our reservoirs' and 'Water for the environment'.

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

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