



## FACT SHEET No 1 August 2009

This is the first in a series of fact sheets to clarify issues or matters of public interest to our customers in relation to this project.

### **Why have works at the pump stations and channel lining been prioritised under Stage 1?**

Stage 1 works will address major risks of failure at the pump stations and main channels. The channels and pump stations are the essential foundation infrastructure underpinning the security of our whole irrigation service.

The works will benefit all customers by providing good quality water 365 days a year. It also removes the risk of accidental drowning due to the covering and fencing of the channels. Escape ladders will still be installed as a precaution.

### **Are subsystem pump stations on trunk channels workable?**

The subsystem format is both workable and effective. It is a far more efficient way to pressurize the large area involved in this project than a single high pressure pump station at the supply source.

Several subsystem pump stations already exist in the Red Cliffs and Merbein Irrigation Districts, supplying mid-range pressure.

### **Are there plans to expand outside the district?**

No. Lower Murray Water has no plans for expansion outside the districts. Existing customers outside the districts will still be supplied under the same arrangements as exist today.

### **Will there be any extra cost to growers?**

No. The Commonwealth Government has committed to funding Stage 1, subject to due diligence on the business case. Stage 2 will only proceed if additional funding is obtained from the State Government.

It is important to note that the State Government has not committed any funding for Stage 2. The application for State funding will be assessed by the Government on its merits, alongside many other projects competing for scarce public funds. Should Stage 2 proceed, growers will then be able to choose if they want a high pressure system, which they would pay for under Stage 3.

### **Why is channel lining, covering and fencing the preferred option?**

LMW engineers and consultants have assessed the technical merits of the lined, covered and fenced system, and recommend it as the most cost-effective solution to improve service levels to all customers. It will also establish a platform for Stages 2 and 3 should they proceed.

### **Why don't we use the available funds to pipeline the main channels?**

There are insufficient funds to pipeline the channels. The lining, covering and fencing system effectively provides the same level of benefits to all growers for approximately one fifth of the cost. For example the cost to supply and install a low-pressure pipeline to replace the Merbein main channel alone is \$60 million compared with \$7.3 million for the liner based system.

For further information visit our website [www.lmw.vic.gov.au](http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au)

