

WHAT IS THE SUNRAYSIA WATER EFFICIENCY PROJECT?

The Sunraysia Water Efficiency Project (SWEP) is an off-farm modernisation project that will upgrade and remove outdated water infrastructure in the Mildura, Red Cliffs and Merbein irrigation districts.

The project involves the modernisation of around 27 km of irrigation channel through the installation of channel liners and buried pipelines. In addition, up to 279 Dethridge meters will be removed or upgraded, and up to 210 domestic and stock outlets will have modern flow meters installed.

Image top right: SWEP will line channels to reduce seepage and water losses across three LMW irrigation districts.

WHY DELIVER THIS PROJECT?

These works will increase the efficiency of water delivery for Lower Murray Water (LMW) customers, remove redundant assets, extend the lifespan of irrigation infrastructure, and support the agricultural productivity of the region.

By minimising channel leakage and seepage, and more accurately measuring water used, the project will produce up to 2.5 GL in water savings to be shared between the environment, Traditional Owners and improving urban water security in the Sunraysia region.

Image below: A Dethridge meter in the Merbein irrigation district.



HOW WILL SUNRAYSIA BENEFIT?

The project will provide many benefits to the Sunraysia region, including:

- Further modernisation and rationalisation of assets in the Mildura, Red Cliffs, and Merbein irrigation districts.
- Helping the Sunraysia district maintain its competitive advantage in the agri-food sector with more efficiency in its water delivery systems.
- Bringing forward essential maintenance and upgrade works to maintain water supply and reduce interruptions, offsetting works that otherwise would have been funded through LMW customer charges.
- Supporting more than 100 construction and delivery jobs for the region.
- Generating an estimated regional GDP increase of more than \$20 million.
- Reducing the amount of salinity in the River Murray and surrounding topsoil caused by leaking channels.

WHO IS DELIVERING AND FUNDING THE PROJECT?

Funding is being provided by the Australian Government to Lower Murray Water for delivery of the project.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT TIMELINE?

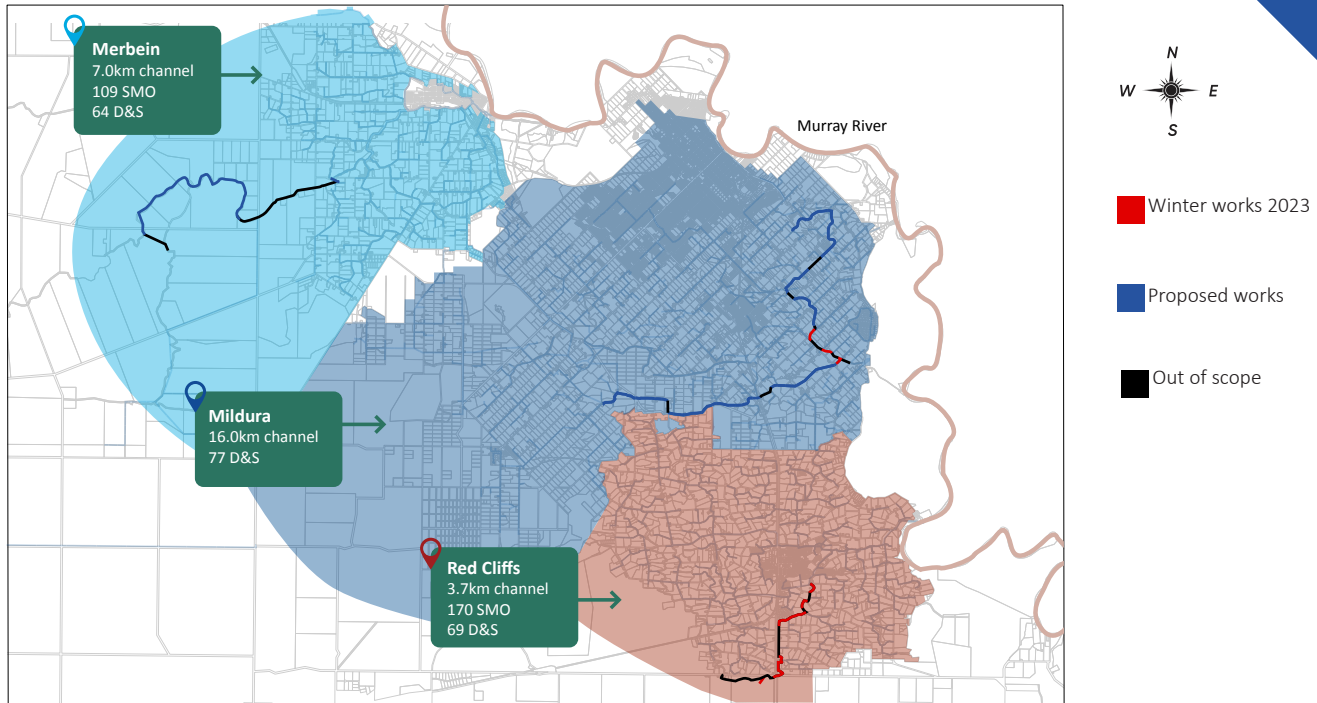
Construction works for the project will commence with a Winter Works package in June 2023.



WHERE WILL WORKS BE UNDERTAKEN?

Project works will start with channel lining in sections of Red Cliffs and Mildura districts from June 2023, with works on small meter outlets (SMOs) commencing in Merbein and Red Cliffs from July.

SWEP Scope Overview



WILL LANDOWNERS BE CONSULTED?

Consultation with landowners will occur throughout all stages of the project.

Customer engagement began in late 2022 with the Customer Service Advisory Committees for each irrigation district. In early 2023, as the program began to take shape, consultation with individual landholders commenced to ensure construction could be planned to minimise any disruptions to irrigation needs. If needed, alternative supply arrangements will be put in place while works are being undertaken.

Access arrangements will be discussed with landholders throughout the project and regular updates on project delivery will be publicly available.

WILL LANDOWNERS BE IMPACTED?

Most project works will occur during winter when irrigation demands are lowest, to minimise impact on customers. Landowners will be fully informed of any impacts before they occur and have a chance to discuss these with the Project Team. Minimising impact on landowners is a priority focus for the Project Team.



WILL THE PROJECT AFFECT ACCESS TO WATER?

Channel works and the installation of pipelines may impact the availability of irrigation water. Lower Murray Water customers will be consulted well before this occurs, and the project will plan these works, in consultation with customers, to take place when water consumption is lowest.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

More information on this water saving project is available on our website at www.lmw.vic.gov.au/SWEP

For any further questions, or to sign up for project updates, please email swep@lmw.vic.gov.au or phone 1800 808 830 and ask to speak to the SWEP team.