



## WATER SAVING PROJECT UNDERWAY



It's very exciting to see the Sunraysia Water Efficiency Project (SWEP) get underway with construction works across the Mildura and Red Cliffs districts.

SWEP is the latest off-farm modernisation project given the green light to deliver important upgrades

across pumped irrigation districts, with the water-saving project aiming to modernise irrigation channels and remove outdated water infrastructure.

The SWEP Winter Works 2023 package is the first component of the project to be rolled out and will be delivered in alignment with Lower Murray Water's standard winter maintenance work throughout the irrigation off-season.

In Red Cliffs, you can expect to see channel lining works happening from late-May until August, while channel works are scheduled to start in the Mildura irrigation district in late June and finish in early August. In total, approximately 4km of channels will be upgraded during Winter 2023, leading to more efficient water delivery and better infrastructure, at no cost to growers.

To view maps of exactly where work is planned this winter, please refer to the information available online at [www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep](http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep) or get in touch with us by phoning 1800 808 830 and asking to speak to the SWEP team.

In the lead up to commencing the Winter Works, the team has been working closely with residents, businesses, and government agencies across the Mildura and Red Cliffs irrigation districts. This engagement has been invaluable, and I thank everyone for working so closely with us.

**Daniel Freitag - Project Director**



## UPDATING INFRASTRUCTURE

The SWEP includes three components:

- Channel lining works across the Merbein, Mildura and Red Cliffs districts;
- Small Meter Outlet (SMO, or Dethridge wheel) works across the Merbein and Red Cliffs districts; and
- Domestic and stock (D&S) works across the three districts.

As Dethridge wheels are now outdated infrastructure, these wheels need to be removed from the irrigation network to avoid leakage and eliminate weak points in the system. Where required, Dethridge wheels will be replaced with updated meters.

The removal of Dethridge wheels will take place over the next 12 months, with works expected to commence in Red Cliffs in July 2023. If you have a Dethridge wheel on your property, you can expect to hear from our team as they plan for removal and/or upgrades.

# PROJECT UPDATE CONT.

MAY 2023

## BE CAREFUL THIS WINTER

With the 2023 Winter Works program now rolling out across the Mildura and Red Cliffs districts, remember to be keep an eye out for large machinery and people as upgrades are delivered.

As part of these works, large construction machinery and materials will be moving around to different sites and traffic conditions may be altered for short periods of time when construction is underway. Please take extra care on the roads during this time, particularly at:

- Calder Highway and Wilga Road intersection, Red Cliffs
- Calder Highway and Millewa Road intersection, Red Cliffs
- Ginquam Avenue and Fourteenth Street intersection, Mildura
- Belar Avenue (near Fourteenth Street), Irymple
- Dewry Avenue (near Fourteenth Street), Irymple

We appreciate your patience while we maintain and modernise the irrigation network for our community.

To view maps of where work is planned, check [www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep](http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep)

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

After talking to hundreds of local landholders about SWEP in the lead up to the project commencing, we've heard some great questions, which we've answered below:

### How is local knowledge being included in the project?

- Local irrigators who are familiar with the region and growers' needs are part of our Project Control Group (PCG) (thanks to our PCG Chair Tony Matthews and PCG member Warren Lloyd for generously sharing their knowledge);
- Experienced, local LMW staff are an integral part of our project team;
- Local contractors and service providers are being used where possible; and
- We are meeting with LMW's Customer Service Advisory Committees regularly to keep them updated and get their input into project delivery.

### How are learnings from the Sunraysia Modernisation Project (SMP) and/or other modernisation programs being applied to SWEP?

- The governance structure used in SMP has been adopted for SWEP;
- The construction work we are undertaking is similar to SMP and SMP2, so we are making sure the lessons learned then are being applied to SWEP;
- The SWEP project team includes key personnel who have worked on irrigation modernisation programs locally and across Victoria;
- Contractors and service providers involved in SWEP are also experienced in similar programs.



## FIND OUT MORE

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

More information on this water saving project is available on our website at [www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep](http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep)

Prefer to chat to someone? Phone 1800 808 830 and ask to speak to the SWEP team.

To view maps of where works are taking place, visit [www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep](http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep)