



SEEKING LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Following from the successful completion of our 2023 Winter Works program, the SWEP team have now turned our attention to planning for the next stage of works.

Over the coming months, our focus will be on undertaking meter outlet works whilst preparing for a significant works program in winter next year.

Our Winter Works 2024 program will involve lining around 20km of channels and installing two new buried pipelines across the Mildura and Merbein districts and removing around 150 old Dethridge wheels. This is around five times more work than we undertook in winter 2023.

The Winter Works 2024 program will require a significant volume of the Mildura channels to be drained during winter to allow for the works to be completed. Our team are working hard to carefully plan this shutdown, with a commitment to minimising disruption to customers. We will be focussing on communicating details of the planned shutdowns well ahead of time to allow customers to plan accordingly.

We have also been working to promote the works within the construction industry with an intention to find contractors who have the experience, capability, and resources to undertake the work during the shutdown.

To this end, the SWEP team invited contractors to two information sessions last month – in Mildura and Echuca. It was pleasing to have 39 construction companies attend these sessions, an impressive turn out.

An overview of the forward program was shared, along with the technical requirements, the procurement considerations, the safety standards, and other details. We look forward to completing the procurement process over the coming months and announcing our construction partners early in the new year.

Daniel Freitag

Daniel Freitag - Project Director



Above: Nichols Point Primary School

A SAFETY IMPROVEMENT IN THE PIPELINE FOR NICHOLS POINT

Part of the SWEP project includes removing the channel between the Nichols Point Primary School and the Nichols Point Reserve on Fifth Street, replacing it with a buried pipeline.

The team have begun conversations with Nichols Point Primary School and Mildura Regional Council to determine the best outcome for these works and to coordinate logistics for when construction is occurring.

WHAT IS CHANNEL LINING, ANYWAY?

Not familiar with what's involved in lining the channels? Check out the timelapse we took of our lining efforts over winter at Dewry Avenue, Irymple.

Head to Lower Murray Water's YouTube channel to view our latest video at: www.youtube.com/@lowermurraywater4403



These works will improve safety for the community and provide the opportunity to reconnect the currently separated spaces.

The team are working with designers to confirm the most appropriate solution. We will remain in contact with the school, council, and neighbouring landholders about finding a construction approach that allows the team to deliver the upgrade during winter 2024, with minimal disruption to all.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Will SWEP need to access my property to fix the channels?

The SWEP team will certainly need to contact property owners to make arrangement to access the channels that are within the scope for upgrades. Our team will work with all adjoining landholders to agree on access and other matters such as seasonal operational considerations that may affect the timing or approach to undertaking the works. The team will draw up an agreement to reflect these matters to make sure a clear record is available for both parties.

Who should I speak to if I have questions?

If you have any queries about our proposed channel or meter works, please contact our Surveillance and Operations Manager, James Collett in the first instance. He can be contacted on 0429 135 509.

For general enquiries about the project, reach out to the team on 1800 808 830 or via email at swep@lmw.vic.gov.au and we will put you in touch with the right person to help you with answers.