

## WINTER WORKS ROLL OUT ACROSS SUNRAYSIA

Construction contractors have now mobilised to all eight of our winter construction sites - and the works now well and truly underway!

Across the Mildura channels, we are busy repairing the concrete in the channels, with about a third of this work already complete.

We are making great progress, having already installed around 2 km of liner.

Channel works in the Merbein out of district channels have just commenced, with contractors preparing the channel ready for re-modelling and lining.



All works are generally progressing well at this time. We have made a change to the irrigation shutdown schedule for channels near and downstream of the Nichols Point oval. We recommend customers regularly check the LMW webpage for the latest on shutdown timing.

*Daniel Freitag*

**Daniel Freitag - Project Director**

## MUSSELS & YABBIES & COD, OH MY!

As part of our works this winter, we have partnered with OzFish, who are helping us to recover native fish from the channels when drained and relocate them to Kings Billabong. OzFish have teamed up with Northwest Aquaculture, NGT - Nature Glenelg Trust, Millewa Pumping and Finis Pest Management to conduct this important work.

Talking about the works, OzFish Senior Program Manager Braeden Lampard says, "It is challenging and dirty work. Every site is different and sometimes requires flexible and creative efforts from our team.

We have used a combination of manual removal, netting, and backpack electro-fishing to successfully relocate over 400 small and large bodied native fish and yabbies and over 5,700 litres of freshwater mussels already as part of the project this year.

"Freshwater mussels are critical to freshwater ecosystems as they are natural biofilters, processing approximately 30-50 litres of water, per mussel, per day. Native fish including Murray cod, Golden perch, threatened Silver perch and Freshwater catfish have been relocated".



## JUNIOR PIPELINE SUPERVISORS INSPECT NICHOLS POINT WORKS

Almost 400 Nichols Point Primary School students from Prep to Grade 6 took their Junior Pipeline Supervisor roles very seriously last month, leading their teachers and Lower Murray Water staff for a walking tour of the construction works underway at Nichols Point.

Thanks to a \$37.9 million funding package from the Australian Government under the Off-farm Efficiency Program, part of the scope includes removing the old concrete channel next to the primary school and replacing it with more than a kilometre of pipe. The spirited inspection was part of an incursion for students designed to help them understand the works taking place.

After the inspection, the 3:15pm school bell meant students were “off the clock” and made a beeline from the school gate back around to the oval to be first in line for the free sausage sizzle, face painter, sand pit, and boat race craft station.

The SWEP team had also arranged for some of the big machinery from the project to be onsite for the kids to sit in, explore, and climb around on.

The SWEP team were impressed by the curiosity and beautiful manner of the school students, and grateful for the students, school staff and local community for joining our event. Thank you also to the Nichols Point Soccer Club for running a tremendous BBQ and keeping lots of hungry tummies happy.



### WHEN WILL THE WATER BE AVAILABLE IN THE CHANNELS?

Water will be available in the channels every few weeks intermittently throughout this winter as we look to balance having the contractors undertake the works with allowing customers some access to water. We may need to change the irrigation shutdown schedule at times to suit where the works are up to. Please regularly check the shutdown schedule dates available at our website.

### FIND OUT MORE

SCAN THROUGH TO VIEW



**TO FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
SWEP.**

Or visit [www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep](http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep) for timelapse, maps, updates and contact information.