

## Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District September 2016

As I am sure you have noticed we have had a very welcome change to weather conditions since autumn. There has been a good amount of rain in the Werribee and Lerderderg River catchments and this is now generating good flows in the rivers and inflows into our reservoirs.

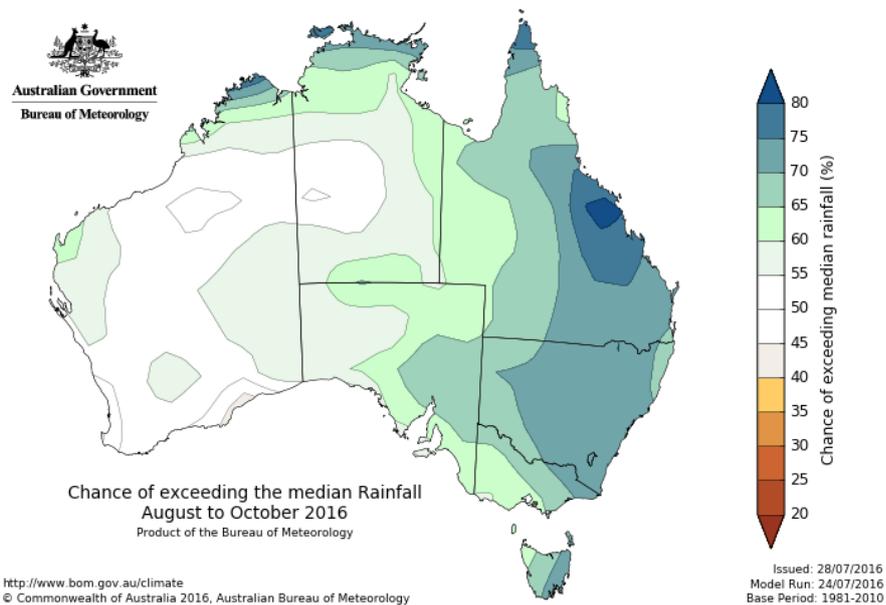


Lerderderg River at O'Briens Crossing – June 2016



Lerderderg River at O'Briens Crossing – July 2016

As of 1st September the reservoirs had risen to 37% full; from a low of 12% at the start of July. With the spring period still to come and with a rainfall outlook of a 60% chance of above average rainfall for August to October, things are looking positive.

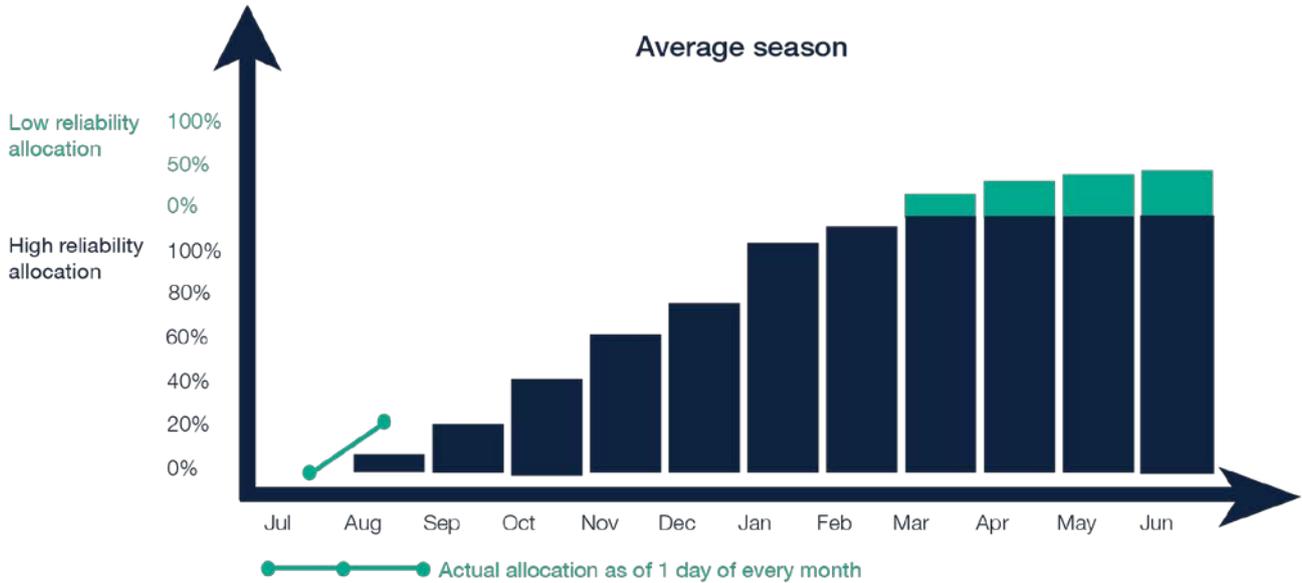


### Current allocation

With the increasing water levels in the reservoirs we have been able to increase the allocation to **55%** of high reliability water shares.

### Predicted allocation

If we get the predicted above average rain over spring then we should have a better than average season. Based on historical inflows, an average season would result in 100% allocation of high reliability water and up to a 50% allocation of low reliability water shares. The chart below shows that we are currently tracking towards an average season or better.



### DISTRICT MODERNISATION PROJECT

It is fantastic news that the Victorian Government has committed to fund a third of the project to modernise the water delivery infrastructure in the BMID. With grower contributions we now have two thirds of the project funded. We continue to seek funding from the Federal Government through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund with applications for funding due in the new year.

However, with 2/3rds of the funds already secured, we have begun planning for the next phases of works with construction likely to begin during the next winter period. We anticipate completing the full project over the next four to five years.

#### Stage 1 – Maddingley Pump Station

The first stage of the modernisation project is already underway with the construction of a new pump station at the existing weir at Maddingley. This means we can replace the main channel along Werribee Vale road with a small pipeline and supply the other parts of the district by pumping directly from the river at Maddingley.

The opportunity to start the works early arose from the council’s plans for the Hallets Way road extension project. This would have required the removal of part of the main channel (flume 6) along Werribee Vale Road. To maintain supply, the council’s contractor would have had to install a costly syphon which we would no longer need once a pump station was built as part of our modernisation plans. Therefore, with a council contribution we are able to build the pump station earlier than scheduled and at a lower cost.



Site of Halletts Way road extension - Main channel (Flume 6)



Old unused pump station site at Maddingley weir

### Works underway

We have demolished the old pump station and excavated the site ready to install the new station.



New pump station site being prepared



Prefabricated sections of new pump station ready to go in

We have also constructed a new rising main to connect the pump station to the Maddingley basin which will be used to supply the rest of the district.



Rising main from pump station to Maddingley basin



New Inlet pipes being installed into Maddingley basin

We have also removed the silt from the basin to ensure there is enough water pressure to supply the district and will be removing the old ford across the river to reduce the time it takes for water to travel from the old diversion weir to the pump station. At this stage we anticipate commissioning the new pump station in October.



Removing silt from the Maddingley basin

### **Future works**

The remaining stages of the project will involve pipelining the remaining channel sections of the district and we will provide further information as we get nearer construction.

### **Thomson emergency water**

At the start of this year we had drawn down our water storages to just 12% after several dry years. To ensure we had enough water to start this season we purchased 1,200ML of Thomson Reservoir water from Macalister Irrigation District farmers. We are currently in discussions with Western Water to determine how this will be supplied to the BMID.

We will provide all BMID customers with an option to take some of the water in proportion to your high reliability water shares. Any water not taken up or unused this season could be carried over until required.

We will be in contact in the coming weeks regarding the option to take this water.

### **WINTER MAINTENANCE WORKS**

We have been busy carrying out maintenance jobs over the last few months. The main focus has been servicing of customer outlets, leak repair and de-silting.

Works carried out:

- Full service of 23 outlets including; wheel replacements; bearing replacements: ground levelling and site clean-up.
- Long term leaks in spur-12 have been repaired
- 2 valves on spur 12 have been dug up and serviced
- De-silting on Werribee Vale road
- 2 badly damaged liners along the main channel were removed and the channel and concrete repairs made
- Weed control along channel banks
- Fencing replacement program been carried out (ongoing)



Pipeline leak repaired



Channel banks slashing & Fencing replacement

## **New SRW website**

A visit to [www.srw.com.au](http://www.srw.com.au) will now reveal a very different picture, with a newly launched website for Southern Rural Water.

The site has a cleaner, more attractive design and will be much easier to use. "We are excited about our new website and the level of detail it provides for customers and other interested users," said Julie Logan, Communications and Visual Design, Southern Rural Water. "The website has a lot of great new features, but most of all, we wanted make life easier for our customers. "If you take a look around the site we think you'll get a pretty good idea of who we are, what we do and more importantly how we can help you and your business or organisation".

Along with a fresh and simplified look, the site will be compatible with your mobile devices, allowing you to better interact with Southern Rural Water online. Visit our website for our latest news and updates. We encourage you to explore the website and sign up to receive newsletters and media releases by email.

We hope you will enjoy our new site. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please send them to [srw@srw.com.au](mailto:srw@srw.com.au) or phone 1300 139 510.