

Welcome to our Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District (BMID) update, a newsletter for Southern Rural Water's water supply customers. We hope you find the information useful.

Season outlook

It has been another dry summer and a very dry start to autumn. The recent rain has helped to wet the catchment, but we need to follow up rain now to start to generate some flow in the rivers. Therefore, there is unlikely to be any change to the 45% allocation for the last few weeks of this season and we will have to wait and see how the winter develops for next season's allocation.

There remains a large volume of water held in individual water allocation bank accounts (approximately equal to 50-60% of high reliability water share). This water will be carried over to the 2018-19 season at the start of July.

Storage levels

Given the dry summer and autumn, Melton Reservoir is now quite low and if we do not receive inflows over winter and spring, then water will have to be released from Pykes Creek Reservoir and SRW's share of Lake Merrimu.

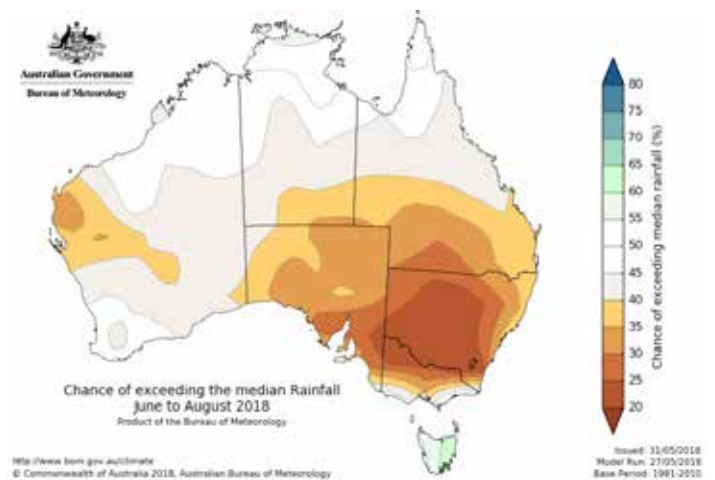
The current storage levels are as follows:

Reservoir	Volume ML	Level % FSL	Same time last year
Pykes Creek	16,670	75%	82%
Melton	3,211	22%	56%
Lake Merrimu	12,598	39%	53%

Rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) seasonal rainfall outlook for the June to August period is for dry conditions, with the rain bearing cold fronts to continue to track south of south east Australia. It is predicting around a 30-40% chance of above average rainfall for the period. Average rainfall over winter should result in some stream flows and an increase in storage levels thereby enabling us to start to increase next season's allocation as the winter progresses. However, we will need some significant rain if the reservoirs are to fill.

We will have to wait and see how winter progresses.



Carryover and allocation trading options

We are anticipating approximately 3,000ML of water will be carried over in individual accounts to the 2018-19 season in the BMID. This is more water than has been used in the BMID this season. Together with the Werribee Irrigation District the volume of carryover is expected to be equivalent to about 60% of high reliability water shares in the system.

This is enough water for next year. However, much of the water remains in unused accounts and there will be farmers who only have a small amount of water left to carry into next season.

If you do not intend to use your water, or have more than needed for next season, then it is important that you consider selling some.

You could sell some of this year's allocation and help recoup some of the cost of your water entitlements. Then, if we get inflows, you will receive more allocation from July onwards.

SRW is happy to help assess your water needs, so feel free to come in and see us.

If you are interested in buying or selling water you can simply log on to Watermatch, online at www.srw.com.au/, or type the word "Watermatch" in Google.

You can either register as a user (a straightforward process), or you can call 1800 139 510, email srw@srw.com.au or drop into our office in Werribee and our staff will help you.

BMID Modernisation

Having successfully completed stage 1 of the district modernisation works with the installation of a pump station at the Maddingley weir, we have now been focusing on construction works for stages 2 and 3.

Stage 2A involved the construction of a new water tank at Maddingley, replacing the old storage basin. The tank creates additional water pressure in the pipeline system enabling the upgrades to important sections of the pipeline network. The tank has been constructed and connections to the pipeline system and the pump station are complete and operational.



The Maddingley basin prior to connection to pump station in



Connecting the new tank.

The next works to be carried out this winter is Stage 2B and stage 3. Stage 2B includes the construction of a new pipeline to replace the old 2/2 pipeline from Fiske Street to the Avenue of Honour. The new pipe has a larger diameter which then enables us to remove a section of old channel from the Werribee River to Mason's Lane from the supply system. Stage 3 is the construction of a new pipe to supply farms along the Werribee Vale Road section of the district. This will mean we can then decommission the old channel system along Werribee Vale Road. Removing these channels from the water supply system will provide significant water savings for the district.

Stage 4 of the project will be carried out in the winter months of 2019 and will involve the pipelining of the last remaining sections of channel from Mason's Lane to the Lerderderg River and in Darley.

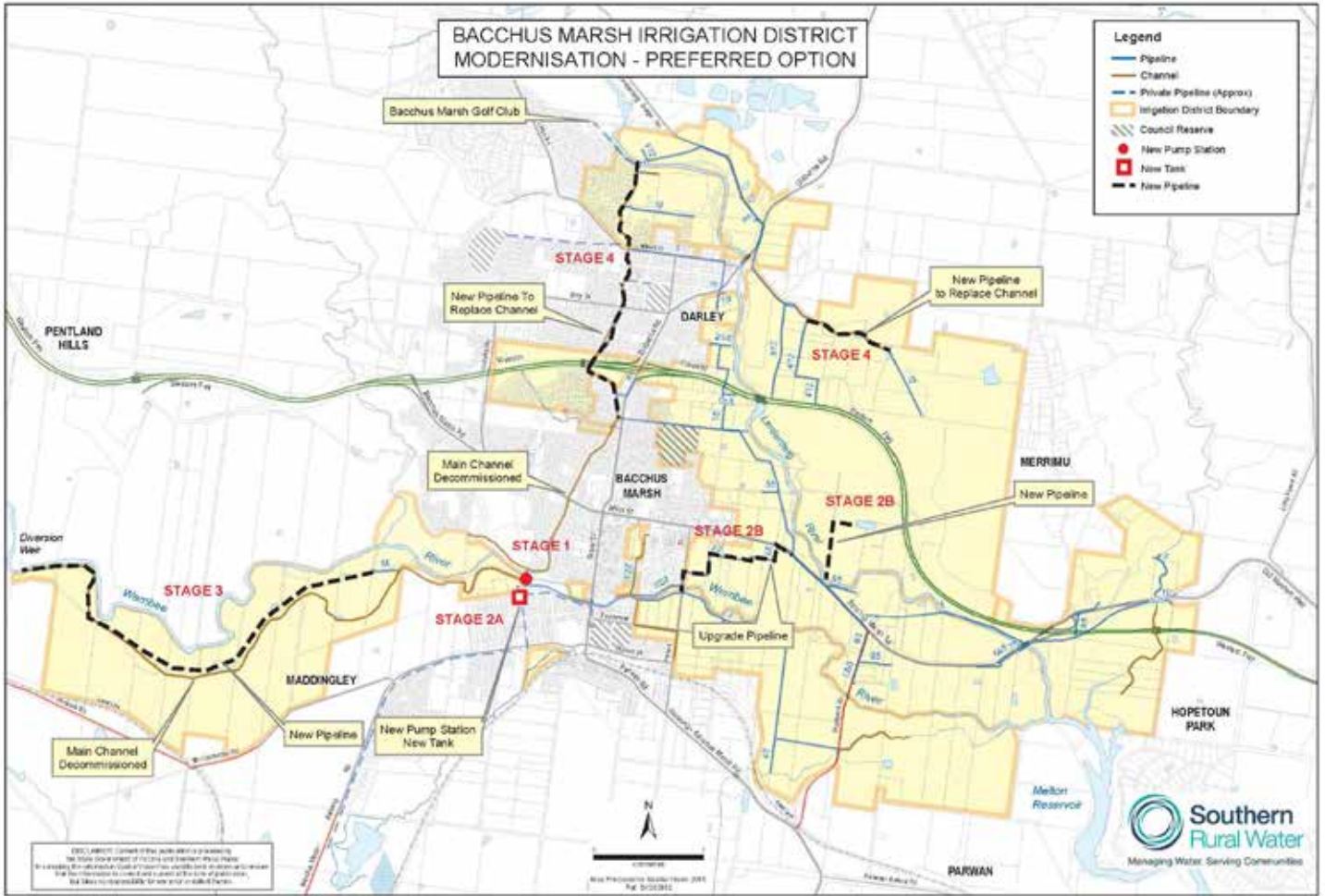
The map on the next page demonstrates the location of the works.

Funding Modernisation

The Victorian Government has contributed \$4.12M towards the \$12.3M project to pipe the BMID. Southern Rural Water are matching that amount.

SRW applied for funding from the Federal Government for the final third. However, we have been unsuccessful.

Despite this, SRW remains fully committed to completing the project and we are continuing to look at alternative funding options for the final stage of the project. We will continue to complete the construction phases of the project, the new



Werribee SRW site redevelopment

The SRW board has recently approved plans to redevelop the SRW site at 1 Tower Road, Werribee.

There are several issues with the site as it stands:

- the office is currently on a large underutilised site and consists of a heritage listed water tower and front office with some portable extensions which were added in the 1990s. The portable extensions are now in poor condition and require replacing
- the depot is also in poor condition and council have a preference for SRW to move the depot out of the broader Werribee central business district
- a large proportion of the land at the site is not used and, under government policy, SRW has a responsibility to maximise the use of land it owns.

All of this presented an opportunity to sell excess land, provide a new fit-for-purpose office, relocate the depot and use the proceeds of the sale of surplus land to fund a new office.

Importantly, this means that there will be no additional costs to the customer - no price impact from these works.

If you have any questions, please call 1300 139 510.



Regular updates

We will continue to provide you with the best information we can on the seasonal outlook and on how we are managing the available water. As the season progresses, we will provide regular updates which may help you to plan your farming activities.

We are always looking for ways to improve our customer service. If you would like more information on any of the above topics, or you have any concerns, please contact one of our staff listed below.

Don't drink the water

Any water from sources managed or licensed by Southern Rural Water, including irrigation storages, channels, rivers and creeks, groundwater and farm dams, is untreated. It should not be considered safe for human consumption without proper treatment.

Contact us



Managing Water. Serving Communities.

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