

Welcome to our Werribee Irrigation District (WID) 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.

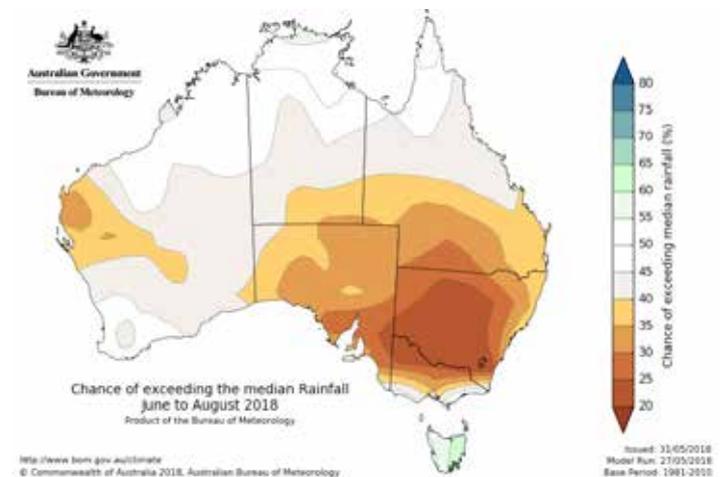
The current storage levels are as follows:

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 5,000ML of water will be carried over in individual accounts to the 2018-19 season in the WID. This is about the same volume of river water supplied to the WID this season. When we include Bacchus Marsh and the Werribee River diverters, the volume of carryover is likely to be about 9,000ML. This volume is 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.

Securing water for the future - Pipelining the WID

WID Modernisation

Having successfully completed stage 1 of the pipeline project in 2017, we are now starting construction works for stage 2 with a further 9km of pipelines replacing old channels. You have probably already seen the pipes along Diggers Road and we will be continuing the pipelining of the main channel alongside Diggers Road from Aviation Road to Whites Road. We will also replace the entire 6/1 channel alongside O'Connors Road.

Stage 3 of the pipeline project will be constructed in the winter months next year.

Funding modernisation works

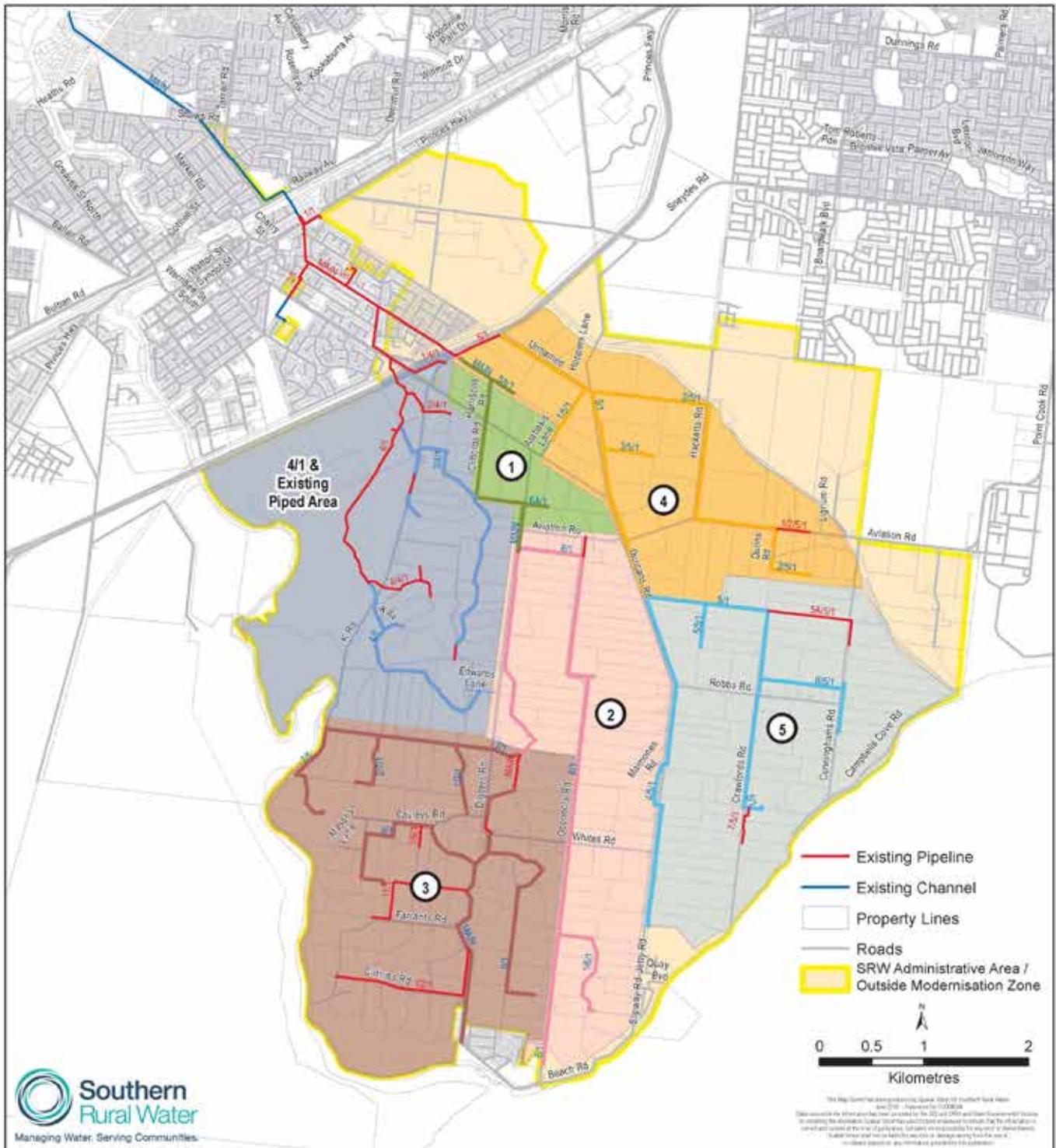
The Victorian Government has contributed \$10.44M towards the \$31.3M project to pipe the WID. Southern Rural Water is matching that amount. So far we have been able to do so without raising customer prices by making operational and capital cost savings and by generating additional revenue from the sale of redundant assets.

SRW applied for funding from the Federal Government for the final third, however, we have been unsuccessful in our bid.

Despite this, SRW remains fully committed to completing the project without impacting significantly on customer prices and we are continuing to look at alternative funding options for the final two stages of the project (stages 4 & 5 in 2020 and 2021).



Werribee Irrigation District - Modernisation MAP 002 - Proposed Staging Zones FULL PIPELINED SYSTEM



Total length of channels to be upgraded - 38,750 metres

	4/1 Pipeline Project (Complete in 2016)		
	Stage 1 (2017)	Main – from 5/1 to 6/1, Channel 5A/1, Channel 6A/1	2,915 m
	Stage 2 (2018)	Main – from 6/1 to 7/1, Channel 6/1 System,	9,239 m
	Stage 3 (2019)	Main – from 7/1 to End, Channel 7/1 System, Channel 8/1, Channel 9/1	10,394 m
	Stage 4 (2020)	Channel 5/1 to 4/5/1, Channel 1/5/1, Channel 2/5/1, Channel 3/5/1	7,912 m
	Stage 5 (2021)	Remainder of Channel 5/1, Channel 4/5/1, Channel 5/5/1, Channel 6/5/1	8,312 m

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.

Groundwater Werribee South

This year's groundwater allocation within the Deulgam Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA) is 100% of licence volume. The starting allocation for 2018-19 is likely to be 50%, based on current data.

It is still critical that all groundwater users comply with the seasonal allocation and their licence conditions. Failing to do so will impact the aquifer and other groundwater users. Non compliance may reduce allocations for next season.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Field Officer at Werribee, Alisha Clark on 0411 107 810 if you have any questions regarding allocations, water transfers or if we can be of further assistance.



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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