

WID water balance

What is water balance?

A water balance documents the volume of water coming into the district against the volume of water we measure as deliveries to customers. The difference represents system 'losses'

Why is this information important to customers?

Understanding the scale of water losses and where they occur is important for all customers. Reducing losses is the cheapest way more water can be made available to customers.

Why do a water balance?

By completing a water balance, Southern Rural Water (SRW) can understand where the losses are occurring. We have upgraded the device to measure river inflows and installed seven accurate measuring devices across the channel system. The water balance highlights where upgrades could save water.

Why do losses occur?

Channel seepage

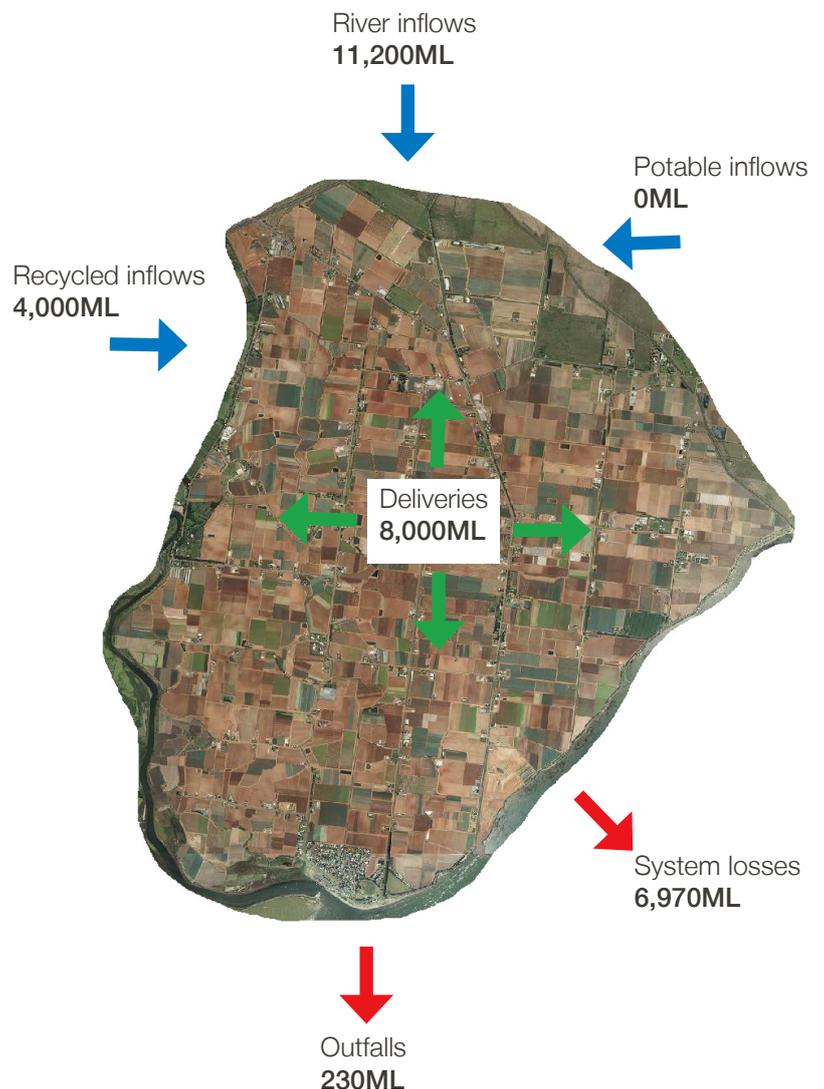


Cracks within the concrete lining the channel supply system let water seep into the ground.

Meter under-recording



Most deliveries are through old inaccurate Dethridge wheels. These generally under-record deliveries to customers



Outfalls

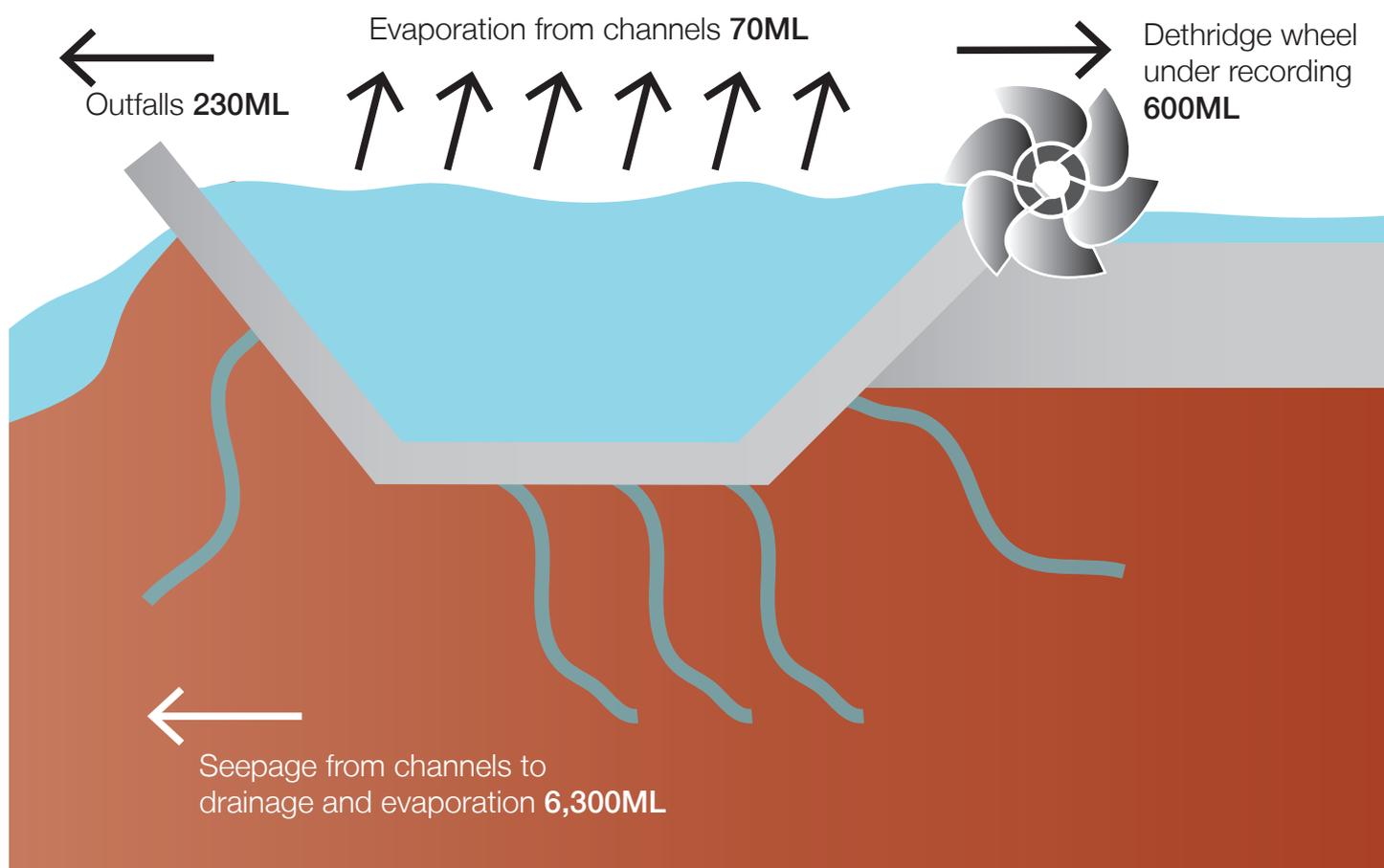
Outfalls from the supply system occur when ordered water cannot be delivered to customers. Water that bypasses customer outlets then flows into the river system and Melton Reservoir.

Evaporation

Evaporation of water from the channel system is a minor source of water loss.

Where do losses go?

The losses for the 2014-15 season are estimated to be **7,200ML**. The image below explains where the losses go.



What can SRW do about losses?

Managing the existing system

SRW manages the system to reduce losses as much as possible. We avoid running the system in low demand periods, as running the system at high flow rates helps to minimise losses.

To minimise outfalls, we also contact customers to confirm orders if weather patterns predict rain and if reduced demand is likely.

Long term solutions

Without replacing the old channels, channel seepage losses will remain.

SRW has prepared a business case document for piping the district and is continuing to have discussions with the state government and customers about funding.

More information

For more information contact us on **1300 139 510** or visit www.srw.com.au.