

WINTER WORKS RACE TOWARDS THE FINISH LINE

As we pass the peak of the cold winter weather, I am pleased to share we are making excellent progress towards an on time-delivery of the winter works program.

We are now nearing the completion of works across the many channels we have worked on this winter. Even better, we have met all the scheduled deadlines for restoring supply of water to customers – and in many instances, we have managed to bring the water back online sooner than expected.

With most of our channel lining and pipeline installation now complete, over the coming month or two, our works will now focus on leaving a neat and tidy site. This means backfilling trenches and holes, installing fences, and in some instances, installing new concrete footpaths.

I'm looking forward to bringing you a final update in the coming months as works come to a close. We will have some great time-lapse videos and photographs to share, including before-and-after shots and infographics on outcomes from SWEP.



If you have any questions relating to our works, I encourage you to get in touch by contacting us on 1800 808 830 and asking to speak with the SWEP team, or emailing us at swep@lmw.vic.gov.au.

Daniel Freitag

Daniel Freitag - Project Director

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE



Channel lining
80% complete



Pipeline
installation
100% complete



Dethridge wheel
removal
100% complete



**80% of channels
back online**

FIND OUT MORE

Visit www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep for timelapse, maps, updates and contact information.



A SPLASH OF EXCITEMENT AT THE NICHOLS POINT PIPELINE

As part of the SWEP 2024 Winter Works program, our team has removed the old open channel next to the school and replaced it with an underground pipeline. While most of our upgraded agricultural channels across Sunraysia have been relined to save water, at Nichols Point, we are achieving water savings via a pipeline solution that will improve safety and reconnect the open space between the oval and the school.

This last month has brought a hive of activity as the new buried pipeline gets ready to be brought online permanently.

First water in the pipe!

We ran the first water through the pipe over the last weekend in July to give local community the opportunity to fill their water tanks and access water, while also testing the pipeline's performance.

Since our work on the downstream channels isn't finished yet, the pipe and channels have since been brought back down to let our teams pressure test the pipeline and finish the downstream channel works.

Putting the pipeline through its paces: Pressure testing

As a final check before the pipeline is ready to permanently supply water, our team has pressure tested the new pipeline – and it has passed! This test checked for any leaks and ensured all pipeline connections are watertight.

To pressure test the pipeline, we blocked both ends of the pipe and filled it with water to a test pressure and monitored to see if the pressure held. This testing gives us the opportunity to identify any leaks or defects and fix them before bringing the pipeline online permanently.

The pipeline will be fully operational in the coming week or two. Our team will then remain on-site to complete backfilling the pipeline, ensure the area is tidy, and install fencing and a new footpath where the old footbridge bridge near Nichols Point Primary School used to be.

The school students and local community have been interested, patient neighbours as the works have been underway. A big thank you once again to the students, teachers and families of Nichols Point Primary for having us (and our big machinery and equipment!) alongside you this year.

WHELIE GREAT WATER WHEEL REMOVAL PROGRESS

We are delighted to report we have now met our project target of removing 279 Dethridge wheels (water wheels) from Sunraysia's water network.

Removing these wheels will help save water by removing 'weak points' in the system and reducing leaks through the pits and valve plates.

The process has involved removing the concrete pit and pipes and repairing the concrete or asbestos piping. Each wheel removal has been different, requiring a customised approach to removal – and keeping our team on their toes!

