SWEP
SUNRAYSIA WATER EFFICIENCY PROJECT

PROJECT UPDATE

DECEMBER 2024

FULL STREAM AHEAD: SWEP'S MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

In 2023, I reached out to introduce the Sunraysia Water Efficiency Project (SWEP), an initiative designed to secure the region's water future. Now, I am delighted to share that, as of November 2024, the SWEP project is officially complete.

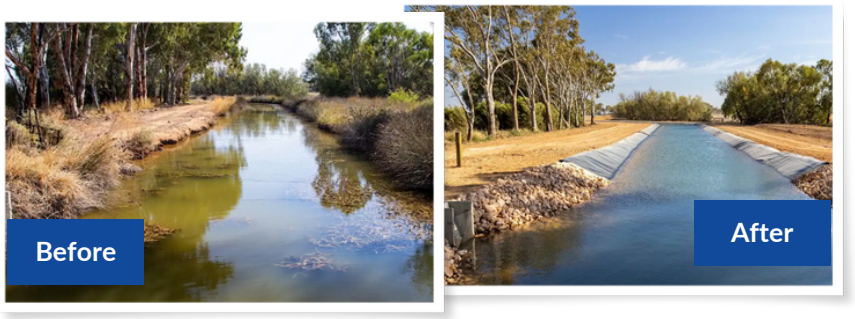
This project delivers lasting benefits: more efficient and reliable water delivery and extended lifespans for critical infrastructure.

Additionally, by reducing water leakage and seepage, once audited, SWEP is aiming to return 1.8 GL of recovered water annually to the environment – contributing to water conservation and supporting the Murray-Darling Basin's ecological health.

Your patience and cooperation throughout the past two winters have been invaluable. We know that water and irrigation are the lifeblood of those who work in the agricultural and horticultural sectors, and we are grateful for your understanding and collaboration during this journey.

Thank you to all growers, schools, contractors and community members who have played a part in making this project a resounding success.

Lower Murray Water sincerely thanks the Australian and Victorian Governments for funding, supporting and believing in the Sunraysia Water Efficiency Project. Together, great things have been achieved.



Daniel Freitag

Daniel Freitag - Project Director

WANT TO SEE IT ALL? DIVE ONLINE FOR PICS, VIDEOS & MORE

For a full project report, interactive before and after photos, timelapse construction reels and project videos, jump onto the Lower Murray Water website.

SCAN THROUGH TO VIEW

Or type into your browser:
www.lmw.vic.gov.au/swep

THE CHANNEL CHALLENGE - WORKS OUTCOMES

SWEP has sustained the long-term reliability of water delivery and agricultural productivity of our region through extending the lifespan of channel infrastructure and removing water meters that were leading to water loss.

Modernising channels

The project modernised 27 km of outdated concrete and earthen channels. Earthen channels faced risks from vegetation overgrowth and collapses, while both types suffered significant water loss through seepage and degradation.

Over 2.5 km of new underground pipeline was installed in key areas for cost-efficiency and community benefit. The remaining 25 km+ of channels were fully relined, with repairs to cracked concrete made where needed and a new durable liner installed on top.

Channel lining

Relining 25 km of channels

Pipeline

Installing 2.5 km of new pipeline

Treating water meters

Redundant and inaccurate flowmeters contributed to water losses across Sunraysia's irrigation network, due to leakage through or around the meters, as well as unauthorised use. The team undertook works on two types of meters across the network: small meter outlets (SMOs) which are also known as Dethridge wheels, and domestic and stock outlets (D&S).

The project has treated 682+ meters, comprised of:

357 small meter outlets (SMOs) removed

101 domestic and stock outlets (D&S) upgraded

224 flowmeters investigated with no works necessary

THE SWEP SUCCESS SNAPSHOT

More than **1.8 GL** of water saved annually

85 landowner agreements signed

$20 million estimated regional GDP increase

Reduced operational costs for irrigators

WHO DO I CONTACT NOW FOR CHANNEL / IRRIGATION / WATER SUPPORT?

With SWEP coming to a completion, please reach out directly to the LMW corporate services team for any queries, questions or concerns around channels, meters or general water enquiries.

1800 808 830

contactus@lmw.vic.gov.au

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