



On-farm benefits of a piped water supply

The range of benefits and possibilities from a piped water supply and on-farm water reticulation system include:

- > Improved water quality for home and garden with the piped supply not exposed to contaminants en-route or through surface runoff.
Benefits include:
 - improved results with clothes washing
 - extended life of home appliances
 - gardens thriving providing a more comfortable environment for families.
- > Improved effectiveness and performance of herbicides and chemicals for crop spraying.
- > Superior results have been achieved with stock in pipelines areas.
- > Greater reliability and security of supply.
- > Greater opportunity for diversification of farming operations and development of niche enterprises.
- > Water available to all parts of the property, irrespective of previous dam locations.
- > Additional access to stored water for fire-fighting on private land with on-farm water reticulation systems and water storage tanks.

Some case studies:

*Certified to best practice standards
ISO 9001 / 14001 and AS/NZS 4801*

Mallee flower business doubles with water security in mind

If you can see past the glitter and glamour of Melbourne Cup celebrities rubbing shoulders in The Bird Cage, you might notice a white flower from the Mallee providing the perfect backdrop.

Hopetoun farmers Jamie and Vanessa Glare and Jamie's parents Barry and Margaret were rapt to see their ornithogalum's grace last year's floral displays in The Bird Cage. They've also enjoyed seeing them in a recently-released bridal magazine.

And it's highly likely you'll start seeing more of their white bulbs after they doubled their flower crop this year thanks to the peace of mind a secure water supply via the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline is delivering.

The Glare family chose to grow ornithogalums to complement their 1030-hectare mixed farm near Hopetoun because they require little water over summer. But knowing they can tap into the pipeline supply when needed provided the impetus to pursue expansion plans.

"With the pipeline, we know we've got security of water if the years aren't with us and we don't get sufficient rainfall. To know that we can access pipeline water if we need to gives us real peace of mind," Barry says.

Jamie and Barry say the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline is one of the best things that has happened to the region.

"It's such a good thing for the region. It certainly gives everyone with stock security but it also makes it possible to go into some of these smaller enterprises such as ours," they say.

Water Quality

Water supplied from GWMWater rural pipeline systems does not meet accepted Government standards for drinking water, and should not be used for drinking, food preparation, ice making, etc.

Pipeline helps farm enterprise diversify

Farming comes naturally to fourth-generation Wimmera-Mallee farmer Ross Cook who farms on 'Echunga' with his son Simon.

But one thing that doesn't come naturally on the flat arid property, 15 kilometres west of Hopetoun, is water. During his lifetime an ongoing challenge to his cropping and stock enterprise has been a reliable, quality and secure water source.

Until now.

Thanks to completion of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project not only does Ross have access to high-quality water but he has opportunity and most importantly – choices.

Connecting to the pipeline in 2009 was the final step in Ross and Simon's planning to establish a 3500-sheep feedlot to complement the cropping side of their business.

With a strong network of connections in the feedlot industry they were ready to go as soon as the pipeline reached their area.

And they haven't looked back.

When they knew the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project was going ahead they started planning their feedlot.

“Water was one restriction for our feedlot plans – it was the final hurdle. A combination of things came together at the same time including us being able to connect to the pipeline.”

Ross says that having secure, quality water means if they see a terrific opportunity, they can grab it.

“What we're doing with the feedlot is not rocket science, but it's another string to our farming bow. Now that we've got a constant, secure, quality supply of water – if we see an opportunity we can go in hard and grab it. We can vary the sheep we put through the feedlot or we can shut it down completely and just focus on the cropping.

“Thanks to the pipeline, we are more confident and most importantly, we have got more choices.”

Pipeline provides lifeline to new vineyard

Nested in the wheat and barley fields of the Wimmera, with views of Mt Arapiles on one side and the Grampians National Park on the other, is a vineyard that has everyone talking.

Barangaroo Boutique Wines, established by Chris and Sheila McClure, is only a stone's throw from where Chris's great grandparents settled and is named after their family farm.

Their vineyard is one of only three in Victoria and 50 in Australia growing Vermentino – a warm climate white variety from Italy.

But if it wasn't for the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, this burgeoning vineyard would not exist.

When Chris and Sheila planted their first wines in 2005 construction of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline had been announced and the first pipes had been laid at Halls Gap.

Knowing the pipeline, hence a secure water supply, was on the horizon – the couple knew they would have to start planting to take advantage of what a piped supply could help deliver.

Fast forward to 2013, with the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline complete and delivering precious growth water to regional industry, and it's a whole different story.

The 2.5-hectare vineyard is almost at full production and Chris says they can finally sleep at night.

“Although 2013 is actually an extremely dry year, the pipeline gives us confidence to keep moving forward knowing water is available. Things are definitely looking positive. At the end of the day, if it wasn't for the pipeline, we wouldn't be where we are today.”

Read the full profiles on our customers connected to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline at www.gwmwater.org.au/services/wimmera-mallee-pipeline/new-connections