

Southern Wimmera & Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply



Introduction

At the beginning of 2023 Pyrenees Shire Council and GWMWater in partnership with Northern Grampians and Central Goldfields Shire Councils and Central Highlands Water commenced a feasibility study for a rural water supply over a farming and viticultural area to the east and west of the Pyrenees Ranges and Karra Karra National Park.

The area of interest between Glenorchy and Marnoo to the west and Bung Bong and Bealiba in the East comprises some 354,219 hectares. The objectives of the project are to provide a dependable rural water supply, utilising existing water infrastructure and storages where possible and considering how to accommodate future growth. The introduction of a piped supply would help underpin agricultural and viticultural activities and increase productivity, support water supplies to urban centres and could also provide significant environmental benefits to the region.

The project has been made possible by funding of \$300,000 from the Victorian Government through a grant to the Pyrenees Shire Council under the Investment Fast-Track Fund.

Project Status

Following a positive response to an expression of interest process in early 2023 there has proven to be strong interest in the project by landholders across the entire region. This indicates a sufficient level of demand exists for water connections for the project to be viable, and technical studies have now confirmed the project to be feasible after completion of the feasibility study at the end of July 2023.

Next Steps

Following successful completion of the feasibility study, GWMWater and the project partners are now about to undertake a business case. This important work will investigate the financial viability of the project and highlight any project risks or uncertainties and how these might be managed.

A positive business case will allow the project partners to seek funding from higher levels of government for the construction of the project.

As the project progresses the progress partners will be continuing to seek expressions of interest from landholders who may not have had the opportunity to lodge their applications earlier this year.

There are a number of community events and drop-in sessions being planned for early October 2023 which will allow landholders to learn more about what this project could mean for them and their property. These sessions will include details about landholder water connections and water tariffs that apply.

If you haven't yet registered your expression of interest you can do so via:

Website:

gwmwater.org.au/swnep-study

Email:

info@gwmwater.org.au

Phone:

1300 659 961 during business hours



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