



# Feasibility: Water Security pipe

*GWMWater have produced some information leaflets regarding the project to explain why the study is underway and what some potential benefits may be for the region. Some information is re-produced below, for those who may have not yet received the package. For further information, including all the leaflets, go to [www.gwmwater.org.au/wwrp](http://www.gwmwater.org.au/wwrp) or call 1300 659 961.*

“The West Wimmera Shire covers more than 9,000 square kilometres, encompassing sections of the Little Desert and Big Desert National Parks and more than 2,000 natural wetlands. The main economic activity in the region is agriculture: primarily broadacre grain, intensive animal, seed, sheep and wool production.

The southern end of the West Wimmera, shire is primarily reliant on rainfall runoff for domestic and stock water supplies. Access to good quality groundwater supports agricultural activities in the western side of the shire area but the West Wimmera aquifers tend to be more saline and lower yielding in the eastern end.

This area has typically had a reliable catchment to support grazing and agricultural activities, but years of drought have had a severe impact on agricultural productivity.

The West Wimmera shire also boasts a large number of wetlands, which when full, provide important habitat for flora and fauna as well as social and recreational benefits to the region. In drier years these natural wetlands have run dry, threatening the environmental and social benefits that water can have in this region.

In the context of climate change, it is likely that these wetlands will be dry more often than has been experienced in the past and the extent that local catchment dams have also been a reliable source of water is also being challenged under climate change, and the extent that this has implications for agricultural productivity may be aided by a reticulated water supply.”

## **What is the West Wimmera Rural Water Supply Project?**

“GWMWater and the West Wimmera Shire

Council have been approached to investigate the feasibility of extending the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline to provide water to the farm gate in the south east region of the shire, where groundwater and surface catchments are unreliable.

If feasible, a pipeline extension would reach into agricultural areas in the south east of the West Wimmera Shire where traditionally there has been reliable rainfall. With the prospect of an ongoing drier climate, agricultural productivity and growth could be enhanced in this region by the installation of a reticulated water delivery network.

A piped water supply would also provide ongoing water security for the townships of Edenhope and Harrow as well as significant economic, social, recreational and environmental benefits to the region.”

## **Project information**

GWMWater fact sheets state that potential beneficiaries may include consolidation and expansion of existing agricultural enterprises, new enterprises and investment, improved town security of supply for Edenhope and Harrow, increased environmental benefits for waterways and wetlands, recreational and social benefits of water releases into Lake Wallace or other waterbodies.

The feasibility project is funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and GWMWater.

A community consultative committee is being established by West Wimmera Shire Council. This will represent the views of potential customers, and other beneficiaries, including landholders, commercial businesses, and groups. Application forms are available online and must be delivered to WWSC by February 17 to be considered.