

## EID PROGRAM DOESN'T SHOP LOCALLY

At the Agriculture Victoria workshop in Edenhope on Tuesday, a number of concerns regarding the Electronic Identification Device (EID) rollout were raised from the floor at the Edenhope Football Clubrooms.

A packed crowd of over 80 producers voiced a number of concerns about the value for money offered by the devices.

While Agriculture Victoria's Robert Suter, said the program was designed to be run as cost neutral, issues raised by Tom Houlihan raised the point of cost to the West Wimmera shire.

The EID tender process is so large that the companies certainly aren't local. Further to that, the online sales of the tags and ancillary products mean local businesses, like West Wimmera Rural Services will not benefit from the program.

This issue was taken up by WWRS owner, Luke Munro, who said the the funding packages on offer for transition across the supply chain ignored the retailers.

He said, 'This strips a whole income stream without any thanks.'

'I have spent hours explaining you can't buy

from me. Sure there are a couple more staff in Bendigo, but you have literally stripped millions out of regional Victoria.

While Luke is able to assist farmers order online, he loses the ability to do a bulk order as he previously offered, leaving him with multiple credit card transactions that accumulate by the month.

As there are a number of tagging guns, he will be unable to stock all lines. While farmers are able to order replacements online, Luke asked who will want to wait 10 days. *cont. page 12.*

# Feasibility: Water Security pipe

GWMWater staff member, Simon Coutts, responsible for oversight of the WestWimmera Rural Pipeline Feasibility Study, has urged interested people to submit their expressions of interest by this Friday 17 February.

### Landholder EOIs

Expressions are open for landholders interested in being a part of the project, to learn more about viability of a pipeline connection.

Simon said that landholders should take an open view to the opportunity.

'Lodging an expression of interest does not commit you to the project. It does mean we can look at where the greatest need for water is. Then

we can determine the most viable options.

Simon indicated there are around six different options possible, and this includes the pipeline travelling a variety of distances and directions depending on interest shown.

Based on feedback from the workshops, it seems the pipeline feasibility report would look at potentially following a line further south than originally anticipated.

Interest has been shown to now extend into Southern Grampians Shire landholders.

Simon said that GWMWater now plan to complete a mailout further south, to see how far the interest extends.

Some concerns raised at the forums were quickly dispelled by GWMWater staff.

Simon confirmed in the workshops that no landholder will be forced to connect.

Even if the pipe travels through (or under) your property, there will be no obligation to connect.

However, if you don't lodge an expression of interest and instead 'wait and see', you may find the pipeline route ends up too far from your property to connect in subsequent years.

**More information [www.gwmwater.org.au/wwrp](http://www.gwmwater.org.au/wwrp)**

### Community Consultative Committee EOIs

As well as landholder expressions of interest GWMWater are calling on people to join the Community Consultative Committee.

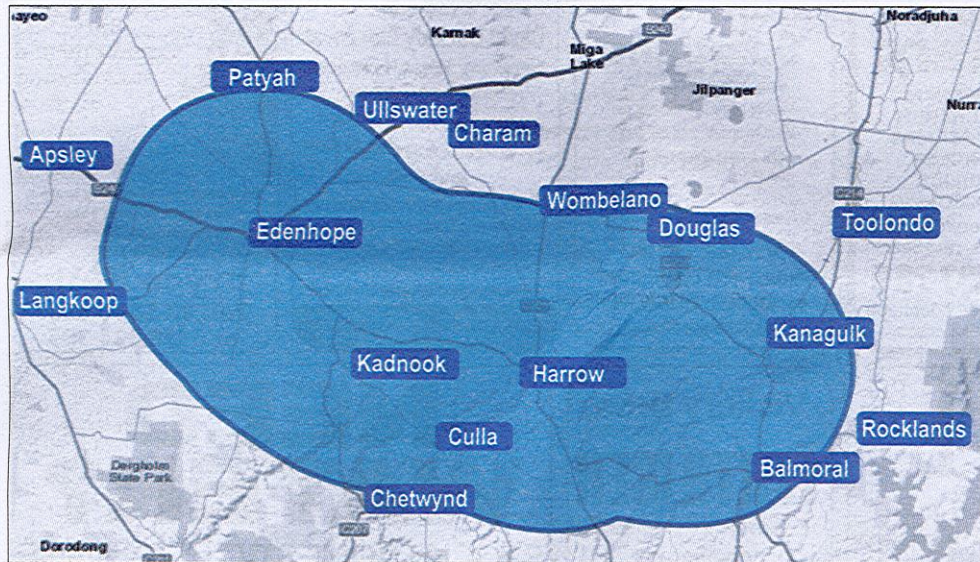
This committee is for landholders, commercial business owners, interested community members and community organisations e.g. angling, sporting, environmental, service groups.

Whether you are worried or excited about the project, it is important you consider a role with the CCC, as GWMWater have said this committee will be important to providing feedback about the feasibility study, including locations, stakeholders, beneficiaries and risks.

The CCC will be appointed by and chaired by the West Wimmera Shire Council

For a copy of the committee form go to 49 Elizabeth Street Edenhope.

**Expressions of interest for both aspects of this major infrastructure feasibility project are due Friday 17 February 2017**



▲ The initial footprint for investigating the pipeline feasibility. Source GWMWater. (note people outside the footprint are still encouraged to lodge an expression of interest)

## WATER USE ENQUIRY

The House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources has begun an inquiry into water use efficiency.

On 9 February 2017 the Minister for Agriculture, The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, requested the Committee inquire into and report on water use efficiency in Australian agriculture.

Australia is spending record amounts to modernise its irrigation infrastructure in an effort to make agricultural water use more efficient and increase the amount of water available for environmental flows.

Committee Chair Mr Rick Wilson MP said that the Committee's inquiry will focus on the benefits these upgrade programs provide for irrigators as well as the value for money they represent, and will also seek to identify any areas where resources may be better directed.

'The agricultural sector is obviously very important to the Australian economy and irrigated agriculture is a big part of that,' Mr Wilson said. 'The Committee wants to make sure that Australia is getting the best outcomes from these programs that we possibly can.'

The Committee will be accepting submissions to the inquiry until 31 March 2017.

The inquiry will focus on:

- the adequacy and efficacy of current programs in achieving irrigation water use efficiencies,

- how existing expenditure provides value for money for the Commonwealth,
- possible improvements to programs, their administration and delivery, and
- other matters, including, but not limited to, maintaining or increasing agricultural production, consideration of environmental flows, and adoption of world's best practice.

The public can track the committee via the website. Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

Contact Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources (02) 6277 4500, agriculture.reps@aph.gov.au, www.aph.gov.au/agriculture



Committee Secretariat contact: PO Box 6021, Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Chair, Mr Rick Wilson MP, Liberal Party of Australia, O'Connor WA

Deputy Chair, Ms Meryl Swanson MP, Australian Labor Party, Paterson NSW

Mr Andrew Broad MP, The Nationals, Mallee VIC, Ms Justine Keay MP, Australian Labor Party, Braddon TAS, Mr Matt Keogh MP, Australian Labor Party, Burt WA, Dr John McVeigh MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Groom QLD, Mr Tony Pasin MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Barker SA

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**THANK YOU**  
 Congratulations to the Henley committee for another great day. The effort they give, year after year, brings people back to this great town of ours. Good and old friends, kids and families, catching up is the best medicine. You have excelled once again and done yourselves and Edenhope proud.  
 You have shown us that together, as a town and as a community we stand strong and have a great future.  
 By setting ourselves high standards and trying our best to achieve them, shows true character.

**WELL DONE**  
 "United we stand, divided we fall."  
 The future of Edenhope is in your hands.