

Tapping In



GWMWater

Newsletter 1 2025/2026



Nick Mumford, Executive Manager Infrastructure, accepting the award at the Australian Water Awards in Adelaide.



The Elmhurst Water Treatment Plant from above.

Drinking water project in national spotlight

GWMWater's Elmhurst Water Treatment Plant has won the Regional Infrastructure Project Innovation Award at the 2025 Australian Water Awards.

This groundbreaking project successfully upgraded Elmhurst's water supply to meet drinking water standards through the implementation of our first fully off-grid water treatment facility. Powered by a stand-alone energy system—including an 85-kilowatt solar array, battery storage, and backup generator—the plant delivers reliable, low-cost, and clean energy to supply customers with cost-effective drinking water while significantly reducing emissions.

GWMWater Managing Director, Mark Williams, praised the team behind the project:

"Having our project recognised at the Australian Water Awards is a testament to our staff's unwavering commitment to sustainable water solutions and forward-thinking innovation. This recognition reflects the passion, collaboration, and technical excellence that drives everything we do for the future of our community."

We are also actively progressing several other drinking water upgrades across our service region.

'Ice pigging' works were successfully completed in Kaniva as part of the town's drinking water upgrade project. 'Ice pigging' is a modern and environmentally-friendly method of cleaning water pipes using an ice slurry. This innovative process helps remove built-up sediment, improving water clarity and quality – all without the need for harsh chemicals. The next phase involves testing the water and submitting results to the Department of Health for approval before it can be officially declared a drinking water supply.

Drinking water upgrades are also well underway in Berrillock and Culgoa. Contracts have been awarded to Ward Bros Earthmoving for pipeline construction and CHS Group for facility development in Berrillock and Culgoa.

A tender for a pipeline from Ararat to Moyston will be released in the coming months. Moyston residents can expect a more detailed project update via direct mail soon.

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Proudly supporting our community through event sponsorship

At GWMWater, we're proud to support local communities by sponsoring events and activities that promote environmental sustainability, economic growth, and social wellbeing.

Recently, we partnered with iconic regional events including Grape Escape, the Stawell Gift, and Run the Gap (pictured), providing water trailers and fountains to help keep attendees hydrated. We also supported Run the Gap by granting access to the stunning Bellfield Dam Wall, adding a unique feature to their course.

Our sponsorship program offers community groups access to branded merchandise, drinking water trailers or fountains, and in some cases, financial support.

If your group is planning an event that aligns with our values, we'd love to hear from you. Apply for sponsorship today at gwmwater.org.au/sponsorship



Rocklands Reservoir ready for fishing!

Lower water levels at Rocklands Reservoir have enabled the extension of the Hynes Reserve boat ramp. Funded by the Victorian Government's Better Boating fund, the extension to the existing concrete ramp has improved boating access when water levels are down.

Since 2021, over \$100 million has been invested into more than 50 ramp upgrades across Victoria, including projects GWMWater has delivered at Rocklands, Toolondo Reservoir, Lake Lonsdale and Taylors Lake.



Fish restocking

Rocklands Reservoir has become a hotspot for recreational fishing, thanks in part to Victorian Fisheries' restocking program.

Over the past few years, more than 5 million native fish — Murray cod, golden perch, and silver perch — have been released into the reservoir.

This has led to a surge in visitor numbers, with the reservoir now attracting over 25,000 people annually which supports business in nearby towns.

"Rocklands Reservoir is now the jewel in the crown of native fishing in Victoria," says Victorian Fisheries Authority CEO Travis Dowling.

Pictured right: Outdoor Recreation Minister Steve Dimopoulos and Victorian Fisheries officer, Imogen Paine, stocking Murray Cod at Rocklands. Photo by Paul Carracher, The Weekly Advertiser.

Planning for the future

In addition to infrastructure upgrades, work is underway on a new Rocklands Recreation Management Plan.

This plan is being developed in collaboration with key stakeholders and aims to guide future improvements while ensuring the sustainable use of the reservoir.

It will address the needs of various user groups, including boaters, fishers, campers, and nature enthusiasts, while protecting the environmental and cultural values of the area.



Glimpse into the water sector for students

During May, GWMWater welcomed Year 9 students from St Brigid's College as part of a Work Experience Industry Taster Project, organised by Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network.

Over several days, the students explored different industries, gaining valuable insights to help shape their future career paths.

At GWMWater, students received an overview of our organisation, through presentations on Operations Management, Engineering, Innovative Projects, Water Operations, and Environmental roles. They got to see the breadth of GWMWater responsibilities in managing water resources, treatment, distribution, and wastewater services across the region.

Hands-on experiences, including water tasting, testing, and a workplace simulation, gave students a realistic glimpse into the industry. GWMWater also participated in the Career Expo on 1 July, connecting with students and highlighting the many diverse career opportunities in the water sector.



Alan Tomy (right) and Alby Sunoop (left) from St Brigid's College.

2025/2026 tariffs

We're committed to keeping water services affordable, reliable and secure. We've worked hard to keep prices stable with most adjustments limited to CPI increases.

Our water and wastewater charges are regulated by the Essential Services Commission and align to the 2023 Water Price Review. For more information, visit bit.ly/gwmtariffs. View our full list of charges at gwmwater.org.au/charges.

If you're having trouble paying your water account, please reach out to us on 1300 659 961 or visit gwmwater.org.au/bill-help.

We offer confidential, personalised support to help you manage payments.

Meet Robbie Somers!

GWMWater is pleased to welcome Robert (Robbie) Somers as our new Manager Communications and Engagement.

Robbie joined the organisation in June 2025, bringing with him a wealth of experience from his previous role as Media and Communications Officer at Horsham Rural City Council. Originally from Dimboola, Robbie completed his schooling in Horsham and has maintained strong ties to the Wimmera region throughout his journalism career in Melbourne and Horsham.

In his new role, Robbie will lead the communications team, ensuring the organisation's work is closely aligned with GWMWater's Strategic Objectives and Values.

"I'm rapt to be joining GWMWater and contributing to an organisation that plays such a vital role in our region."

Outside of work, Robbie enjoys spending time with his wife, Hannah, and two children. A keen sports fan, he follows both footy and cricket closely and proudly barracks for St Kilda in the AFL.

We are excited to have Robbie on board and look forward to the positive impact his leadership will bring to our communications and engagement efforts.



Looking for your next career move?

Sign up to job alerts at
gwmwater.org.au/careers

National Water Week 2025



Our 2025 poster competition is underway!

With exciting prizes up for grabs, this is the perfect chance to dive into the world of water conservation through creativity. This year's theme, Water Heroes: Save Every Drop, encourages young artists to showcase how we can all make a difference in protecting this vital resource.

Open to students from Kindergarten to Grade 6, participants can design, draw, or paint a poster that highlights the role of water heroes in saving water. Get ready to unleash your imagination and make a splash with your artwork!

For more information or to submit an entry, go to nationalwaterweek.com.au/gwm-water



See you at the Field Days!

GMMWater will be onsite at the Mallee Machinery Field Days. Come and speak to us about current projects, your water services or play our game to win a prize!

We will be at our usual site, 63. Come along and say hi!

Your chance to win \$100 off your next bill!



SCAN ME

Enter our competition by answering the below question for your chance to win \$100 off your next water bill!

How many visitors does Rocklands Reservoir attract annually?

Your answer _____

Your GMMWater account number _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Make sure your entry gets to us no later than:

4 pm Friday 29 August 2025

Entries can be:

- > posted to us at **PO Box 481, Horsham 3402**
- > completed online at gmmwater.org.au/competition
- > submitted by scanning the above QR code

For terms and conditions, as well as recent winners, visit gmmwater.org.au/competition



Keep our staff safe

From 1 July 2025, a new Victorian road rule will help protect those who serve our community on the roadside.

Drivers must slow to 40km/h when passing stationary or slow-moving vehicles (under 10km/h) with flashing lights or sirens—this includes GMMWater vehicles, as well as police, emergency services, tow trucks, and roadside assistance.

This rule applies to all roads (urban, rural, highways and freeways), and in both directions, unless separated by a median strip.

Following this road rule will help to maintain a safe workplace for our staff and those working under amber, magenta, blue and red lights and allow us all to go home safely to our families each day. Learn more at transport.vic.gov.au



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