

## Measuring water savings and targeting future remediation works

With water now moving through the system, G-MW staff have begun post remediation water loss measurements using the automatic regulators. System improvements and importantly water savings will be determined by comparing the current performance of the remediate sections of channel with the results recorded for the same sections prior to the start of works.

The 'pondage tests' involve measuring the volume of water lost from a pool (between two regulators) when the regulators at each end and other outlets including on farm outlets are closed. The results will then be subject to further analysis to 'normalise' the results and to take account for the expected life of the remediation works. The results will then provide the first verified estimates of water savings and an assessment of the success or otherwise of our remediation works.

All water savings whether they be from G-MW CGI-4 and Shepparton modernisation projects or from the NVIRP will be subject to independent audit before any water is transferred to the investors.

G-MW staff will also be closely monitoring the network and will further tune the system to reflect changes in the hydraulic characteristics brought about by the lined channels and changed profiles.

### Customer Service

G-MW is working with Rubicon Systems to explore the introduction of a number of new features that will hopefully be available from next season. The features being considered include:

- More flexible arrangements including the opportunity to extend irrigation if required;
- Optional SMS text service to notify a customer of gate opening and closing.
- Optional functionality to allow manual on site operation.

### Meter accuracy testing

G-MW is currently identifying a number of sites that are representative of the region and can provide a meaningful indication of meter performance in the field in the CG2 system. We are currently planning to begin testing in October, once pool loss measurement activities are complete.

### Changing Personnel

**David Kent**, who has overseen the Remediation project has recently accepted a position as Executive Director Irrigation Modernisation with the Northern Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP). David will commence his new role from 7th October. **Matt Barden**, will replace David and will continue to oversee the CG2 remediation project.

**Kevin Preece**, has recently moved from Manager Central Goulburn Operations to a new role within G-MW's Operations group where he will be managing the workforce changes resulting from modernisation.

**Daniel Irwin** is acting Manager Central Goulburn Operations. Contact details have been updated in this newsletter to reflect these changes.

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# CG2 remediation

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## Start of season enables further progress for project

Over the winter shut down we have undertaken a number of initiatives including extensive channel remediation works, and we are confident many of the issues impacting on service levels for some CG2 customers have been resolved. The 4% seasonal allocation announced on 15 September paves the way for us to address some of the remaining matters including assessing the impact of the extensive channel remediation work on system performance and undertaking further meter testing to confirm accuracy of meters installed as part of the works program.

Some of these outstanding issues were identified by CG2 irrigators during their recent meeting with Russell Pell. Russell is independently overseeing the project's progress and brings his considerable experience as Chair of G-MW's Central Goulburn Reconfiguration Working Group.

The Farm Irrigation Assessment process is continuing to deliver exciting on-farm opportunities for customers and real system improvements for G-MW. In particular the process is assisting to identify opportunities to rationalise spur channels that will streamline our channel network, improve service levels and system efficiency. The Farm Irrigation Assessments process has been adopted for the roll out of outlet replacements right across G-MW's irrigation network.

G-MW would like to thank Colin Findlay for his committed efforts assisting customers with their Farm Irrigation Assessments along the CG2. Colin has contributed extensively to the development of policies and processes to be adopted in the modernization project across northern Victoria.

Denis Santamaria  
Project Manager

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# CG2 Remediation



## Specific Programs

### Farm Irrigation Assessments

Colin Findlay has completed farm assessments with all 53 CG2 customers. Through this process we have made important steps towards addressing supply issues impacting on some customers. Colin is finalizing several commissioned whole farm plans (WFPs) that were triggered by the process. The WFPs will assist both G-MW and irrigators to evaluate potential channel rationalizations with the goal of improving system performance for customers and G-MW.

### Channel Remediation

G-MW's FutureFlow has completed the majority of the 16 km of channel identified for remediation within the CG2 system. To ensure no interruptions to supply this season, works on the CG2 from the CG2/2 off take to River Road, CG2 downstream of regulator RN51 to Toolamba Road and CG 8/2 spur channel from the CG2 off take to River Road have been deferred to next winter.

Over the course of this season we will assess the impact of the completed remediation works, and use this knowledge to reassess the works planned for next winter.

Where G-MW has installed black plastic lining, pool standard safety fencing has been installed where the channel is within 100 meters of a house, with high-standard 7 strand fencing installed along all other sections. The works are expected to be completed by the end of October.

### Rationalising redundant infrastructure

Rationalising infrastructure is a vital step in streamlining our network to deliver water where, when and how it's needed as efficiently as possible, while containing Area operating and maintenance costs. We are currently considering case studies on the CG2 that could see up to 9 km of spur channel, 40 outlets and associated structures decommissioned. In partnership with local customers we have already decommissioned seven FlumeGate outlets from the CG2. The gates will be reinstalled in other locations as outlets are upgraded across G-MW's network.

Many of the rationalization opportunities have resulted from customers taking the opportunity created by the Farm Irrigation Assessments to rethink and redesign their

- on-farm irrigation layout (for example supply points and locations) and
- delivery arrangements, including arrangements that can support alternative irrigation technologies such as pipes and risers or center pivots

Farm amalgamations often result in customers inheriting delivery arrangements and infrastructure. G-MW's reconfiguration program provides an opportunity for G-MW and customers to work together to identify rationalization opportunities with G-MW providing compensation that reflects the future avoided costs that G-MW will not incur as a result of decommissioning. Customers are able to use this compensation to meet on-farm works.