

Chair's Message

With the Christmas period once again upon us it is an opportune time to reflect on the irrigation industry and the recent challenges and triumphs associated with our local Area.

This year has provided signs of renewed optimism with G-MW storages receiving welcome inflows resulting in an allocation of 49% at 15 December 2009 for our Goulburn system customers, an increase from 23% this time last year. For our Campaspe customers while inflows have not allowed an allocation to be announced, an increase from this time last year of 3.2GL of active storage in Lake Eppalock is a small but positive step forward.

I take this opportunity to thank the individual members of the Water Services Committee and commend them on their input into important issues such as Modernisation – Whole of Life Costs, Water Plan and Tariffs, Business Pricing, Water Savings Calculations and the NRSWS to name a few discussed throughout 2009.

I would like to draw your attention to the new e-mail address for contacting the Rochester-Campaspe WSC (refer back page). This is an initiative providing irrigators an easy avenue to raise issues or provide feedback via the WSC to G-MW. If you have any ideas or feedback, either positive or

negative, please let us know. It is important for us as your representatives to be informed of the variety of issues and views held by local irrigators.

Modernisation programs in Rochester are well underway and are visually evident as you pass through the district. In addition to the large regulator upgrade program completed during the winter months approximately 150 meter outlets have been upgraded in Rochester since October. Feedback from customers who have utilised these outlets has been positive to date. We have recently been informed that the NVIRP consultation program for customers on non-backbone channel is programmed and will commence in mid 2010.

For those wishing to access information to assist with business planning I encourage you to seek it from G-MW personally or alternatively the G-MW website has a vast array of information available. To assist irrigators in providing up to date and accurate information relating to Water Management G-MW have launched their WaterLINE online system which allows customers to enter orders, meter readings and access usage statements among other features.



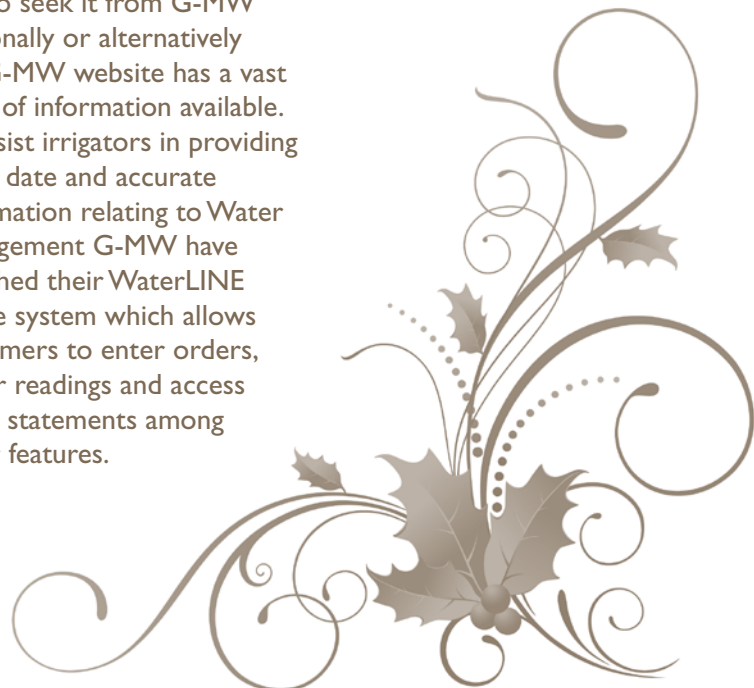
Richard Anderson

I have found this to be a valuable and user friendly tool to assist me in managing my water needs.

Finally and most importantly I would like to thank all irrigators and G-MW staff for their continued cooperation and efforts in maximising the efficiency of the system while maintaining quality service.

I wish all a Merry Christmas and a safe rewarding New Year.

Richard Anderson, Chair
Rochester-Campaspe WSC



Rochester-Campaspe

irrigation news

Get the Latest G-MW Customer Updates Delivered Online

You can now register to receive G-MW news updates via email. Designed to provide you with clear, concise and timely **operational** information, "irrigator e-news" is our latest online initiative. The new e-newsletter will contain information on allocations, dam levels, outlooks, trading information, localised area information and much more.

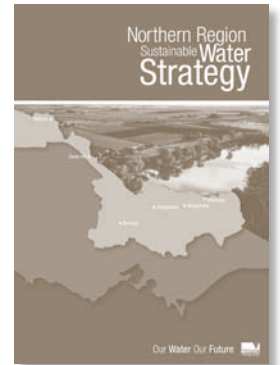
Available to all customers and sent fortnightly with allocation announcements, the e-newsletter will provide you the latest water information to help you make your business decisions.

To subscribe to the e-newsletter go to www.g-mwater.com.au/subscribe



Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy

The Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy was released this month. Copies are available online at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/programs/sws/northern



The Strategy is the culmination of more than two years of community consultation and includes proposals to improve carryover and system reserve policies. G-MW would like to recognise the contributions made by customers and their Water Services Committees. We also thank Jim McKeown and John McNeil, Richard Anderson and recently retired Shepparton WSC member Rein Silverstein for their contribution and participation on the NRSWS consultative groups.

www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/programs/sws/northern

New Water Ordering Book



New Water Register Application Fees

Victorian Water Register fees for some applications to trade water increased on Monday 2 November 2009. The increases apply to fees charged when application forms are submitted to water corporations for approval to trade allocation and for a range of water share transactions. The new fees are available from the Water Register website at www.waterregister.vic.gov.au. Please note that G-MW cannot begin processing of an application until the correct fee has been paid.

Visit your local G-MW office and collect a copy of the new water order book to assist you in ordering water either over the phone or internet. WaterLINE is G-MW's new water communication system for all your water ordering requirements and inquiries. The book includes a step-by-step guide to ordering water online and over the phone and includes pages to record your water order information and important property water information. The WaterLINE books are free and available from your local G-MW office.

Water Trading Update

Water transaction activity remains steady with approximately 60 Allocation transactions and 20 Water Share applications being received each day. Allocation trades within Goulburn-Murray Water are being completed within 5 days and Water Share transactions are being completed within 10 days of receipt

At the end of October the number of Allocation transactions processed was 1,674 compared with 2,167 at the same time last year. There have been 2,357 Water Share applications completed during the same period. The Allocation volume traded to date is 83,200ML and Water Share application approvals have totalled 218,370ML.

Be Safe This Summer – Don't Swim in Irrigation Channels

G-MW along with water corporations Southern Rural Water and Lower Murray Water have launched an update to past summer safety campaigns. This year's campaign reminds the community and visitors to the region to be as vigilant around channels and farm dams as they would be around major roads and highways.

Channels, like major roads and highways, are vital delivery routes designed to deliver water as efficiently as possible. They are not safe locations to play or swim.

Channels and dams are dangerous places. Water levels can change rapidly. Pipes, siphons, rocks and debris can be hidden below the surface and are more likely to injure people, pets and stock.

G-MW is encouraging members of the community to swim at appropriate swimming locations including local public pools and to adopt safe swimming practices including not swimming alone or while intoxicated.



Manager's Message

It is hard to believe that the year has passed so quickly since I arrived in Rochester in January following Jeff Parry's move to Cobram. I would like to thank all customers and staff for their cooperation during this time and look forward to a continuation of this in the coming years.

The willingness of the local community to engage on the various issues impacting on the irrigation industry is to be commended in what are challenging circumstances for so many. The advice provided by irrigators at various forums provides me with a sound understanding of irrigators needs and enables G-MW to provide suitable service to meet these needs.

To the members of the Water Services Committee I extend my appreciation for your valued input and advice to G-MW on the many issues as identified in our Chairman's message. A particular mention to our newest member, Eiril Rathjen, who joined the committee recently and is already providing a valuable contribution.

The modernisation program underway in Rochester is changing the way we manage and operate our system. Our staff have been focused on learning to operate with the new technology and have applied themselves particularly well in a period of rapid change. For those customers who have had new meter outlets installed they too have been introduced to the new technology by Steve Wickham who is currently providing irrigators with personalised training in the use of their new outlets.

With the introduction of a modernised system and as an initiative to improve contactability for customers we have extended the availability of our planning staff this season. Planners are now available for irrigators to contact between 07:00 am and 11:00 pm, 7 days per week during the irrigation season.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our customers and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to working with you throughout 2010.

Daniel Irwin
Manager,
Rochester-Campaspe
Operations



Daniel Irwin

Three Year Price Path

G-MW is in the final stages of the required consultation process which will lead to the lodgement of the next three year pricing path for all water services. The process commenced early into this financial year, but has more recently involved meetings with each of the Water Services Committees (WSC's) to discuss the cost base and model prices under various scenarios for the three years from 2010/11 to 2012/13.

The requirements of the Essential Services Commission (ESC), the pricing regulator for the water industry, include the lodgement of an initial total revenue requirement for these three years in December 2009. G-MW will then need to add detail on the particular tariff arrangements and specific prices for each water service by early March 2010. In order to satisfy these requirements G-MW will also need to finalise discussions with WSC's regarding some proposals to change the tariff structure by modelling tariff levels under the new revenue requirements and lodge the detailed price paths with the ESC by the due date.

In addition G-MW is also consulting with other water corporations which are customers of G-MW that buy bulk water from our storages for distribution to their customers.

For more information on the ESC consultation and price determinations visit www.esc.vic.gov.au/public/Water/Consultations/

Carryover

Despite not receiving any allocation during the 2008/09 season, or so far this season, a number of customers in the Broken, Campaspe and Loddon systems have maintained water in their allocation bank accounts through carryover. The total volume of undelivered water in the Broken system is equivalent to an 11% allocation of high-reliability water shares (HRWS). The equivalent allocation is 4% HRWS in the Campaspe system and 2% HRWS in the Loddon system. This water is available for trade, or delivery subject to conditions. The equivalent allocations are updated with each allocation announcement and can be found at <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/news/drought-response/>

Carryover – 100% Allocation Rule

Customers who carried over the maximum volume of allocation into the current 2009/10 season commenced with an allocation of 47.5% of their water share volume (50% less 5% evaporation) on 1 July 2009. The rules that apply until 30 June 2010 specify that the maximum allocation an entitlement holder can receive is 100% of their water share through carryover and the current season allocation.

When the allocation of high-reliability water shares in the Murray reached 53 % this season, customers who had carried over the maximum volume of high-reliability water share allocation reached the 100% allocation limit and no additional allocations were added to their Allocation Bank Accounts. With the current 60% allocation, some 5,378 ML has not been allocated to these customers because of the 100% allocation rule. This water has been returned to the general allocation pool. If and when the allocation on other systems exceeds 52% similarly the 100% allocation rule will apply to customers who had carried over the maximum volumes.

The rules for carryover will change for some systems on 1 July 2010 in line with the NRSWS details will be communicated during 2010. For more information visit www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/programs/sws/northern

Rural Support Line 1300 655 969

Lifeline 131 114

Beyondblue 1300 224 636

contacts

To place an order go to WaterLINE online via G-MW's website or WaterLINE on 1300 469 469

Internet

www.g-mwater.com.au

Hint Add the login page to your favourites or phone.

G-MW can be contacted during normal business hours at any of its offices.

Rochester-Campaspe Office

03 5484 0400

Emergencies

Customers may contact G-MW to report emergencies and urgent matters such as reporting of pollution incidents and illegal activities by using the 24 hours emergency line.

24 hours emergency line:

1800 064 184

WSC MEMBERS

Richard Anderson: 03 5483 2214
(Chair)

Bruce Macague: 03 5484 2225
(Deputy Chair)

Ron Brooks 03 5482 1548

John Hewlett 03 5486 5278

Bill McMinn 03 5483 2233

Eril Rathjen 03 5432 9266

Mark Hill 03 5484 6204

Peter Gibson 03 5484 5226

Ken Parker 03 5484 1498

You can now email your WSC on
rochestercampaspewsc@g-mwater.com.au