



MEDIA RELEASE

3 April 2019

Facelift underway in Yanco Village

Yanco Village is getting a facelift, with construction on Stage 2 of the Yanco Stock & Domestic Project commencing this week.

This is a continuation of the works started last year, with the project set to provide a safer environment for residents through the removal of open waterways and narrow road crossings.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) CEO, Brett Jones, said the \$10 million modernisation project provided a great opportunity to rescale operations to meet the changing needs of Yanco Village customers.

“Some channels were replaced with gravity pipelines last year under Stage 1 of the project, and others will now be replaced with a low-pressure pumped system, which will give us improved flow control and reduce water losses,” Mr Jones explained.

“With ongoing dry conditions and low allocations, we have been adjusting our operations across the MIA network to ensure we can continue to deliver water in a way that best optimises system efficiency, and the timing of this project fits in well with these adjustments.”

Several channels will be removed, and this has given the opportunity for some customers who no longer need stock and domestic access to exit the system.

MI General Manager, Asset Delivery, Jody Rudd, said that MI has been talking to Yanco customers to determine what they wanted to do, and this consultation will continue throughout the implementation of Stage 2 of the project.

“Our engagement officer will also be working with Yanco Village residents who may be impacted by the works,” Mr Rudd added.

“As a proud part of the local community, we see this as an opportunity to realign our supply network with contemporary community needs.”

The project will also include land remediation works to improve aesthetics and street access. This involves the removal of rubbish and weeds, followed by the backfilling of old channels to restore land to the agreed contour levels.

Mr Jones said that MI is committed to leveraging off the benefits of modernisations projects, to deliver value to all customers.

“It isn’t just Yanco customers who will be advantaged by the project,” he explained.

“All customers will ultimately benefit through operating and maintenance savings and lower future refurbishment costs.

“This will in turn help us to reduce long term costs and keep prices down.”

The project will be completed by the end of July 2019. Information regarding construction, road and access changes will be provided as the work progress - see MI’s website for updates to this fact sheet www.mirrigation.com.au .

This program of works is funded by the Australian Government in exchange for water savings. MI and the Australian Government are working together to deliver projects that will optimise economic, social and environmental outcomes in the MIA.

ENDS

Photo: MI engagement officer Michael Waanders pointing out the Yanco works to Julie Heath at the Yanco Store.

Media Contact: Peter Duncan, Communications Officer, phone 0427 235 646 or 02 6962 0200.