



7 December 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

Gunbar Water Pipeline locks in future for next generation of farmers

Gunbar Water Pipeline was officially launched near Hay this week, locking in a bright future for the next generation of farmers in the Wah Wah district.

This was the final step before Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) hands over ownership of the pipeline to Gunbar Private Water Supply District on 31 December.

The new 270km pipeline will supply filtered pressurised water to 62 properties in the Wah Wah district, which covers 310,000 hectares from Carrathool to Hay in the south, and from Gunbar to Booligal in the north.

MI Chief Executive Officer, Brett Jones, said that there was no future in the previous gravity fed system.

“The key driver for this project was to lock in the future of the stock and domestic area with a sustainable, modern and reliable water supply capability,” he said.

“The gravity fed system required 12,000 megalitres of water to deliver around 2,000 megalitres of allocation and you cannot justify the waste of such a precious resource. In the current climate of water efficiency and productivity the change to the pump and pipeline solution was an absolute must do.”

With the new pipeline Wah Wah farmers will benefit through improved levels of service, with year-round access to the river and bores, pressurised water supply and measured water use, which can be remotely monitored.

Chairman of the Gunbar Water Steering Committee, local farmer Don Low, was excited about what the new pipeline meant for the district.

“The Gunbar Water pipeline was never about individuals it was always about what was best for the whole area,” he said.

“It was developed with the idea that it gave everybody, not just a few, the opportunity to have a secure supply of quality water and it also gave those lucky enough to have an alternate water source the ability to develop their own private scheme if that is what they wanted.”

Mr Low said that members of the recently Gazetted Gunbar Private Water Supply District will have ownership of a “great scheme.”

“It is a scheme that gives you a once in a life time opportunity to have filtered Murrumbidgee river water delivered to your property,” he said.

“This project includes the best on farm package of any and gives everybody the opportunity to include the latest technology in their on farm works.”

Comdain constructed the pipeline and associated infrastructure, drawing praise from MI and Gunbar Water Steering Committee for delivering the project on time, safely and to the required quality.

“At Comdain, we take pride in doing things well,” said Comdain CEO Peter Coen.

Comdain also contributed significantly to the local economy throughout the Wah Wah project duration.

“Our people were based in Hay and we used local suppliers and subcontractors for much of the work,” Mr Coen said.

The handover will result in a significant change to MI’s area of operations removing over 300,000 hectares.

The \$48.7 million Wah Wah Stock and Domestic Pipeline Project forms part of MI’s modernisation as part of the Australian Government’s Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program in New South Wales.

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Photo: Don Low and MI Deputy Chair, Nayce Dalton, officially launch the Gunbar Water Pipeline.

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Gunbar Private Water Supply
Officially opened by Nayce Dalton and Don Low
6 December 2018
A project by
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited
as part of the Australian Government's
Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program
In cooperation with Hay Council, Carahooli Council and Gunbar Water
Nayce Dalton, Don Low
General Chair, Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Chair, Gunbar Water