



# The Harvey Water "Furphy"

## SEASON OPENING 2008/9

Harvey Water advises that the irrigation season has been declared open as of 13 October and irrigators may now place their orders.

Pipe scheme irrigators are reminded that they must also place orders for any surface/flood irrigation requirements.

## SEASON ALLOCATION 2008/9

As per the usual process of reviewing the volume of water available to Harvey Water in the 7 dams, the allocations for season 2008/9 have been determined as below:

WAROONA:	90%
HARVEY:	85%
COLLIE:	100%

Waroona and Harvey irrigators should note that when the pipe connecting the Logue Brook dam to the pipe system is in place (middle of 2010), Harvey Water will be considering combining the Waroona and Harvey districts for the purposes of setting the allocations.

This is because the gravity pressure from Logue Brook dam will be sufficient to push water to all parts

of the two districts. It therefore makes sense to provide access to all the 6 dams to all Waroona and Harvey irrigators.

## PIPE SYSTEM SERVICE

Now that the pipe system extends to all of Waroona, Logue and Harvey districts it is time to review the water delivery services provided by Harvey Water in those districts.

The pipe system is quite different from the open channel system with the "tap" effectively moved from the dams to the farmers' supply points. This means that Water Controllers do not have to organise the supply of water from the dams in the same way as they did before.

A change to the delivery system provides the opportunity to think differently about services. For example, there is much greater opportunity to allow irrigators the possibility to turn their water supply on and off. Maybe only surface irrigators will have to order water and have scheduled deliveries in the future. Maybe it will be more important to even out the supply across the 5 days of the week instead of having a lot on Monday and Tuesday and almost nothing on Friday. There are probably other good ideas as well.



The point is that Harvey Water should be able to offer more flexible, appropriate and efficient services to irrigators but irrigators may also have to change how they do things as well.

The more efficient delivery system will be a partial offset to higher Water Storage and Dam Safety charges.

We will be thinking about these ideas over the next 12 months and invite comments from irrigators.

### **WELLINGTON SALINITY**

At the irrigators' meeting in July a request was made to investigate whether better quality water could be obtained from Wellington dam by releasing it from the upper valves.

The daily salinity data show that there is actually very little significant difference between the levels except when the salt slug hits the wall causing a very big difference between the top and bottom.

By the time irrigation starts the difference in salinity is generally about 100 ppm between the top, middle and bottom. By the end of November or December (it varies each year) there is essentially no difference between the salinity at the top, middle or bottom.

The top valve allows about 300 ML/day to be released just before the hydro station but it is understood there may be some problems with the valve.

Nonetheless we are very conscious that a small dilution effect could be obtained early in the season and will pursue this possibility with Water Corporation.

### **COLLIE RIVER IRRIGATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT (CRISP)**

The CRISP project is progressing very well with most Collie River district irrigators having been consulted in recent weeks.

Irrigator input has been very good but we encourage you to continue to think about the future and to discuss it with your neighbours. Bright ideas are always welcome!

The next major meeting will be with non-irrigator stakeholders who we expect could have some different views from irrigators, so that will be interesting.

### **AGM**

The 2008 AGMs for SWIMCO and SWIAC will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday 19 November 2008 at the Senior Citizens Centre in Harvey.

Please note in your diary and please come along too!

**Please contact Geoff Calder at Harvey Water on Tel: 9729 0100 for further information on any of the items above**