

Western Irrigation Network

Development phase

Western Water has entered into the development phase for the Western Irrigation Network, following Board endorsement of WIN as the preferred option.

In June 2019, Western Water's Board endorsed WIN as the preferred option for managing the region's excess recycled water volumes in the future, agreeing to fund \$3.9 million to undertake the development phase for the project.

Subject to receiving firm commitment from local farmers and achieving regulatory approvals and financing, Class C recycled water supplies will be delivered to farmers in the Parwan-Balliang farmers district by July 2022.

WIN background

The Western Water region is experiencing rapid population growth. As customers grow, so does the amount of recycled water produced.

Currently, recycled water volumes are being reused by existing customers or discharged to local waterways under controlled conditions set by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

In the future, however, there will be too much recycled water to meet

current customer demand and/or EPA compliance requirements. Western Water has been working on options to manage the forecast excess recycled water volumes for more than three years.

WIN began as one of several options to address how we manage excess recycled water supplies. A feasibility study contrasted proceeding with business as usual operations against:

- the development of an irrigation network
- purchasing land to dispose of recycled water, and/or
- connecting to other water corporations to dispose of recycled water.

Of all the options considered, WIN provides the most benefits because it:

- delivers a new, secure source of water for agriculture in Melbourne's west
- protects local waterways for future generations, and
- offers better value for Western Water customers.



KEY FACTS

Western Water's Board has endorsed \$3.9 million to fund the development phase for WIN.

Key milestones during this phase:

- Foundation customers sign up for WIN
- State Government provides regulatory approval
- Pre-committed works go to tender
- WIN's irrigation grid is designed to supply recycled water to Parwan-Balliang area
- Implementation proposal is delivered to Western Water's Board

WIN development phase - key dates

- Oct 2019: WIN foundation customer commitments secured
- Late 2019: WIN project approval from Victorian Government (target)
- Feb-Sep 2020: Tendering, pre-committed works and approvals underway
- Sep 2020: Final Western Water Board recommendation for WIN
- Oct 2020: WIN project implementation begins
- Jul 2022: WIN operations commence in Parwan-Balliang