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water in drylands
collaborative research program

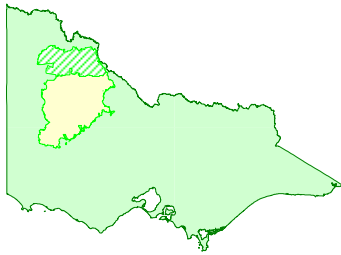
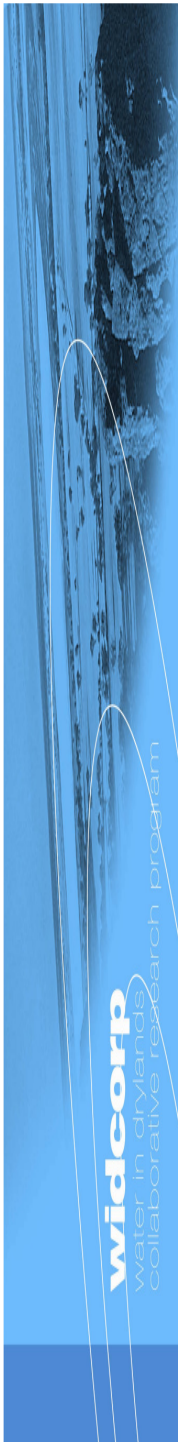
The Wimmera Mallee Pipeline and Regional Futures



Wimmera Mallee pipeline Business Case (2003)

Regional sustainability

- Water savings to environmental flow and enhanced natural resource outcomes
- Increase broad acre productivity
- Regional economic growth via promoting opportunities for diversified enterprises (eg. intensive livestock, viticulture, horticulture)
- Social benefits from enhanced recreational, employment and improved standard of living
- Improved water quality



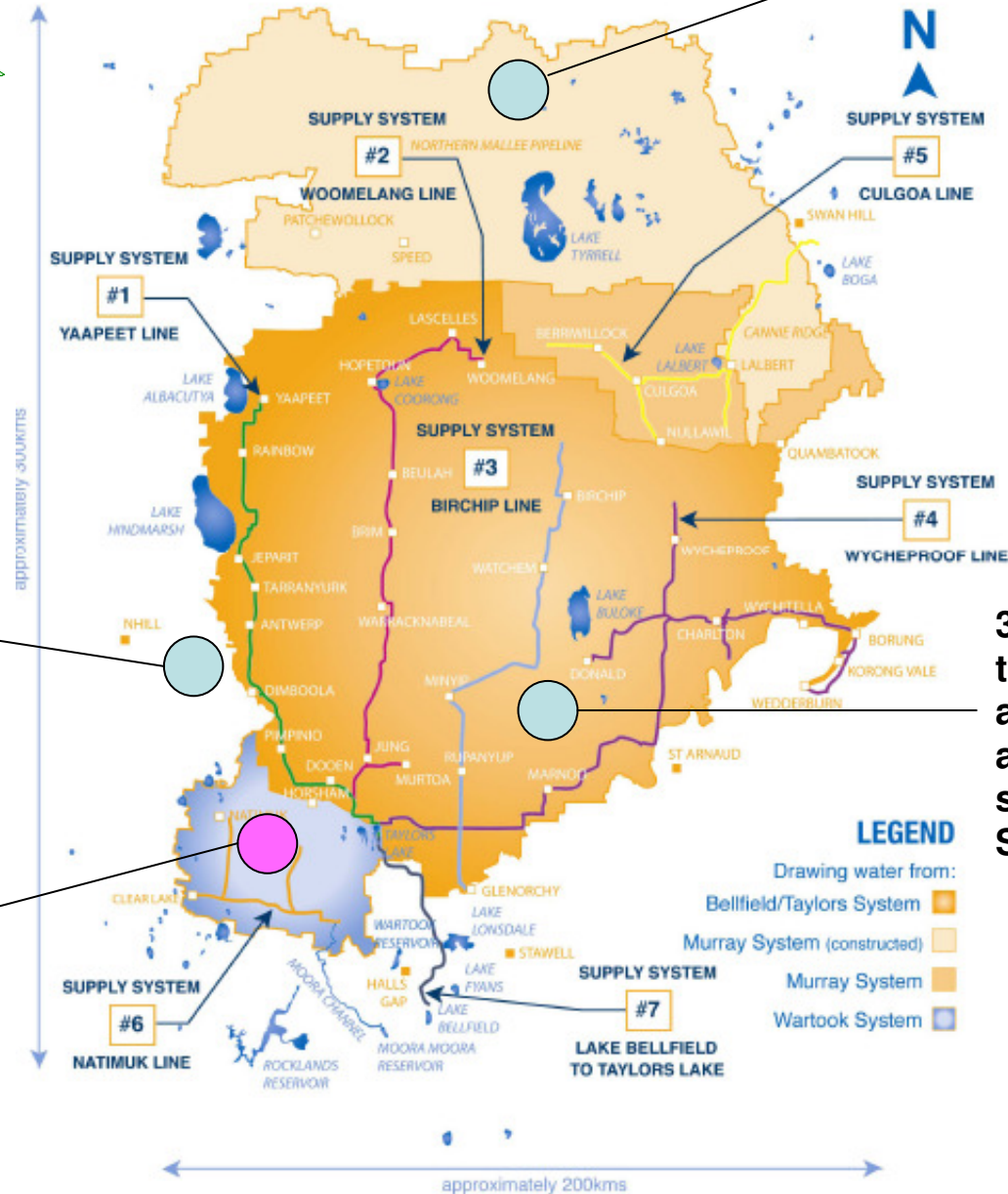
Study Areas

1. Lessons learned from the Northern Mallee

1. Hindmarsh Community Aspirations & Attitudes Survey

4. Farmer typologies, attitudes and aspirations survey. Supply System 6.

3. Farmer typologies, attitudes and aspirations survey. Supply System 1 to 5.





Lessons learnt from NM (2006)

- Economic, environmental and social impacts perceived as important by community were achieved
 - *Improved current farm practices but little evidence of new farm enterprises*
- Community believed pipeline had not increased tourism, or water-based social/recreational activities.
- Major concerns were cost, loss of recreational water use, and loss of wildlife
- Community perceptions changed over time
- Water security plays important role in quality of life of rural communities



Hindmarsh Survey (2006)

- Attitudes differed between those within the WMP footprint and those outside the area
- Water quality & reliability, environmental flows important expectations of the pipeline
- Increased tourism activity, recreational opportunities or mitigating low rainfall not expectations of the pipeline
- Farming aspirations
 - More flexible water supply
 - Increased agriculture opportunities
 - Improved livestock and size
- Limited interest in increased or diversified agricultural opportunities



WMP Farmer Survey (2007)

A collaboration between WIDCORP and DPI

- **Attitudes to pipeline positive (84%)**
 - Less positive are intensive livestock producers
- **Strong relationship between attitude and knowledge/concern.**
- **Key concerns same as previous surveys**
- **Aspirations related to current on-farm practices rather than new enterprises**
 - 1/4 have explored either intensification/diversification or new market opportunities



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Full and summary reports available

*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking
new landscapes but in having new eyes.*

Marcel Proust





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Acknowledgements

Department of Primary Industries

Insightrix

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Wimmera Mallee farmers

Hindmarsh Residents

Northern Mallee Residents

