

## securing | our water future



To our customers,  
welcome to **Water Source**, your  
Coliban Water Community Update.

Last Saturday, in our first column in the Bendigo Advertiser, we explained that while we have been working for some time on several projects to save and secure water for the region, we haven't been explaining the situation, and our progress, to our customers.

Today we begin to bring you the latest facts about our water supply.

Like you, we are concerned and frustrated about the drought and ongoing water restrictions. We are adamant that we need to secure more water for the region and provide a sustainable long-term water supply.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Coliban Water, we emphasize that we want our vibrant and progressive region to continue to be one in which we are all proud to live and work.

We thank you for playing your vital part in conserving water and over the coming weeks will continue to share with you what we are doing to secure the region's water future.

For further information please visit **Waterplan 2055** on the Coliban Water website [www.coliban.com.au](http://www.coliban.com.au)



**Gordon McKern**  
Chairman



**Geoff Michell**  
Chief Executive

### Q. Are we going to run out of water?

**A.** No! We will not let Bendigo run out of water.

Coliban Water is committed to having sufficient supplies from both inside and outside our region in place within the next 12 months. We are working with the state government, Goulburn-Murray Water, North Central Catchment Management Authority and the DSE to make this happen as quickly as possible.

If we don't get reasonable rains next winter we may have restrictions in the short-term but the projects being implemented will ensure greater security beyond that.

### Q. What else is Coliban Water doing about the water situation?

**A.** A number of vital projects to increase supplies are well underway. We have fast-tracked projects to be prepared for the possibility of an ongoing drought.

A major focus is on sourcing additional supplies. Work is underway, in collaboration with relevant authorities and key stakeholders, to determine the best sustainable way of accessing Waranga/Campaspe water. A feasibility study will provide essential information on: detailed cost on all feasible options; capacity issues on the Waranga Channel; environmental impacts; and assessment of potential funding options to minimise impact on customers.

The feasibility study will be complete by July and work is scheduled for later this year.

### Waterwise Gardening

with *Kevin Walsh*

Don't throw away those autumn leaves as they are great for the garden!

Smaller ones can be put straight onto garden beds to act as a mulch. As they break down they will encourage worms, feed the plants and help the soil to retain moisture in summer. Bigger leaves – like those of Plane Trees – should be shredded first. If you don't have a shredder then run over them with the mower with the grass catcher on.



### Interesting Fact

with *Geoff Russell*

Keeping guard on the weather.

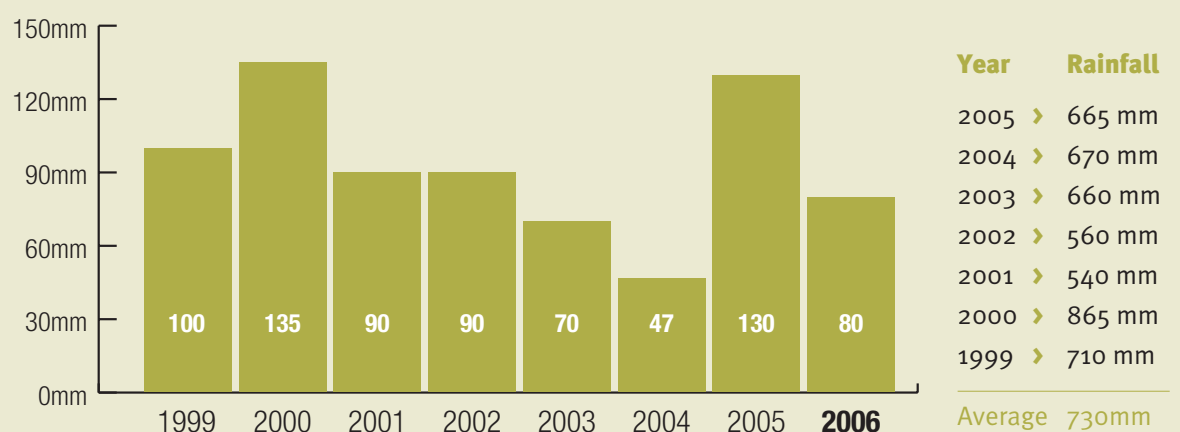
Central Victoria's first official daily weather records were taken at the Sandhurst Prison on Camp Hill (Bendigo), just after it opened in 1862.

The prison remained Bendigo's official weather reporting station until 1992, when a new 'automatic' station commenced at the Bendigo Airport.

According to the prison's records, Bendigo's average annual rainfall from 1862 to 1992 was around 550mm.



### Compare our rainfall > Malmsbury Reservoir > January to March inclusive



## Our Achievements > at a glance

**AQUA 2000 (1999 to 2002)** > We've delivered fully treated water quality exceeding World Health Organisation and Australian Drinking Water Guidelines to 110,000 customers. **Cost:** \$80 Million > **Treatment plants constructed:** 3 > **Other infrastructure:** Treated water storage tanks, pump stations, sludge handling facilities, three covered clear water storages – two 40ML and one 6ML.

**Dams Improvement Project (2003 to 2006)** > We've upgraded water storages which had been performing as designed for more than 100 years. **Cost:** \$20 Million > **Dams:** 10

**Envirosafe (1997 to 2005)** > We've improved our local environment through the provision of high quality sewerage reticulation, treatment, disposal and reuse systems for 17 country towns. **Cost:** \$44 Million > **Pipe length:** over 320km > **New pump stations:** 55 > **Additional water reclamation plants built:** 6

### Our valued partnerships

Several agencies and organisations are working together to achieve secure water supplies for the region, including Coliban Water, Goulburn-Murray Water, North Central Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The focus is on shared solutions to water security and Coliban Water continues to work with the community, business and stakeholders to achieve this aim.

Our four key focus areas for achieving water security are:

- > Sourcing additional water
- > Urban water savings
- > Rural water savings
- > Greater use of recycled water

