

Loddon
Community
Update
July 2009



Above: Groundwater drilling at Laanecoorie June 2009.



Above: Salinity Reduction Plant construction for Bridgewater June 2009.

Coliban Water

PO Box 2770 Bendigo
Victoria 3554
Tel: 1300 363 200
Fax: 03 5434 1341
coliban@coliban.com.au

Water security in the Loddon System

Current Loddon River water security

The Loddon River is severely stressed due to ongoing low rainfall, with contents at only 6,055ML or 2.7% capacity as at 15 July 2009.

There is a high risk the Loddon River system will fail during the for 2009/2010 season. Zero river inflows could leave the Loddon system storages at extreme lows by February-March 2010.

Contingency Plans

We have contingency plans and projects underway to maintain supply to customers under Stage 4 water restrictions.

Water Security Projects

Our contingency plans in place include:

Groundwater - Bridgewater

We have a groundwater entitlement of 444ML. 100% allocation applies for the 2009/2010 season. We will be recommissioning the bore by September this year to combine with river water.

Groundwater - Laanecoorie

We are investigating groundwater to supply the Laanecoorie Water Treatment Plant to supplement supply for Dunolly, Laanecoorie, Bealiba and Tarnagulla.

Portable Desalination Plant - Bridgewater

A Desalination Plant will be constructed at the Bridgewater Water Treatment Plant to reduce the salt levels in the treated water supply for Bridgewater and Inglewood customers.

The project will cost approximately \$2.9 million including improvements to the filtration system at the existing water treatment plant. The overall project commissioning date is September this year.

Serpentine and Jarklin

Due to size of these townships, it is feasible to cart water to these townships in the event of no river flows in the Loddon River.

Other projects

We will spend \$214 million across our region as part of our 2008-2013 Water Plan program of capital works. Projects included in your region:

> Bridgewater Water Treatment Plant process improvements - \$75,000

> Bridgewater Park Street Sewer Pump Station upgrade - \$219,754

> Investigations of alternative water source for Serpentine through the Goulburn-Murray Water East Loddon South District project - \$100,000

For further information visit www.coliban.com.au



Our Loddon system snapshot

Towns supplied: Bridgewater, Inglewood, Dunolly, Serpentine, Tarnagulla, Laanecoorie, Bealiba and Jarklin.

Source of water: Raw water drawn directly from the Loddon River under a Bulk Water Entitlement with Goulburn-Murray Water.

Customers: 1,500 customer connections, which is 2.3% of our total region connections and 1.7% of the total population of our region.

Bulk Entitlement: Our bulk water entitlement is 820 megalitres (ML). We have access to 50% for essential human needs - equating to 410ML.

Loddon system demand for 2008/2009 was 303ML, 24ML less than our forecast demand.

Water Restrictions: Stage 4 water restrictions have been in place since 15 January 2007.

How is water delivered to your town?

Laanecoorie System

Raw water is pumped from the Loddon River, downstream of the Laanecoorie Reservoir. The water is treated at the Laanecoorie Water Treatment Plant (WTP) which is then supplied to the townships of Laanecoorie, Tarnagulla, Dunolly and Bealiba.

Bridgewater/Inglewood System

Raw water is pumped from the Loddon River at Bridgewater to the Bridgewater WTP. Treated water is then supplied to the townships of Bridgewater and Inglewood.

Serpentine

Raw water is pumped from the Serpentine Creek, which is a tributary of the Loddon River to the Serpentine WTP. In recent times due to poor raw water quality in the Serpentine Creek, water has been carted from Bendigo and combined with the treated water supply in Serpentine.

Jarklin

Raw water is also pumped from the Serpentine Creek. Water is not treated and is pumped to an elevated storage tank for supply. This is not a drinking water supply.

Community Information Sessions

Two Water Security Information Sessions were held this month for Dunolly, Bealiba, Laanecoorie and Tarnagulla.

If you are a member or volunteer of a local community or business group and would be interested in a water security presentation at your next meeting, please email publicaffairs@coliban.com.au

Customer Feedback

We welcome any comments or suggestions for information you would like to receive in future. Please email publicaffairs@coliban.com.au or phone 1300 363 200.

Coliban Water reserves the right to alter or change information contained in this community update. Information was correct at the time of printing 15/7/2009.