

Winners announced

Collette from Jeparit Primary School is one of the winners of our 2026 National Water Week Poster Competition. Pictured is Collette's winning poster. See more winning posters at gwmwater.org.au.

Your say on what's next

What should GWMWater prioritise over the next five years? Where should we invest? And how do we keep services affordable while planning for the future?

That's what our customers will help answer as GWMWater develops its 2028-2033 Price Submission.

Every five years, Victorian water corporations submit a plan to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) setting out the services they'll deliver, the projects they'll invest in and the prices customers will pay.

GWMWater's next submission will guide decisions from 1 July 2028 to 30 June 2033.

To help shape the plan, GWMWater is recruiting a Community Panel reflecting different customers from across the Grampians, Wimmera and Mallee.

The panel will meet five times over the coming months to explore key issues, test ideas and provide independent advice on future priorities.

GWMWater Managing Director Mark Williams said customer voices would be central to the process.

"The decisions we make today will help shape water and wastewater services for years to come," he said.

"The Community Panel will give customers a direct say on what matters most, helping us balance service levels, affordability and investment in the infrastructure our region relies on."

The Community Panel is just one way customers can get involved.

Over the coming months, GWMWater will seek feedback from customers, stakeholders and communities across the region to help shape its next five-year plan.

To learn more, and have your say, visit gwmwater.org.au/yoursay



Our 2021-2022 Community Panel members.

Inside this edition

Latest news

Good news for lake users

Staff profile

Meet Audrey Kottek

What's on

School incursions

Grampians
Wimmera
Mallee

Good news for lake users

Strong winter inflows have boosted water security across the region, allowing us to supply the region's recreational lakes this summer.

Manager Water Resources Scott Smith said about 113 gigalitres of water entered the system over winter - That's about 45,200 standard Olympic swimming pools.

The improved inflows are good news for recreation, with most GWMWater managed reservoirs and lakes used for recreation currently holding more water than they did at the same time last year.

The wet winter has also allowed GWMWater to commit to supplying all 14 recreational lakes connected to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.



Despite the improved outlook, Mr Smith said water conservation remained important. GWMWater continues to carefully manage water transfers across the system to ensure water is stored in the right places and available for communities, customers and the environment when needed most.

For more info on GWMWater-supplied recreational lakes visit gwmwater.org.au/lakes

Photo: *Ouyen Lake by Sylvester Rudolph. An Honourable Mention winner from our 2026 Community Photo Competition.*

Get your garden Summer-ready!



With warmer weather just around the corner, now is the perfect time to prepare your garden for the summer months ahead. A few simple water-wise gardening practices can help keep your garden healthy while using water efficiently.

Start by checking your irrigation system for leaks, blocked nozzles or damaged sprinklers. Any repairs made now can save water and help ensure your garden gets the most benefit from every watering.

Remember, sprinklers can only be used between 6 pm and 10 am, when temperatures are cooler and less water is lost to evaporation.

If you're watering by hand, make sure any hose is fitted with a trigger nozzle, allowing you to control the flow of water and avoid unnecessary waste.

Adding mulch to garden beds is one of the best ways to retain moisture during hot weather. A layer of mulch reduces evaporation and suppresses weeds that compete with your plants for water.

When planting, consider choosing drought-tolerant species suited to local conditions.

By taking a few simple steps now, you'll be setting your garden up for a healthy, colourful summer while making the most of every drop of water.

Big changes happening for Edenhope!

In July, Edenhope's new Dissolved Air Flotation and Filtration (DAFF) unit arrived at the water treatment plant, marking a major milestone in the upgrade project.

The new system helps remove particles from raw water, improving the quality and reliability of Edenhope's drinking water supply.

The project also includes additional water storage capacity, helping improve water security and reliability for the community.

Contractor CHS Group is now finishing the mechanical and electrical installation of the DAFF.

During October, the project will move into the testing and commissioning phase. There will be no impact to customer water services during these works.

We are also completing watermain replacement works in Lake Street and Andrew Street to improve the reliability of the local water network.

This important upgrade will help deliver clean, high-quality drinking water and a more secure water supply for the Edenhope community for years to come.



Edenhope's new DAFF arriving at the water treatment plant in July 2026.



Audrey loves that her engineering career allows her to tackle real-world challenges.

Staff profile

Meet Audrey Kottek

As a Treatment Planning Engineer, Audrey Kottek helps deliver projects that improve the quality and reliability of water and wastewater services across the region. For more than four years, she has been part of a team working to ensure local communities continue to receive the essential services they rely on.

One project Audrey is particularly proud of is the Clean Water Project, which will improve water quality for customers who receive Murray River sourced water.

"One of the best parts of my role is seeing a project progress from planning through to construction and knowing it will make a real difference for our communities," Audrey said.

Audrey enjoys working with a wide range of people, solving complex problems and helping deliver projects that have a lasting impact across the region.

She also values the variety the role offers, combining technical work, planning and site visits.

Having always enjoyed maths and science, Audrey was drawn to engineering as a career that would allow her to tackle real-world challenges and continue learning. At GWMWater, she has been able to grow her skills while working alongside supportive colleagues who share a common purpose.

Outside work, Audrey enjoys exploring the outdoors, whether that is rowing on the Wimmera River in Horsham or spending time in the Grampians.

Looking
for your next
career move?



Sign up to job alerts at
gwmwater.org.au/careers

Your chance to win \$100 off your next bill!

Answer the below question for your chance to win!

Under Permanent Water Saving Rules, between what times can you use sprinklers in your garden?

Answer:

Your GWMWater account number:

Name:

Phone:

Submit entries by:

4 pm Friday 27 November 2026

Entries can be:

- posted to us at PO Box 481, Horsham 3402
- completed online at gwmwater.org.au/competition
- submitted by scanning the QR code



For terms and conditions, as well as recent winners, visit gwmwater.org.au/competition



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1300 659 961 Business hours

Difficulties and faults
1800 188 586 24 hours

gwmwater.org.au



What's on



Out and about in our schools

From Manangatang to Murrayville, our educators have been visiting schools across the region, giving students a greater understanding of where their water comes from and the vital role it plays in their homes, schools and communities.

Through engaging hands-on activities and interactive presentations, students have been exploring topics such as the urban water cycle, water conservation, and how local water supplies are managed. Of course, no visit is complete without a special appearance from Phil the Bucket!

It's always a highlight to see students asking great questions, sharing their ideas, and learning how they can become water warriors in their homes and communities.

Our performance

Our latest Performance Report is now available on our website at gwmwater.org.au/reports

Take a look to see how we're tracking against our goals and delivering for our customers.

Supporting tomorrow's innovators

Do you know a Year 12 student heading to university?

GWMWater is offering five \$1,000 sponsorships to support students pursuing further studies in science, engineering, innovation, and environmental fields.

Express your interest by scanning the QR code:



Permanent water saving rules

Three simple year-round rules help keep our precious water for when we need it, every day of the year:

- Always use a leak-free hose with a trigger nozzle when watering the garden.
- Only use sprinklers and drippers between 6 pm and 10 am.
- Don't hose concrete, paths or driveways. Use a broom instead.