

# Connections Project

255 Ferguson Road  
Tatura Victoria 3616  
**Phone:** 1800 013 357

**Email:** [connections@gmwater.com.au](mailto:connections@gmwater.com.au)  
**Website:** [www.connectionsproject.com.au](http://www.connectionsproject.com.au)

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Dear Landowner,

On 7 September, the Minister for Water Lisa Neville announced that the Victorian and Australian Governments have endorsed the Connections Project Reset Delivery Plan.

This is an exciting time for the project: we've got a clear way forward, and the support of the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District community to get on and finish the job.

## What has changed?

Endorsement of the Reset Delivery Plan means that:

- The project has been extended by two years to October 2020.
- We're packaging up works to provide to experienced contractors who will work with us from scoping and design through to construction and commissioning so that we get the value of their expertise and economies of scale.
- We've also designed an end-to-end process that provides a level of certainty around timeframes for consultation, design, construction and commissioning of Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) assets and your on-farm works. The project will directly implement agreed on-farm works rather than provide landowner incentives.
- We've adopted a new landowner engagement approach that has a clear process and an online tool to give you access to channel-specific information.
- Reconfiguration plans are a key part of this process. They allow for us to progress with packages of works that have previously been held up because we couldn't get every landowner on a channel or group of channels to voluntarily sign up for a proposed solution.
- Please be assured that we **will not** use statutory reconfiguration to terminate a water supply.

## What this means for you

It's likely you'll fall into one of the following three groups:

### 1. You have a signed agreement

- Your works may be underway, or you are waiting on other landowner agreements before yours takes effect
- One of the principles of the reset is that we will honour executed landowner agreements, or withdraw from agreements where there is mutual consent (this might happen, for example, where there is a better value solution available).
- If you have a signed agreement in place, hold tight. A project team member will be in touch soon to give you an update on where things stand.
- If you don't know whether you have a signed agreement, contact us and we'll let you know.



## 2. You haven't got an agreement

- This is not unusual, it just means that we have not reached your channel area yet, or we may have been in discussions with you over a period of time but we didn't reach an agreement.
- Our initial channel-by-channel assessment will give you an idea about the likely modernisation solution for your channel and approximate timing to expect to hear from our engagement team.

## 3. Your connections works are complete

- You are now benefitting from improved farm efficiency and automation. We'd love to hear how you're going with your modernised connection - please give us a call or send us an email.

## New web portal: My Connections Update

*My Connections Update* is now available on the Connections Project website ([www.connectionsproject.com.au](http://www.connectionsproject.com.au)).

Type in your outlet number to get an update on the status of your channel and timeframe for works.

## Better landowner engagement

When I joined the Connections Project, I made a commitment to you that the project will improve the way it engages with you and it will be more transparent in its decision-making.

Enclosed with this letter is a new quarterly project update taking you through the changes in more detail. Or if you would like to chat with a project team member, drop in to your local GMW office to speak to a project team member.

Please let me know how I'm going by emailing me at [project.director@gmwater.com.au](mailto:project.director@gmwater.com.au).

Yours sincerely,



Frank Fisseler  
Project Director