

# VIC – Werribee Irrigation District Modernisation (Stages 4 and 5)



<b>Project phase:</b>	Construction
<b>Project phase cost:</b>	\$22.0 million
<b>Australian Government funding:</b>	\$11.0 million
<b>Other funding:</b>	\$11.0 million (Southern Rural Water)
<b>Indicative start/finish:</b>	mid-2021 / late-2023

## Project description

The Werribee Irrigation District Modernisation project (Stages 4 and 5) will complete the replacement of a manual, dilapidated, and inefficient channel-based irrigation network with a modern, automated pipeline. The project will increase irrigation supply reliability and farmer viability in the face of an increasingly drier climate. The project forms part of a staged upgrade of the Werribee Irrigation District with three of the five stage complete.

The Stages 4 and 5 will:

- Replace approximately 16.2km of open channels with a new pipeline system.
- Provide 106 new and automated outlets, including two new regulator control structures to provide enhanced automation of the main channel.

## Proposed benefits

- Improve flow control, operation and create enhanced service levels to support on-farm productivity gains.
- Increase farm-gate output by over \$1.8 million per annum.
- Reduction in water losses and yield a further 1,350ML per annum in water savings.
- Create eight jobs per year over the construction phase and six ongoing.

## Project location

The Werribee Irrigation District is located 30km southwest of Melbourne, comprising an area of 3,000 hectares, of which 2,350 hectares is used for intensive horticulture. The district specialises in the production of green leafy vegetables, most notably broccoli, lettuce and cauliflowers, with a farm gate value in excess of \$187 million per year.

