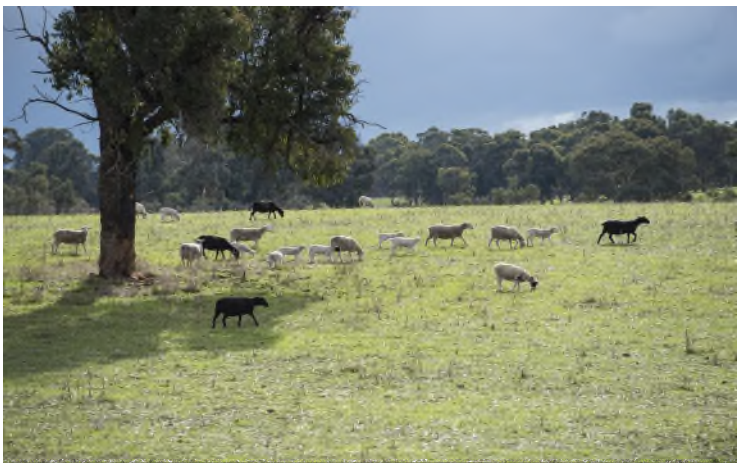
VIC – Coliban Regional Rural Modernisation Project



Project phase:	Preliminary Business Case
Project phase cost:	$0.5 million*
Australian Government funding:	$0.4 million
Other funding:	$0.2 million (Coliban Water)
Indicative start/finish:	mid-2021 / mid-2022

Figures do not add due to rounding

Project description

The Coliban Regional Rural Modernisation Project would aim to replace ageing, leaking and inefficient channels. At only 60 per cent efficiency, the channels are losing over 2,000 ML per annum due to leaks and seepage. The project aims to replace approximately 282km of open channels with pipeline, providing a reliable and secure water source to the Coliban region. The project aims to increase availability of water through water recovery from replacing leaking channels with pipelines and more efficient delivery mechanisms.

The preliminary business case will:

- review current supply arrangements;
- quantify water losses; and
- directly engage with customers to determine future service and infrastructure needs of the rural system.

Proposed benefits

- Improve the efficiency of the system, recovering water losses and converting them to water allocation, creating a long-term sustainable rural system.
- Increase availability, reliability, efficiency, and quality of water which would benefit the agriculture and primary industries in the region.
- Help the region become resilient to the effects of climate change by having a more reliable and secure water system.
- Reduce water losses and yield a further 2,000 ML per annum in water savings.

Project location

The project is located around Bendigo, 130km northwest of Melbourne, and will provide the long-term planning and investment needed to improve service to support 1,366 rural customers in the Coliban region, including significant agricultural and primary industry enterprises.

The Coliban region supports agricultural and primary industries through 12 rural supply systems and 360km of channels and 140km of pipelines.