

# Pipes end property's water woes

By Alexandra Bathman

**A new low-energy pipeline installed at Byrneside through Goulburn-Murray Water's Connections Project has been described as "better than sliced bread" by one of the channel's irrigators.**

While he always thought it was the best solution, grazier Ross Stammers never thought that after 50 years of farming he would see pipes installed on his property.

But the modernisation of the channel, which is just a stone's throw away from his front door, was completed in August.

"This, I could say, is like a Rolls-Royce," Mr Stammers said.

He said the new system had changed the appearance of his whole property and had promised him water when he needed it most.

Due to the lay of the land and natural gravity, the old channel system was disruptive and often left his property — which is based on the top of the channel — without water.

"I had a lot of trouble getting water. It was all right irrigating on my own, but as soon as one of the neighbours started up, it was like pulling a plug out of a bath — it drained all the water down from me."

The new solution was designed by Rubicon Water and connects four irrigators to the backbone.

The pipeline has two components: a hybrid inlet that uses energy from natural gravity and a pump, and the Rubicon invention BladeMeter.

The BladeMeter, powered by an 85 kW solar panel, controls and measures flow at the outlet end of the pipe and modulates to maintain a constant flow, even when the supply pressure is fluctuating.

So when Mr Stammers needs water, but so do his neighbours at the end of the pipe, he will still get a reliable and accurate flow of water when he needs it most.

"I'm confident we will get a big supply of water. More than what we would have ever had," he said.

The modernisation was designed to give the irrigators 12 MI/day each if they were all using water, or 48 MI at a maximum.

Rubicon senior project manager Greg Stevens said the modernisation was an alternative way of keeping irrigators connected to the backbone.

"We believe it's a very good solution to a very difficult problem," Mr Stevens said.

The cost of the project was covered by G-MW and Mr Stammers installed his own pipes and risers on 10 ha to maximise the channel's new chapter.



The new irrigation system has changed the whole look of Mr Stammers' property.



The old channel is now a thing of the past with the new pipeline now underground.



Byrneside grazier Ross Stammers. Green is for go and the new pump component of the low-energy pipeline will see the water flow.

