



## **Record Weekend Rainfall Tests Our Drainage Systems**

### **Second Update 11 March 2026**

#### **Operational update – water quality and recovery works**

Following the recent record rainfall event WMI is pleased to advise that pumping operations are now beginning to progressively resume.

As flows return to the system, our low-dose hydrogen peroxide treatment will operate 24 hours a day at each pump station. This treatment should assist in improving water quality and in helping alleviate the odour issues that can develop when water remains stationary in pipelines for extended periods.

With pumping increasing, our team will commence targeted scouring of selected pipelines next week. If these targeted measures are not successful, WMI will undertake a broader system-wide scouring program to help restore normal operating conditions.

At the same time, repairs to drainage infrastructure have now commenced following damage caused by the heavy rainfall. These works will continue over the coming weeks as our team and contractors progressively restore affected drains and associated infrastructure.

We recognise this event has occurred during a critical harvest period for many customers and appreciate the patience and cooperation shown while our staff and contractors have been working to manage the impacts.

Customers experiencing ongoing issues or requiring assistance are encouraged to contact the WMI office on 5027 4953 during business hours or 0428 596 428 for emergencies after hours so our team can provide support where possible.

### **First Update 4 March 2026**

This past weekend brought an intense period of rainfall across our region, with prolonged downpours generating significant stormwater runoff. The large volume of rain received in a short period of time has placed considerable demand on our drainage network and surrounding infrastructure.

Our drainage system is primarily designed to manage irrigation drainage. Subsequently, the volume of stormwater associated with this extreme weather event has pushed parts of the infrastructure beyond capacity. As a result, temporary pooling and slower drainage have occurred throughout the system as it works to safely move excess water away from affected areas.

We recognise that this is a particularly important time of year for many irrigators, with grape and other crop harvest currently underway. We understand the concerns this may cause and are working to restore normal conditions as quickly as possible.



## **Active Monitoring and Response**

Our staff have been working continuously since the onset of the rainfall event. Field teams are actively:

- Inspecting high-risk areas
- Monitoring water levels
- Addressing localised blockages and drainage concerns, including debris entering the system from surrounding properties

To support our small team, contractors with excavators have been engaged and are working around the clock to assist with clearing drains and maintain water flow.

Additional mobile pumps have also been deployed throughout the district to assist in relocating excess water into the drainage network where capacity allows.

We understand the inconvenience that heavy rainfall can cause. Please be assured that our crews remain fully engaged in remedying affected areas as quickly and safely as possible.

## **Important Notice Regarding Water Supply**

Due to the severity of this event, pumping operations have been significantly reduced. As a result, water is currently sitting in the supply line for extended periods in warm conditions which may affect water quality.

As a precautionary measure, customers are advised to switch their household supply over to storage tanks until normal pumping operations resume. We will provide further updates as conditions improve.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this weather event and recovery period and thank you for your understanding as we work through these challenging conditions.