

## Treatment of submersed aquatic weeds

**During this year's irrigation off-season we'll be undertaking an aquatic weed treatment program to improve flow rates in our channel system.**

In some parts of the irrigation system, submersed aquatic weeds such as Sagittaria, Ribbon weed and Egeria are choking GMW's channels.

The weeds affect water flow, promote silting and cause problems with the automated regulators, which can reduce the ability to deliver water to our customers.

Treating submersed aquatic weeds ensures a more consistent water supply for our customers.

Limited in-season options are available for the control of submersed aquatic weeds. This year, GMW will be using herbicide to treat aquatic weeds in various channels impacted by submersed weeds.

### What will happen?

During the non-irrigation period from 16 May to 14 August 2024 the following will occur:

- Water will remain in the channel system until the end of the irrigation season (last day of the season is 15 May 2024).
- Herbicide will be applied into the static water to treat the aquatic weeds. From the time of application, there is a no water use period which will end prior to the start of the next irrigation season.
- Water will be available for delivery from 15 August 2024 - the first day of the new irrigation season.

### What does this mean for crops and stock?

In diluted form, the herbicide GMW uses has a very low toxicity to humans and mammals, however there is a withhold period that needs to be followed.

Livestock should not ingest the channel water as traces of the chemical may register in their produce.

Horticulture and broad-acre crops must not be sprayed with channel water during this time.

### What you need to do

Before the treatment of your channels, you will need to:

- Make alternative arrangements for winter domestic and stock water supplies as you cannot rely on water remaining in the irrigation channels over the winter period.
- Prevent stock from accessing the channel.

### More information

For more information about the treatment program please visit your local Customer Service Centre or phone us on 1800 013 357.



Egeria and Ribbon weed