

Media Release



Wednesday, 19 August, 2009

Sunbury puts its namesake to work on Western Water's greenhouse challenge

Solar panels at Sunbury's works depot and recycled water treatment plant are the latest recruits in a green makeover affecting changes to Western Water operations across its region.

Renewable Resources Acting Manager Anna May said a 2kW solar panel system went up on the depot roof this week to trial just how much energy can be cut from the plant's direct consumption from the electricity grid from a single base unit installation.

"This trial will sit alongside a raft of other workplace and operational changes that are taking place as part of Western Water's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy," Ms May said.

"These range from changing over our vehicle fleet to less polluting Biodiesel fuel, to upgrading the lighting and climate control systems within each workplace building and using solar power to pump fuel and cut back what we draw from the state grid.

"Our milestone target in the past 12 months has been to cut Western Water's reliance on non-renewable energy sources by 25 per cent against the baseline of our consumption in 2004/05," she said.

Sustainability General Manager Rob Franklin said Western Water is also tackling the energy consumption inherent in the water industry through its capital investments program.

"Western Water is investing heavily in capital works projects to address both the environmental performance and cost-efficiency of our systems and processes," Mr Franklin said.

Mr Franklin said the Sunbury plant is a signature project for Western Water and the organisation's sustainability agenda to have zero net carbon emissions by 2017/18. In the past four years, major upgrades have been undertaken at the treatment plant, both to cater for the town's current and future needs and to improve the environmental performance of the plant and its environs.

"This treatment plant is the source of the 35km Sunbury-Melton Recycled Water Pipeline, which has drawn national acclaim for the innovative work that's been done in this region with recycled water for more than a decade now," he said.

"Now there is widespread community acceptance and awareness of recycled water as a valuable resource in its own right.

"In the next five years, more than \$150 million has been earmarked to the continuous improvement of the way we do things in this region, to build environmental performance and boost capacity in our systems," he said.

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About Western Water

Western Water is one of Victoria's 13 regional urban water corporations. We provide water, recycled water and sewerage services to over 53,000 properties and 134,810 people in an area of 3,000 square kilometres. Our region extends from Lancefield in the north to Melton and Rockbank in the south and from Myrning in the west to Bulla in the east. We incorporate parts of Hume City Council and Melton, Moorabool and Macedon Ranges Shire Councils.

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“This will include our big plant set-ups, aeration treatment processes and new pipeline networks that eliminate the need for electricity-fired pump houses because gravity can do the job just as well.”

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