

Media Release



Thursday, 20 August 2009

Where great mains meet, Melton marks its manhole to water smart solutions

Below ground, Melton will soon have what it takes to drive a smart water revolution in new urban form on its dry volcanic plains.

With growth forecast to more than treble the population within 20 years, Western Water this week put the final touches to a \$26 million investment in making this future possible.

A manhole is being set in place where the new Melton Outfall Sewer now joins the upgraded Surbiton Park Recycled Water Plant inlet works, marking the end of the first stage of a multifaceted upgrade of the town's sewer mains and recycled water treatment capacity.

It is the culmination of almost two years of shifting earth, laying kilometres of pipes, pouring concrete and bridging creeks, as well as overhauling Melton's 30 year old recycled water plant.

"Combined, these pipeline and plant upgrade projects give the Melton region the capacity to grow in a manner that maximises the use and reuse of every drop of Australia's most precious resource," Western Water Managing Director John Wilkinson said.

"They set the stage for sustainable urban growth and are also great examples of applied engineering in their own right."

Mr Wilkinson said the replacement of the old Melton sewer main with a new gravity sewer pipeline means Western Water can decommission its Blamey Drive pump station to Surbiton Park, cutting more than 150 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year from its carbon footprint.

"This is significant in terms of Western Water's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy, which aims to achieve zero net carbon emissions by 2017," Mr Wilkinson said.

"Plus there is also a direct cost saving on the electricity bill of about \$16,500 a year."

With Lancefield contractor Doug Kindred connecting the manhole between the two pipeline projects this week, engineers and contractors working with the various design and construction crews met on site to view progress.

Mr Wilkinson said global water engineering specialists MWH had overseen both construction jobs, with construction of the \$13.3 million upgrade to the Surbiton Park recycled water plant undertaken by MFJ Constructions. The new Melton sewer mains, which also cost about \$13 million, was designed by MWH and built by Armstrong Constructions.

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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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Meanwhile, tenders closed this month on the next stage of the Surbiton Park recycled water plant's five-stage upgrade plan and tender documents are out for stage 2.

This second stage will develop advanced infrastructure to improve the quality and environmental efficiency of major treatment processes at the recycled water plant.

Mr Wilkinson said tenders closed recently for the job of constructing Western Water's first co-generation power plant, which will use captured methane gas from Melton's Class A recycled water treatment processes to produce electrical energy and heat for plant processes.

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