

Media Release



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Reports trifecta shows Western Water's region gets the balance right

Western Water has released "a trifecta" of annual reports for 2008-09, signing off on a year of major challenges and hard-earned achievements.

Managing Director John Wilkinson said Victorian water businesses reported annually to the State Government, the Department of Health, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Environment Protection Authority.

"Western Water's 2008-09 Annual Report was tabled in Parliament by the Water Minister Tim Holding, alongside those of other water authorities and government agencies, when the Spring session started last month," he said.

"Subsequently, Western Water has lodged and had approved its 2008-09 Water Quality Report and its 2008-09 Environment Report."

Mr Wilkinson said the last financial year had been one of the most challenging and rewarding reporting periods, with Western Water topping the state in its reuse of recycled water and its marketing of biosolids, while bringing online Victoria's first new town in 100 years, at Eynesbury near Melton, which attracted a United Nations Sustainability Award and won the national savewater! awards.

"Now in its 13th year, the drought in Victoria has impacted heavily on this region, many parts of which are traditionally drier, particularly around Melton," he said.

"Residential water consumption has been cut and the communities of this region are responding very well to the State Government's Target 155 litres per person per day campaign benchmark."

Mr Wilkinson said Western Water's capital expenditure of \$37.3M included upgrades to four of the region's seven recycled water plants, while the five-year, \$129.5M capital expenditure budget outlined in its Water Plan will update existing infrastructure and address demands brought about by the region's projected high population growth.

"The three reports from the past financial year really are a trifecta of good results," he said.

"They show in minute detail that Western Water continues to fulfil its statutory role as the public provider of clean drinking water and environmentally sustainable water services to cities, towns and villages of its region.

"And they also highlight Western Water's longstanding commitment to work closely with our communities, with householders, businesspeople and farmers, to offer them the professional help they need to make sure every drop of our most precious natural resource is used widely and well," Mr Wilkinson said.

All three reports are now available on Western Water's website and, for the first time, the 2008-09 Annual Report has also been published as an e-book for quick and easy access at your fingertips.

www.westernwater.com.au

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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