

Media Release



Thursday, 8 October, 2009

New sewer main works slow Calder traffic at Gisborne

Pipeline works on Gisborne's new \$2.9 million sewer line have arrived at the Calder Freeway overpass to the town and motorists accessing the Melbourne bound lanes will be required to reduce speed at the merger with freeway traffic.

Western Water Managing Director John Wilkinson also warned motorists on the freeway of changed speed conditions on Melbourne-bound lanes to allow the safe merger of Gisborne traffic.

"These changes will remain in place for the next few weeks as construction works are undertaken alongside the freeway and under the overpass," Mr Wilkinson said.

"After this section has been traversed, works will then impact on the Calder freeway exit lane to Gisborne from Woodend, on the other side of the overpass."

Mr Wilkinson said the new sewer main is one of the major regional upgrades outlined in Western Water's capital works program aimed and will service new homes due to be built at Gisborne South over coming years.

"This is a major infrastructure upgrade for Gisborne and an investment in the future of the town," he said.

"This project will really showcase the vital role of good design and engineering in improving the environmental footprint of our towns and cities."

Mr Wilkinson said the new South Gisborne sewer had been designed to follow natural drainage lines from its origins at Willowbank Road to take sewage from new developments in this precinct to Western Water's recycled water plant along side the Calder Freeway.

"This route will eliminate the need for a major new pumping facility because the new pipeline will work with the natural fall of the land, allowing gravity to do the job," he said.

"As a result, an existing small pump station on Sheedy Road will no longer be needed and this will be decommissioned once the new main is in place."

Mr Wilkinson said by letting gravity do its job, Western Water has been able to reduce project costs of upgrading and powering pumps and reduce long term greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of almost a tonne of carbon dioxide and other environmental pollutants each year.

"And a gravity main also almost eliminates ongoing pipeline cleaning and maintenance because there is little chance for gas and sludge build-ups," 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 project has been in the planning for a number of years now and consolidates Western Water’s long term programme of initiatives to build better systems and leave a lighter footprint on our landscapes wherever we go,” Mr Wilkinson said.

“In conjunction with the necessary earthworks to lay this new main sewer line, Western Water will undertake significant offset planting to boost the continuing revegetation efforts at Jacksons Creek and its tributaries in this area.

“Western Water’s recycled water plant at Gisborne is already a site of significant remnant vegetation and this project will build on the stewardship role Western Water already takes very seriously to improve the health of waterways and the quality of their water.”

Mr Wilkinson said with pipeline and drilling works set to continue until Christmas, changes to local traffic conditions around the Gisborne freeway overpass would be in place between 7am and 5pm daily.

“There may also be very brief times when the traffic will need to be stopped due to a machine backing on to the road, however this will be rare and the process will be fully manned and signalled,” he said.

“There will be no need for traffic to be diverted at any stage in these works, however, it will be slowed before entering the freeway and drivers are urged to take care and stay aware of changed road conditions.”

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