

Media Release



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Growth drives plans for water future

Western Water will invest more than \$220 million in water infrastructure in the next five years to cater for the region's growing population and cope with climate change, under a new Corporate Plan launched today.

The Corporate Plan updated yearly, sets out Western Water's strategic directions and initiatives for the next five years.

"This huge investment in new infrastructure will ensure we can continue to supply safe and good tasting drinking water to all our customers, even as the expansion of Melbourne's urban growth boundary leads to a big boost in population" Western Water's Managing Director, John Wilkinson, says.

Spending across the region will include:

- \$20million in the Macedon Ranges towards an extra storage tank at Rosslynne Reservoir and Romsey groundwater augmentation, among other projects.
- \$11 million in Hume, including additional tank storage and an upgrade at the Sunbury Recycled Water Plant.
- \$107 million in Melton on a raft of projects, including a massive staged upgrade of the Melton Recycled Water Plant, and new water mains infrastructure for growing suburbs.
- \$12 million in Moorabool on projects such as upgrading the Bacchus Marsh Recycled Water Plant and increasing the capacity of pipe networks, mains and sewers.

Mr Wilkinson says the majority of capital spending will occur in Melton because that is where the greatest population growth is predicted.

"In recent years we have focused on upgrading infrastructure in Sunbury, and now it is Melton's turn."

"Under the plan, we are assuming drought conditions will remain unchanged and we will continue to source about 95 per cent of our water from the Melbourne supply, Mr Wilkinson says.

"Despite good rains in the first half of this year, we will also be continuing our emphasis on water conservation, with programs such as our showerhead exchange and free trigger nozzles.

"Our customers are already among the lowest water users in the state and we are urging people to continue with their water-saving efforts at home and at work."

Mr Wilkinson says recycled water will become an increasingly important resource over time as our population grows, and Western Water is aiming to recycle 100 per cent of water by 2013.

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.

Media contacts

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Recycled water is already piped across the region for watering sports grounds and parks, as well as irrigating vineyards and orchards.

In the new township of Eynesbury, south of Melton, homes have a second water pipe supplying Class A recycled water for toilet flushing, washing cars and watering gardens.

“Our planning for future suburbs within the urban growth boundary will include supplying recycled water where possible for these uses,” Mr Wilkinson says.

“We will also investigate options for capturing and reusing stormwater, particularly in the planned new suburb of Toolern, south of Melton.”

ENDS

PIC OPPORTUNITY: Deputy Premier Rob Hulls, Western Water chairman Terry Larkins and Western Water managing director John Wilkinson will be available for photographs at the launch of the Corporate Plan at **Tabcorp Park, 2 Ferris Rd, Melton, on August 18 at 8.30am**

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