

Media Release



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Western Water upgrades at Sunbury cut waste and energy

A \$2.2 million project set to start next month at Sunbury Recycled Water Plant will cut both energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from the town's wastewater recycling processes.

The project is part of a multi-million upgrade underway at Sunbury and complements the \$1.8million nine million-litre recycled water storage basin installed at the plant last year. This latest project involves construction of a new plant building to house a belt press dewatering unit.

Managing director John Wilkinson said the unit will extract recyclable water from biosolids, replacing an existing centrifuge dewatering unit built in 1989. Biosolids are also reused, after composting, to produce soil conditioners and high quality farm fertilisers.

"The centrifuge unit has now reached the end of its operational life and this gives us the chance to bring in new technology, which will cut power usage as well as greenhouse gas emissions," Mr Wilkinson said.

"The new unit uses gravity to pump off excess water, which does not require the energy of the centrifuge system and therefore does not emit the same level of greenhouse gas emissions."

Mr Wilkinson said the upgrade will also increase the plant's flow and treatment capacity to handle future loads from Sunbury's growing population.

"The project will ensure all recycled water produced at the Sunbury RWP complies with Class B recycled water standards for supply to the Sunbury Melton Recycled Water Scheme, as well as complying with EPA licence limits for discharge to Jacksons Creek," he said.

The project is due to be completed by July this year.

Sunbury RWP last year produced 1,658 million litres of recycled water, of which 949 million litres was used by customers including wine and olive growers, Christmas tree growers and speciality fodder crop producers, among others.

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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.

Media contacts

Helen Grimaux | Media Advisor | 0419 356 361 | helen.grimaux@westernwater.com.au

Brigid Wenn | Manager Communications | 03 9218 5521 | 0419 314 700 | brigid.wenn@westernwater.com.au