

# Media Release



JULY 27, 2010

## Innovation bridges the gap at Toolern Creek

A new bridge that is both a sewer pipe and a link to the new Toolern Creek regional park will be officially opened by Western Water this week.

The \$2 million Toolern Creek Bridge was built by Western Water as part of the 6.1km Melton sewer main upgrade.

“Instead of just building a pipe across the creek, we worked with the local community to come up with the best solution for residents and the environment,” Western Water’s managing director, John Wilkinson says.

“The result is a pedestrian bridge that fits in beautifully with the natural setting and was installed with minimum impact on the environment.”

To make sure the sensitive creek bed was not disturbed, the bridge was built by contractors BMD off-site and then trucked in to be put in place.

“The alignment of the bridge and the fact it is single span means there was very little impact on vegetation or the creek bed,” Mr Wilkinson says.

“We also worked closely with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria to ensure there was minimal impact on the creek’s Aboriginal heritage.

“A Cultural Heritage Management Plan was carried out prior to the project starting, and more than 400 cultural artefacts were found and documented by archaeologists.

“This project has been named a finalist in the Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) Earth Awards, which recognise outstanding construction work and environmental excellence reflecting use of the best technologies and practices.”

The bridge will allow Melton South residents easy access to the new 130-hectare Toolern Creek Regional Park.

The park, which is in the first stage of development by Parks Victoria, features stands of River Red Gum and Grey Box. Eventually it will have walking and cycling trails, picnic areas, and sports grounds.

Mr Wilkinson said the \$13.3m sewer main upgrade was necessary to cater for Melton’s rapidly increasing population.

The new sewer system relies on gravity to move wastewater to the Melton Recycled Water Plant, where it is treated to produce Class A recycled water.

### 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

Kylie Smith | Media Advisor | 03 9218 5527 | 0488 22 66 81 | [kylie.smith@westernwater.com.au](mailto:kylie.smith@westernwater.com.au)

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“This eliminates the need for pumping, so we were able to remove the old pumping station on the banks of the creek and replace it with indigenous plants,” Mr Wilkinson says.

“No pumping also means less electricity used and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of about 150 tonnes a year.”

Class A recycled water from the Melton plant is pumped to homes and parks around the region for watering gardens, flushing toilets and washing cars.

## **MEDIA ALERT: PIC OPPORTUNITY**

Melton MLA Don Nardella and Western Water chairman Terry Larkins will be officially opening the Toolern Creek Bridge on **Friday, July 30** at 11.30am. They will be available for photos **at 12pm**.

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