

Media Release



Monday June 28, 2010

Sewage Gas No Longer on the Nose

In an Australian first, Western Water will use new technology to transform sewage gases into 100 per cent renewable energy, ultimately producing carbon neutral recycled water.

Energy and Resources Minister Peter Batchelor will this week officially open the \$2 million cogeneration facility at Western Water's Melton Recycled Water Plant.

"The Brumby Labor Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and that's why we were pleased to provide \$775,000 towards the cogeneration facility," Mr Batchelor said.

"The plant has the dual benefit of capturing methane emissions while creating 100 per cent renewable energy to power the Class A Recycled Water Plant."

Mr Batchelor said the methane gas was captured before being burnt inside a microturbine to produce electricity.

"The cogeneration plant is connected to the site's power grid," he said.

"The cogeneration plant will not only produce enough energy to drive the plant, it will also reduce carbon emissions from the treatment of recycled water by 1800 tonnes.

"This is equivalent to taking 450 cars off the road annually.

"The Melton Recycled Water Plant is a real leader when it comes to cutting its emissions as it aims to become a zero waste recycling plant with 100 per cent water recycling, 100 per cent biosolids reuse and 100 per cent biogas reuse."

With grant contributions of \$700,000 from the Brumby Labor Government's Vision for Werribee Plains project and \$75,000 from Sustainability Victoria, Western Water will help reduce their carbon footprint in the fast-growing urban growth area.

Western Water managing director John Wilkinson said the plant, built by Aquatec-Maxcon, uniquely harnessed microturbine technology rather than using conventional engines, further reducing the energy needs of the facility.

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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“Western Water strives to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as we work towards our goal of having zero net emissions by 2017,” Mr Wilkinson said.

“Through innovation, the cogeneration facility embraces cutting edge technology which turns a waste into a resource.”

Peter Batchelor will officially open the cogeneration facility at Western Water’s Melton Recycled Water Plant on Wednesday June 30, at Surbiton Park, Butlers Rd, Melton (Melways Ref 221 C5) at 10.30

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