

Media Release



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Sewage projects keeping Gisborne flushed

There's one result of Gisborne's growing population that most people don't see – the increasing amount of sewage flowing into the town's recycled water plant.

"Most people don't think too much about where it all goes when they flush the toilet or pull the plug out of the bath," Western Water's General Manager, Sustainability, Rob Franklin, says.

Western Water's \$5.6 million upgrade to the Gisborne Recycled Water Plant, completed this month, will ensure it is able to cope with the town's growing volume of sewage well into the future.

Associated projects under way include a \$1.6 million upgrade to the town's sewage pump station, opposite the Gisborne Bowls Club on Kilmore Rd, and a new \$2.9 million sewer to cater to development sites in Gisborne South.

"We have a big job ensuring that wastewater is safely transferred to the Gisborne Recycled Water Plant and treated to produce recycled water," Mr Franklin says.

The RWP upgrade, carried out in stages, began with the installation of new aerators and mixers for reducing the nutrient levels in the water, and a new clarifier, for settling solids out of the water.

"This year improvements have included upgrading the plant's lagoons and drying basin," Mr Franklin says.

"The drying basin is where we dry the solids left after the water is taken out, leaving biosolids, which is reused by local farmers to improve their soils.

"The recycled water produced at the end of this process is then reused for keeping the town's botanic gardens, golf course and sports grounds green year-round."

Mr Franklins says the projects also have environmental benefits.

"The recycled water plant upgrade has improved the quality of our recycled water, while the pump station upgrade will help protect Jacksons Creek from potential wastewater spills during heavy rain, or in emergencies if the pumps cannot operate," he says.

The new pumps will also use less power, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 11 tonnes a year."

Gisborne's Recycled Water Plant, built in 1981, can treat up to a million litres of water a day from homes and businesses across Gisborne and New Gisborne.

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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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