

Media Release



May 13, 2011

Film footage to help stop sewage spills

Crews will be shooting hours of film footage in Bacchus Marsh over the next few weeks – but don't expect it to be coming to a cinema near you.

The footage will be shot inside the town's sewer mains by Western Water contractors gathering information to help keep the sewerage system in good shape.

"The work is part of our Sewer Spill Prevention Strategy, which aims to help stop sewage spills that can result from cracks or blockages in sewer mains," Western Water's General Manager, Sustainability, Rob Franklin, says.

"When a sewer main becomes blocked by a build-up of fats or invading tree roots, sewage can back up and spill out onto streets, into waterways or even inside people's houses," he says.

"By sending closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras into our sewer mains we can identify any potential issues before they become real problems."

The contractors will survey almost 9km of sewer mains over the next 12 weeks throughout Bacchus Marsh.

"Contractors will need to get access to the sewers through manholes, some of which are on people's properties," Mr Franklin says.

"We will contact residents directly if we need to access their properties or if we will be working directly outside."

Mr Franklin says the project to film the region's sewer mains will begin in Bacchus Marsh, and continue throughout all of Western Water's service area.

"We want to make sure all the mains are structurally sound and in good condition and make repairs where needed," he says.

Anyone who wants to see what the inside of a blocked sewer looks like can go to the website at www.westernwater.com.au and click on "sewerage" to see a video called "Remember – just ones and twos down the loo".

"We are encouraging all our customers to be careful what they put into the sewerage system – no fats and oils – and not to plant trees over sewer mains," Mr Franklin says.

Anyone who would like to find out more about the program can contact Western Water's Operations and Field Maintenance Supervisor, Dean Barnett, on 9218 5497.

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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

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Photo opportunity: Wednesday May 18, 9am-10am.

Please contact Dean Barnett on 0417 375 906 at 9am for the exact location of crews working on sewer mains in Bacchus Marsh. Crews working at this time will be available to photograph.

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