



Media release

The Hon Peter Walsh MP

Minister for Agriculture and Food Security
Minister for Water

Sunday 20 March 2011

Coalition helps secure water supplies for Gisborne

Horticultural businesses in Gisborne will receive a secure supply of water to irrigate high value crops including cherries, grape vines and olives under a new recycled water scheme.

Minister for Water Peter Walsh made the announcement while representing Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Peter Ryan at the Pitruzello Estate in Sunbury today.

"The Coalition Government is providing \$1.27 million to Western Water towards the Gisborne Recycled Water Scheme project (Gisborne GRoWS)," Mr Walsh said.

"The scheme will deliver a guaranteed supply of up to 250 megalitres of Class B recycled water to the horticultural precinct in Gisborne South and will encourage business growth, diversification and new employment opportunities."

Mr Walsh said the project involved the design and construction of a new pipeline, upgrades to existing pipelines, a new booster pump station, and an upgrade to an existing pump station to cater for additional flow demands.

"After a prolonged period of low rainfall, businesses in Gisborne South resorted to expensive measures such as sourcing water from saline groundwater bores and trucking recycled water," Mr Walsh said.

"The Gisborne GRoWS project will provide the security of a constant water supply to existing businesses.

"It will also attract new business growth to the region, and position Gisborne South as a regional food bowl with further employment and tourism opportunities."

Mr Walsh said Western Water had provided \$2.722 million while local industry and the community had contributed a further \$278,000 towards the total cost of the project, which was due to be completed in November 2012.

Mr Ryan said Gisborne GRoWS would retain jobs, as well as create new jobs for the participating businesses, and would also return environmental flows of around 97 megalitres of water to Jacksons Creek each year.

"The completed recycling project will create enormous opportunities for Gisborne South's future development as a regional food bowl, including reduced transport and energy costs due the close proximity to Melbourne markets," Mr Ryan said.

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