

# Media Release



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## Sustainable water future for a growing region

Western Water will invest more than \$200 million in water infrastructure in the next five years to cater for the region's growing population and cope with climate change, under a new Corporate Plan launched today.

Water Minister Peter Walsh attended the launch of the Corporate Plan, which sets out Western Water's strategic directions and initiatives for the next five years.

"This plan has been prepared with the dual challenges of climate change and population growth in mind," Western Water's Chairman, Terry Larkins, says.

"The population of our service region is set to rise from 150,000 to 450,000 in the next 20 years, and we need to be prepared to cater to that."

"We are making a huge investment in infrastructure over the next five years to ensure our customers have a secure, reliable, healthy water supply, and effective sewerage services," Western Water's Managing Director, John Wilkinson, says.

"We will continue our strong emphasis on sustainability, with a commitment to becoming net carbon neutral by 2017-18, and protection of our natural water resources.

"There will also be a focus on increasing the use of recycled water, where appropriate, to save potable water and help create green, liveable towns."

Spending across the region will include:

- \$2.8 million on the Exford Rd water main in Melton
- A \$3.1 million upgrade of the Bacchus Marsh Recycled Water Plant
- The \$4.3 million Gisborne Recycled Water Scheme

"We will also be starting a stormwater harvesting trial at Toolern, the new suburb planned for the south of Melton," Mr Wilkinson says.

"This is the first step in an integrated water cycle management plan for Toolern that will make it the first water-neutral suburb in Australia."

Mr Wilkinson says Western Water will also expand its WaterTight program, which has already helped 900 households reduce their water use by around 20 per cent.

"Our customers are already among the lowest water users in the state and we are urging people to continue with their water-saving efforts at home and at work."  
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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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