

recycledwater news

September 2010



Reducing emissions at Melton

Western Water's \$2 million cogeneration facility (above) was launched by Energy and Resources Minister Peter Batchelor on 30 June at Western Water's Melton Recycled Water Plant.

Methane emissions from sewage are captured by the new facility and used to produce electricity and heat to run the Recycled Water Plant, reducing carbon emissions by more than 1800 tonnes annually - equivalent to taking 450 cars off the road.

Saving drinking water at Eynesbury

Homes in the new township of Eynesbury are using Class A recycled water from the Melton Recycled Water Plant for toilet flushing and outdoor use.

In 2009/10, 226.2 ML (million litres) of recycled water were used at Eynesbury. Residents used 6.5 ML of drinking water and 9 ML of recycled water. An additional 217.2 ML of recycled water was used for irrigating recreational areas, including the golf course at Eynesbury, saving our precious drinking water supplies.

The first residential connection occurred in December 2008. In July 2010, when Jim and Janelle Cooper (pictured below with children Louis and Lavinia) moved in, Eynesbury reached the milestone of 100 residents. The township will eventually have 2,900 residential lots.

Recycled water available

Western Water is seeking applications from property owners who would like to use Class C recycled water from the Riddells Creek or Woodend Recycled Water Plant; or Class B recycled water from the Gisborne or Sunbury Recycled Water Plants.

Suitable uses for recycled water include irrigating crops, orchards and sporting grounds.

For more information, please contact the Renewable Resources Team on 03 9218 5400.



Western Water 1300 650 425
36 Macedon Street, Sunbury VIC
To receive recycled water news by email, please visit:
www.westernwater.com.au





Results snapshot

In 2009/10, 85% of water arriving at Western Water's Recycled Water Plants was beneficially reused, thereby saving 1,528 million litres of drinking water.

Western Water's net greenhouse gas emissions for 2009/10 were 20,999 tonnes CO₂e. This result is 3,505 tonnes less than 2008/09, and a 30% reduction from the 2004/05 baseline.

For more information about recycled water and greenhouse gas reduction, please visit our new, improved website at www.westernwater.com.au

Biosolids no longer going to waste

Biosolids from recycled water plants could have a promising future as a farm fertiliser, judging by the results of a study conducted by Western Water in Woodend.

"Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic material, a by-product of producing recycled water," Western Water's Managing Director, John Wilkinson, says.

"We have been monitoring biosolids as an alternative farm fertiliser, and now results are in showing evidence that they have the capacity to improve soils and crop quality. The study also showed grain grown using biosolids has more protein and is lower in starch, making it better for livestock."

The study was carried out at the Woodend farm of Gavin Lester-Smith (pictured above), where biosolids from the Gisborne Recycled Water Plant have been used for the past five years, and monitoring of soil, crop, grains and straw has been carried out for the past two.

The application of biosolids must comply with criteria set out by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to ensure beneficial and sustainable use. Western Water recycled 2,446 tonnes of biosolids, or 121% (including stockpiles) in 2009/10.

Recycled water price increase

Western Water will invest more than \$220 million to extend and improve drinking water, recycled water and sewage infrastructure over the next five years, to cater for the region's growing population and cope with climate change.

From 1 July, the price of recycled water increased as determined by the Essential Services Commission. For Class A recycled water customers, the usage charge increased from \$1.1222 per 1000 litres in 2009/10 to \$1.2434 per 1000 litres in 2010/11.

For information about service charges, tapping fees, new customer contributions and Class B and C recycled water prices, please contact Western Water's Renewable Resources Team on 03 9218 5400.

Significant grassland protected

Bacchus Marsh Recycled Water Plant (RWP) is located at Parwan. In 2008, the RWP property was included in Western Water's Biodiversity Asset and Action Plan.

A recent flora survey at the property identified a Very High conservation significance grassland. Grasslands west of Melbourne are now less than 2% of their size at European settlement and are listed as Critically Endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.

The site was also found to contain Clover Glycine, a species listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

The 5.5 hectare grassland at the RWP comes under a lease agreement for agricultural use. Western Water has negotiated the grassland's removal from the lease agreement and has fenced it to keep out stock animals and rabbits. Weed control will commence in spring.

Western Water is working with Parwan Landcare Group to manage this site. In August, members of the group and Western Water staff (pictured below) planted indigenous herbaceous species at the site. The Landcare members are private landholders from the Bacchus Marsh area.

