

Customer profile: Riddells Creek Pony Club going green with Recycled Water



Riddells Creek Pony Club expects plenty of benefits from the use of Recycled Water, after signing up as a customer earlier this year.

However, high rainfall has meant there is not much need at the moment, says the club's Vice President, Kevin Watson.

"There are benefits, which we will see in the future," he says. "It will be used for dust suppression on the sand areas...and we will be able to keep the area around the clubhouse green."

Western Water is sponsoring the club's water supply as part of its program to support community organisations.

Riddells Creek Pony Club has 72 riding members aged from 5 to 25, and this year won Equestrian Victoria's "Club of the Year" award.

The club is one of seven recycled water customers in Riddells Creek. If you are interested in becoming a customer in the area, please contact the Renewable Resources team on 9218 5400.

Members of Riddells Creek Pony Club (above)

Recycled Water to flow for future residents

Western Water has begun building the Recycled Water infrastructure for the region's largest new suburb - Toolern, south of Melton, set to house 50,000 people by 2030.

Work has begun on a 2.2km Class A Recycled Water main that will bring water from the Melton Recycled Water Plant to homes in Toolern for uses such as toilet flushing, car washing and gardening.

Before the project began, Western Water worked with government agencies and Melton Shire Council to ensure native vegetation and fauna was protected during construction. This included a nocturnal frog survey to ensure the nationally protected Growling Grass Frog was not present in the area.

Work on the pipe is expected to be finished by the end of the year. A combination of Recycled Water supply and stormwater harvesting and reuse in Toolern aims to make it Australia's first water neutral suburb.



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Frequently asked question:

I'm not using my recycled water allocation, do I still have to pay for it?

Yes. Under your Customer Supply Contract, you must pay for the water we have agreed to supply, even if you do not use it (Clause 3).

You must also take reasonable steps to use your water entitlement over the season.

Keep your site safe with regular inspection and maintenance

A recent incident in which a recycled water tank overflowed has highlighted the need for regular inspection and maintenance of equipment.

Customers are required to inspect and maintain all recycled water reticulation systems, irrigation systems and associated equipment.

Your inspection and maintenance programs must be preventative so potential problems or failures are identified before they occur. You must carry out inspections before, during and after irrigation, including checking:

- Are dam walls and embankments intact?
- Is there evidence of storage overflows?
- Is there odour or algal growth?
- Are stock proof fences and signs in place and livestock and public excluded?
- Is irrigation contained within the recycled water use area?

- Are all systems and equipment (including areas to which recycled water is distributed) operating within original design, as set out in your Site Management Plan?
- Are fail-safe systems operating effectively and is the necessary emergency response equipment ready?
- Is there evidence of burst pipes or overflows from pumps or irrigation equipment?
- Is there evidence of stock damage to irrigation equipment?
- Are sprinklers, spray nozzles, drippers and valves in good condition?
- Is there evidence of ponding and excessive waterlogging or run-off?

Inspections should be frequent and thorough enough that problems are detected as early as possible, so they can be fixed and any impacts minimised.

Recycled Water Customer Audits

External auditors are checking Recycled Water customers' properties to ensure they are complying with their contracts and the EPA's *Guidelines for Environmental Management – Use of Reclaimed Water*.

The audits include soil sampling of the irrigated and non-irrigated areas to check soil health and any changes that may have occurred since the last sampling period.

All Recycled Water customers should expect an audit at some time - customers have full involvement with the audit and receive the final report with any recommendations.



Staff profile: Jayden Holmes

Qualifications:

I am now in the final year of a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University, with plans to undertake Honours in 2012. This month I will attend the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban, South Africa, as an Australian youth representative.

Role at Western Water:

As a Renewable Resources Officer, I am investigating the use of recycled water for clothes washing, with trials under way on Western Water's Class A recycled water. Depending on the outcome, we may approve the use of Class A recycled water in home laundries for our customers.