



Melton Recycled Water Plant produces Class A Recycled Water, powered by green energy, thanks to a cogeneration facility that uses biogas to produce electricity.

If your school or community group is interested in a tour of the plant, call Western Water on 1800 620 362.

# recycledwater news

September 2011



## Recycled water customer management plans updated

Western Water has updated its recycled water customer site management plans to make them more user-friendly.

All recycled water customers have a management plan, which sets out how the recycled water supply is managed at their property, its uses, health and safety and what to do if an incident occurs.

As a customer it is your job to refer to this plan to make sure you are meeting all the requirements for the supply of recycled water at your property.

The rollout of the new plans has begun, and every customer will receive a new site management plan by November this year.

Your new site management plan folder will include a copy of your contract with Western Water, sections to keep records of maintenance and training, and what to do in the case of an algal bloom or other incident.

### Don't forget!

All customers by now should have completed their 2010-2011 Annual Compliance Statement.

If you are one of the small number of Class B or C customers yet to return their statement and you need help, please contact the Renewable Resources Team on 9218 5400.

## Sunbury Primary School to benefit from Recycled Water

When Sean Lawless took over as principal of Sunbury Primary a year ago he noticed one big difference from his previous school.

Diggers Rest Primary, had lush green ovals and grass play areas, thanks to the supply of recycled water. Sunbury Primary's oval, by contrast, was yellowed and patchy after years of drought.

Mr Lawless is planning to change that, after applying to become a Western Water recycled water customer.

He says prior to the supply of recycled water the Diggers Rest Primary grounds were "basically unusable in summer".

"During the summer these cracks would just open up and we used to joke about losing preps down them – which wasn't that far-fetched," he says.

Once Western Water began supplying recycled water from the Sunbury-Melton pipeline, the school was transformed. "It's green all year round, the children can play on it and it's used by other sporting groups," he says.

Mr Lawless says becoming a recycled water customer is a "fairly straightforward" process.

Western Water helped arrange soil testing, and a Federal Government grant will assist with the necessary infrastructure.

By the time drought-resistant Kikuyu grass turf is ready to roll out in December, the sprinkler systems will be ready to go. "We'll have a much better surface to enjoy a kick of the footy," he says.

Western Water recently released its Corporate Plan, outlining strategies and spending for the next five years.

The plan includes a strong focus on recycled water, including the \$4.3 million Gisborne Recycled Water Scheme.

For more on the Corporate Plan go to [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au).



### New staff profile: Kate Berg

#### Qualifications:

Diploma of Environmental Management (Swinburne); Diploma of Sustainability (Swinburne); Bachelor of Environmental Science (RMIT University)

#### Work Experience:

Before joining Western Water, I was an Education Officer at Melbourne Water, doing tours and education at the Werribee Treatment Plant, as well school-based and community education.

#### Role at Western Water:

As Renewable Resources Officer, my duties include recycled water scheme operations, customer site visits and issuing permits for recycled water carting.

Historic Sunbury Primary School will receive recycled water to help renew its tired oval (below)



Western Water 1300 650 425  
36 Macedon Street, Sunbury VIC  
[www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au)

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## Seeking new customers

Western Water is seeking applications from property owners who would like to use recycled water. Appropriate uses for recycled water include irrigating crops and sporting grounds.

Class C recycled water is available from the Melton, Parwan, Riddells Creek, Romsey or Woodend recycled water plants. Class B recycled water is available from the Gisborne or Sunbury recycled water plants.

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



## Recycled water: Acceptable and Prohibited Uses

Recycled water can be used for a range of purposes, depending on its quality. However, there several prohibited uses of recycled water - make sure you are aware of them!

For more information on acceptable uses, check your Site Management Plan

Prohibited uses for all classes of recycled water include:

- ✘ Drinking water supply for pigs, or irrigation of fodder crops for pigs
- ✘ Aquaculture: producing fish for human consumption

Prohibited uses for Class B and C recycled water include:

- ✘ Washing down milking equipment in dairy sheds
- ✘ Human food crops directly exposed to recycled water that will be eaten raw (eg lettuce)

## Annual Recycled Water Customer Meeting

Western Water held its annual Recycled Water Customer group meeting in July at the Melton Recycled Water Plant.

Melton Recycled Water Plant Team Leader Rod Curtis gave attendees a tour of the plant, including the new co-generation facility and the Class A recycled water plant.

Senior Environmental Engineer William Rajendram spoke about the importance of correct water and nutrient balances based on crop types, and how to avoid environmental damage from over-watering or over-application of fertilisers.

Minutes from the meeting will be sent to all recycled water customers.

## Recycled water in 2010-11

In 2010-11, Western Water's seven recycled water plants received 8,443 megalitres of wastewater, producing 7,956 megalitres of recycled water, of which 51% was used by customers.

This is significantly down on previous years, as heavy rains meant a reduction in irrigation demand at the same time as inflows into our recycled water plants increased.

Data from the Bureau of Meteorology shows most of our region received record rainfall in 2010-11. Sustainable irrigation rates in these weather conditions are estimated to be around a third of that of an average year.

10/11 rainfall      average rainfall

	10/11 rainfall	average rainfall
<b>Sunbury</b>	<b>843mm</b>	<b>586mm</b>
<b>Melton</b>	<b>860mm</b>	<b>486mm</b>
<b>Gisborne/Riddell</b>	<b>1123mm</b>	<b>767mm</b>
<b>Romsey</b>	<b>1171mm</b>	<b>720mm</b>
<b>Woodend</b>	<b>1277mm</b>	<b>809mm</b>
<b>Bacchus Marsh</b>	<b>815mm</b>	<b>483mm</b>

## Fertiliser (nutrient budget) planning

It is up to recycled water customers to ensure that recycled water is being applied to their crops at a rate that does not lead to an excess of nutrients in the soil.

Check the EPA's *Guidelines for Environmental Management: Use of Reclaimed Water* and *Guidelines for Wastewater Irrigation* (available at [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)) for more information about crop nutrient uptakes and how to do a nutrient budget.

If recycled water irrigation does not provide enough nutrients for your crop, you can apply supplementary fertilisers.

Soil nutrients should be monitored at the end of each irrigation season, and your irrigation rates and fertiliser use adjusted accordingly.

## Recycled Water: frequently asked questions

**Question:** Can I transfer my recycled water allocation to someone else?

**Answer:** Yes a customer may transfer all or part of their entitlement to recycled water under a contract to another property, for a single year or for the full length remaining in the original contract, subject to the property owner executing a contract reasonably acceptable to Western Water.

The transfer will be approved if Western Water considers that the transfer will not unduly affect the capacity to supply other customers and will not affect the pipeline system. Transfer fees also apply.

If you have any questions about your recycled water supply, contact the Renewable Resources team on 9218 5400.



Check your Customer Site Management Plan for more information about nutrient budget planning and soil monitoring.