

Recycled water management plan for Deep Creek, Romsey

Western Water is proposing to discharge recycled water into Deep Creek, Romsey: here's what you need to know.

Why is this happening?

Due to a surplus of recycled water, Western Water needs to safely discharge or release the excess water that can't be stored.

Western Water purchased extra land for this purpose. However, it takes two years before the land is developed enough for recycled water use.

In the interim, Western Water is proposing to discharge the excess recycled water into Deep Creek.

Where is it taking place?

In providing wastewater services to the community of Romsey, Western Water collects and treats domestic wastewater at a recycled water plant in Portingale Lane, Romsey.

Western Water proposes to discharge recycled water from this plant through a local stormwater drain - the 'Romsey South Drain' over a two year period.

Recycled water will only be released when there is sufficient flow in Deep Creek.

Who will be affected?

The properties along the stormwater drain route may be directly impacted if they are relying on the stormwater drain for the use of water. If the stock at these properties have direct access to the stormwater drain, the water may not be suitable for cattle drinking. Nevertheless, the recycled water is not expected to be of inferior quality to the stormwater which originates from Romsey township.

What safeguards are there?

Western Water will implement an extensive monitoring and testing program to carefully manage the discharge.

The proposed amount of recycled water to be discharged is 150 megalitres per year. This will be mixed at a ratio of 1 to 5 dilution into Deep Creek.

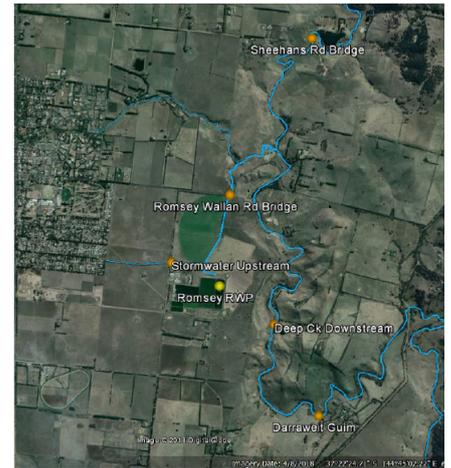
Western Water has undertaken an ecological risk assessment to determine any potential adverse effects to Deep Creek. The main effect is likely to be increased nitrogen and phosphorous levels downstream of the discharge. One potential consequence of this increase in nutrients is the risk of algal blooms. Western Water will routinely monitor the area for such activity and will take preventative measures as necessary.

What are the next steps?

Western Water will need to obtain approval from Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) for a licence amendment to discharge recycled water into Deep Creek.

Once received by the EPA, they will assess the application to ensure that there is minimum risk to the environment and public health.

To ensure all community concerns are taken into consideration, Western Water is actively seeking feedback by 31 August 2019, prior to an application to the EPA in early September. To have your say, call Senior Environmental Engineer, William Rajendram on (03) 9218 5486.



What is recycled water?

Recycled water is wastewater that has been collected and treated so that it can be used again for a variety of non-drinking water purposes.

Western Water produces three classes of recycled water: Class A, B and C, based on the level of treatment and water quality.

Class C recycled water is what we're proposing to discharge into Deep Creek.

All recycled water is produced in accordance with guidance provided by Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).