

## eynesbury township a state first

Minister for Environment and Water, John Thwaites has announced plans for the development of Eynesbury Township, Victoria's first town to be fully connected to recycled water.

The township, to be built at the Eynesbury Station property near Melton, will connect 3000 houses and apartments to a third pipe recycling scheme. Recycled water will be piped in from Western Water's nearby Surbiton Park Purification Plant and used for toilet flushing, garden watering and irrigation of public open spaces.

It is anticipated that the demand for drinking water supplies in the new township will be cut by as much as 50 percent, saving almost one billion litres of fresh water each year. The first homes are due to be ready in two years.



Left to right - John Thwaites MP, Western Water Chairman Terry Larkins, Don Nardella MP, Joanne Duncan MP and Nick Deed, Villa World Ltd at the Eynesbury Township announcement.

## myrning community consultation

The township of Myrning, to the west of Bacchus Marsh, is usually supplied from Pykes Creek Reservoir, an unfiltered drinking water supply. The quality of water from Pykes Creek is variable, particularly in drought when the storage level is low. This affects the water's colour and turbidity levels and causes taste and odour issues. As a result of the drought conditions, drinking water has been carted into Myrning to manage water quality since October 2003 and the township is currently on a modified version of stage four restrictions.

In August 2004, Western Water undertook an extensive community consultation program

in Myrning to determine resident's opinions of the drinking water quality and their expectations of the water supply. Symplan Consulting was commissioned to conduct surveys, telephone interviews, personal interviews and focus groups with Myrning customers.

The results of the consultation are currently being analysed to determine what action might be required to improve the township's water supply. When this process is complete, Western Water will advise all Myrning customers of the consultation outcomes. Information will also be available on [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au)

## water plan

Western Water has prepared an extensive Water Plan that explains our proposed strategies and initiatives up to June 2008.

All Victorian metropolitan and regional water businesses have been required to submit their Water Plans to the Essential Services Commission (ESC), as the new economic regulator of the state water industry. The ESC is responsible for regulating prices, service standards and market conduct of the Victorian water sector.

Western Water's Water Plan sets out the expenditure required to maintain and renew our water and sewerage infrastructure, improve our services and meet environmental, water quality and other regulatory standards. It also details the revenue required by Western Water

to deliver these services and the prices needed to recover costs.

The plan, which was developed following extensive customer consultation and research, provides a clear pathway for Western Water to work towards our vision and strive for business excellence.

Our Water Plan can be downloaded from [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au) or viewed at Western Water's customer service centre in Robertson Street, Gisborne.

If you are interested in more information on the ESC's role in Victoria's water industry, please go to [www.esc.vic.gov.au](http://www.esc.vic.gov.au) or telephone 1300 134 575.



For more information please contact:

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Recycled Paper



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## permanent water saving measures

We can all recognise unnecessary uses of water in everyday life, such as using sprinklers in the heat of the day or hosing down our driveways. The introduction of permanent water saving measures will eliminate these water-wasting activities and help us save even more water.

As our water supply is not endless, we need to continually think of ways to save every drop. The proposed permanent measures are easy and practical ways to save water and save money by using less water, even when we are not in a drought.

The proposed measures include:

- Manual watering systems may only be used to water a garden or lawn between 8pm and 10am and automatic watering systems between 10pm and 10am
- A hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, watering can or bucket can be used at any time to water a garden or lawn
- A hose used to clean a vehicle must be fitted with a trigger nozzle
- Fountains which do not recycle water must not be operated
- Paved areas can only be cleaned with water from a hose under special circumstances

We recently sought community feedback on the proposed permanent measures. Pleasingly, many responses were supportive of the



Permanent water saving measures will save even more of our precious drinking water.

measures and recognised their value to ongoing water supply security.

Western Water will introduce permanent water saving measures once current water restrictions have been lifted.

### Restrictions reminder

All towns serviced by Western Water remain on water restrictions. If you are unsure of the restriction requirements in your town, please visit [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au) or call our Restrictions Hotline on 5421 9555. Please remember to stay waterwise and help conserve our precious water supplies over summer.

## drought proofing local soccer

Gisborne Junior Soccer Club has received a financial grant of \$58,500 to install an innovative new recycled watering system at Gisborne's Dixon Field.

The club was one of 220 applicants for \$4 million worth of grants offered by the Smart Water Fund, which was established by Melbourne's metropolitan water authorities in association with the Victorian Government to support sustainable water use projects.

Gisborne Junior Soccer Club prepared their Smart Water Fund proposal with support from the local community including Western Water, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, local schools

and the club's co-tenants at Dixon Field. Western Water is contributing \$6,500 to assist the club to connect to recycled water.

The grant is intended to fund the first of five phases to transfer all of Dixon Field's playing surfaces to recycled water, ensuring that a high quality and safe playing surface is available all year round to the junior soccer club and other local sports teams.

For more information on this exciting new project, please contact Jacqui Herrera at Gisborne Junior Soccer Club on 5428 2649. Details of the Smart Water Fund are available at [www.smartwater.com.au](http://www.smartwater.com.au)

Turn to page three to read about price changes introduced on 1 November 2004, which encourage further water savings and help fund the State Government's *Our Water Our Future* action plan.



Clarkefield Primary School students participating in a presentation on the water cycle.

## what's on?

- Melton Djerriwarrh Festival **4-7 November**
- National Recycling Week **8-14 November**
- Mt Atkinson Olive Festival **21 November**
- Gisborne Christmas Festival **10 December**

And, keep an eye out for Sammy's Waterwise Club in your local newspaper over summer, with fun activities and competitions for children!

## interactive education

Western Water's education program is now 'interactive' following the introduction of free presentations designed to educate primary school students about their local water supply and water conservation issues.

With props, pictures, charts and worksheets, each of the five presentations provides a fun and interactive environment for children to learn about water.

The presentations are flexible and designed to complement existing class studies. Suitable for all primary levels the presentations cover five main topics:

- The water cycle
- Saving water around the home
- The use of water over the years and around the world
- Water filtration and wastewater purification
- Ways to be waterwise

The free presentations are now available to teachers and educators and come equipped with a trained presenter and the necessary learning materials. If you would like to express your school's interest in a presentation, please call **1800 620 362** or email [order@ei.com.au](mailto:order@ei.com.au)

## macedon ranges water update

In response to ongoing drought conditions in the Macedon Ranges region, an independent reference group was established in July 2004 to provide feedback to Western Water on options to improve the region's water supply security.

The Macedon Ranges Water Resource Review Committee (MRWRRRC), which is made up of local community members and government representatives, has considered a number of options to secure the region's water supply for the long term.

Following recent community information sessions at which the favoured options were presented, the MRWRRRC advised Western Water that if the current drought conditions prevail, the community's view is to supply water from the Melbourne Water system to customers in Gisborne, Riddells Creek, Macedon and Mount Macedon.

This would be achieved by a number of projects including an additional water pipeline from Melbourne to Sunbury and an upgrade

of current facilities to access additional water using existing infrastructure. The total cost of all projects is estimated to be \$6 million.

Western Water's Board of Directors approved the MRWRRRC recommendation at the October Board meeting.

Customers in the Macedon Ranges region will receive more information on the outcomes of this important water supply security review, which will also be available from [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au)

The Macedon Ranges townships of Gisborne, Riddells Creek, Macedon and Mount Macedon are supplied from Rosslynne Reservoir, which was at 8% capacity at the time of writing. All of these towns have been on modified stage four restrictions since December 2003.

## the watermark project

Imagine thousands of people, from all walks of life, learning and gaining insights into the water realities facing Australia. Watermark Australia is a project aimed at bringing together everyday people who are concerned about water issues across Australia to develop

solutions on many levels – households, local communities, regions, states and nationally. For further information or to get involved, visit [www.watermarkaustralia.org.au](http://www.watermarkaustralia.org.au) or telephone **03 9642 0422**.

## new prices

On 1 November 2004, Western Water introduced new prices in response to the State Government's *Our Water Our Future* action plan to secure Victoria's water supplies for the next 50 years.

*Our Water Our Future* recognises that Victoria's prosperity depends on secure water supplies for our homes, farms and industry and in order to help fund the plan, Western Water, along with other State water authorities, have adjusted their prices.

Western Water's new pricing system will help raise a \$225 million environmental contribution, which will be used for statewide water projects.

The price changes Western Water has introduced to fund the required contribution include

changes to service charges and the introduction of a tiered price structure.

By adding to the State's environmental contribution, Western Water customers are helping to safeguard our limited water resources and address the adverse impacts that water use has on our environment.

### Service charges

Fixed water and sewerage service charges will increase by approximately \$8 per year for water and \$8 per year for sewerage, or a total of \$16 if both services are present. These prices apply to both residential and commercial customers.

Charge	New Charges		Previous Charges	
Water	All districts	<b>\$125.41</b>	All districts	<b>\$117.14</b>
Sewerage	Bacchus Marsh	<b>\$327.16</b>	Bacchus Marsh	<b>\$318.57</b>
	Romsey/Lancefield*	<b>\$299.32</b>	Romsey/Lancefield	<b>\$290.75</b>
	Macedon Ranges/Sunbury and Melton Districts	<b>\$375.19</b>	Macedon Ranges/Sunbury and Melton Districts	<b>\$367.00</b>

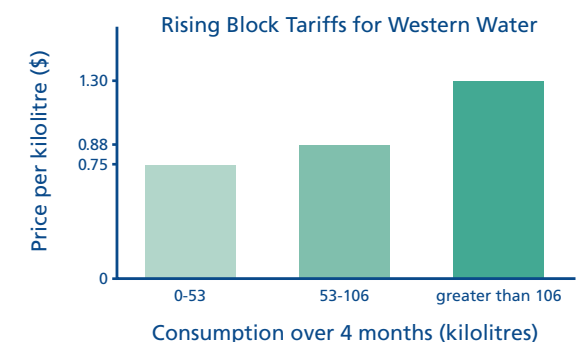
\* The new Romsey/Lancefield commercial sewerage charge is \$294.33 (previous charge \$285.75)

### Water consumption charges

Residential customers will pay for water consumption via a 'rising block' tariff structure. This means residents will pay for water depending on the amount used in each billing period. This price structure provides an incentive to conserve water, as the less water you use, the more money you will save. Under this tiered structure, the first 53 kilolitres of water used will cost 75 cents per kilolitre, the next 53 kilolitres will cost 88 cents per kilolitre and any use greater than 106 kilolitres will cost \$1.30 per kilolitre.

Commercial customers will not pay for water using the rising block tariff method but will contribute their share to the environmental

contribution by paying an increased flat rate for water usage. This rate has risen from 77 cents per kilolitre to 83 cents per kilolitre.



For more information on our new prices, visit [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au) or call **1300 650 422**.

### Concession increases

Customers entitled to a concession on their water account will now receive a higher rebate. Concession rates have been extended for eligible pensioners and Health Care Card holders, who will receive 50% off their total account (both fixed and usage charges), up to \$146 per year. This concession will increase to \$150 from 1 July 2005 and indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) each following year.