

## ■ Recycled water turned on for Toolern Vale

The Hon. John Thwaites MP, Minister for Water, has commissioned the first major extension of the Sunbury Melton Recycled Water Scheme in Toolern Vale.

The project connects Toolern Vale to the 30 kilometre Sunbury Melton pipeline, which was constructed in 2002 to supply high quality recycled water to customer properties between Sunbury and Melton.

Toolern Vale customers are connected to the scheme via an eight-kilometre pipeline extension that runs from Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest, to Ryans Road in Toolern Vale.



■ Property owner and recycled water customer Brian Glassell, Minister for Water John Thwaites MP and Don Nardella MP turn on the extension of the Sunbury Melton Recycled Water Scheme in Toolern Vale.

A joint initiative of Western Water, Melton Shire Council and regional landholders, the project was first proposed in 2002 by a cooperative of landholders between Diggers Rest and Toolern Vale.

Following many years of drought conditions and seeing the potential of the original Sunbury Melton Scheme, these landholders realised the value of recycled water and what a guaranteed water supply can mean for future land development.

The extension has the ability to supply over 200 megalitres of recycled water annually to Toolern Vale.

Ten customers have already signed long term supply contracts for an annual supply of 109 megalitres of recycled water, which will be used to irrigate vineyards, landscaping, fodder crops and lawns. There is also preliminary interest in the establishment of a commercial olive grove.

*The Toolern Vale extension has increased the total number of customers of the Sunbury Melton Scheme to 46, with a total contracted volume of 867 megalitres.*

### Supporting regional agribusiness

The Toolern Vale extension will strengthen the Sunbury Melton Scheme's assistance to regional agribusiness, including the predominant viticulture, olive and equine industries.

The pipeline runs through the heart of the renowned Sunbury and District Wine Region, supplying recycled water to vineyards including Goonawarra, Witchmount and Galli Estate.

The region also boasts a rich heritage in equine activities, with one of the most concentrated populations of harness trainers in Australia and many high quality thoroughbred studs.

Olive production and processing is a growing industry and other opportunities exist for herb and turf growing, fruit, nuts and fodder with the quality of recycled water available.

### Project funding

The total cost of the Toolern Vale extension was \$341,000. Western Water contributed \$160,000 to the project and an additional \$40,000 was received from a State Government Council and Regional Development Body Program grant to Melton Shire Council.

New customers of the extension provided the balance of the total cost, along with significant in kind assistance.

## ■ Regional Action Plan

The Western Water Area Regional Action Plan was recently launched to address significant water management issues facing our region, including nine years of below average rainfall, uncertainty of climate change, stressed rivers and rapid population growth.

The Plan commits Western Water to delivering programs to achieve the aims of *Our Water Our Future*, the State Government's action plan to improve the way in which we use and manage our water resources.

Increasing the use of alternative supplies such as recycled water is key to the policy document, with a number of actions committed in the Plan to further improve our recycling efforts.

The Regional Action Plan can be downloaded from [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au) or call Western Water on 1300 650 422 if you would like to receive a copy in the mail.

## ■ Stand up and save water

Western Water has three standpipe facilities located in Gisborne, Sunbury and Melton, where approved tankers can fill up with recycled water. As the irrigation season is upon us, Western Water is encouraging the use of recycled water for specific applications including:

- Road and construction works
- Street tree watering
- Pasture irrigation and livestock fodder
- Non food crops like flowers and turf
- Hand irrigation of trees and gardens

If you would like to know more, or you're interested in using recycled water on your property, please contact Western Water's recycled water team on 03 5421 9400 or email us at [mail@westernwater.com.au](mailto:mail@westernwater.com.au)

## ■ Chinese delegate tour

In September 2005, Western Water hosted 20 delegates from the Chinese National Research Centre for Science and Technology for Development, on a tour of the Melton Wastewater Purification Plant and Eynesbury Township development.

The representatives, interested in learning about the application of sustainable water technologies, saw first hand the successful operation of a purification plant and the progress that has been made to deliver Class A recycled water supplies to the new Eynesbury Township.

## ■ Recycling Riddells Creek

Western Water now has recycled water available from the Riddells Creek Wastewater Purification Plant. EPA Victoria has approved the Class C recycled water for a range of uses including the irrigation of turf, vines, lucerne, trees, flowers and other fodder crops.

If you are located east of the Riddells Creek township and are interested in using recycled water, please call our recycled water team on 03 5241 9400 or email us at [mail@westernwater.com.au](mailto:mail@westernwater.com.au)

## ■ Annual Review online

Western Water's 2004/05 Recycled Water Annual Review is now available online.

A total 88.1% of all wastewater generated in Western Water's region was recycled during 2004/05, a record result for the third year in a row.

Visit [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au) to read the Review, which provides a summary of our recycled water activities and achievements in 2004/05.



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