

## Recycled Water: Saving Drinking Water

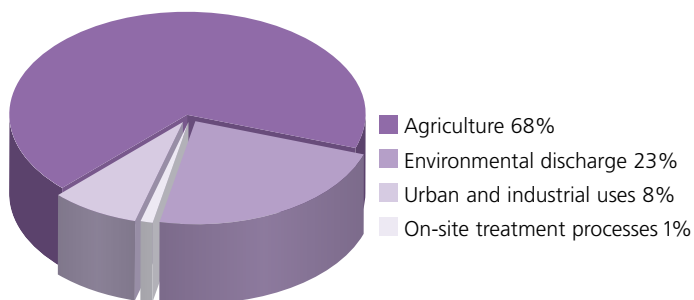
In the last financial year, a total of 607 megalitres (ML) of drinking water was conserved by substituting recycled water. This is seven million litres over Western Water's target of 600 ML, or equivalent to approximately seven Olympic-size swimming pools. This is an outstanding result and an encouraging step forward for the protection of our local drinking water supplies.

Western Water continues to promote the concept there is no such thing as 'waste' water as we work toward achieving beneficial uses for all recycled water.

Considerable work has been undertaken in the past 12 months towards this goal, including projects to supply recycled water for irrigation to Sunbury's Secondary College, Salesian College, Boardman Reserve, Langama Park and Clarke Oval, Gisborne's Sankey Reserve and Botanic Gardens and the Woodend Racecourse Reserve. A number of other properties have also converted from drinking water to recycled water for their irrigation needs.

Western Water is well on the way to achieving its short-term target of reducing demand for drinking water by at least 850MLs per year by 2010 through recycled water substitution.

The chart below shows where recycled water is used:



■ Recycled Water Usage 2005/06



L-R Member for Macedon Joanne Duncan, MP, Hume City Council Mayor Adem Atmaca, Minister for Water John Thwaites and Western Water Chairman Terry Larkins launching the recycled water pipeline extension to Clarke Oval, Sunbury

## Clarke Oval now Drought Proof

The Minister for Water, John Thwaites, recently launched the \$500,000 Sunbury/Melton Recycled Water Scheme pipeline extension. The scheme will deliver high quality recycled water for irrigation purposes to Sunbury Secondary College, Salesian College and Sunbury's main sporting reserve, Clarke Oval. The extension has the capacity to support additional customers, such as the Sunbury Bowling Club.

The two-kilometre extension was funded by the State Government through the Stormwater and Urban Water Conservation Fund, both colleges, Hume City Council and Western Water.

The scheme is expected to save over 40 million litres of drinking water per year while maintaining these valuable recreational surfaces in peak condition all year round.

In a joint statement, Western Water Chairman Terry Larkins and Hume City Council Mayor Cr Adem Atmaca hailed the project as a model example of sustainable water management and acknowledged the success of the partnership project.

The recycled water will be sourced from Sunbury's recycled water plant, which is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar upgrade.

## Witchmount Estate: Hobby Farm to Award-Winning Vineyard

Established 15 years ago, Witchmount Estate winery was one of the first customers of the award-winning 42km Sunbury-Melton Recycled Water Scheme, which was launched in 2003 by the then Minister for Water Cheryl Garbutt.

Located in Rockbank, Witchmount was initially a hobby farm of six acres, supporting approximately 6000 vines. Today, using recycled water for irrigation, Witchmount covers 55 acres and supports 55,000 vines of seven different grape varieties, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Shiraz, Pinot Grigio, Tempranillo and Barbera. A continuous supply of recycled water has enabled the Witchmount brand to consolidate its place in the Australian wine industry. It was recently awarded three trophies for its 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon.

Previously surviving on a limited supply of drinking water in a region that was under water restrictions at the time, recycled water provided Witchmount with a reliable water supply in the face of tougher water restrictions in the 1990s. It was a cost-efficient alternative to drinking water for irrigation.

Since connection to the Sunbury-Melton scheme, the vineyard has flourished, recording a 600 per cent increase in production. Originally producing an average of 30 tonnes of fruit annually, Witchmount now produces over 200 tonnes per year.

Owner Tony Ramunno says there has been a marked increase in the quality of fruit over the last three years. "Now I am able to give the vines a water whenever they really need it rather than just when water is available."

Witchmount worked closely with a number of other local businesses to bring recycled water to Rockbank, including Trethowan Nursery, Galli Estate Winery, and Melton Valley Golf Club. For more information on Witchmount, please visit their website: [www.witchmount.com.au](http://www.witchmount.com.au)



■ Witchmount Estate, Leakes Road, Rockbank

## Eynesbury Milestone: First Application for A-Class Recycled Water

Western Water has received the first application for connection to Class A recycled water at the Eynesbury Township.

The application is for recycled water to be applied to toilet flushing and garden watering at the Eynesbury Station historic homestead. Currently undergoing renovation, the bluestone building will be restored to its former glory and used as the township's golf course clubhouse.

Recycled water will be used for toilet flushing, fire protection, irrigation and garden watering at the new township.

**Did you know** that recycled water use is not limited by current water restrictions?

A lack of sufficient rain and dry spring/summer predictions has triggered restrictions across Victoria.

The entire Western Water region is now under Stage 1 Water Restrictions.

## Need Water? Gisborne Recycled Water Scheme Extension: Expressions of Interest

- Does your business or property need a guaranteed and reliable source of water?
- Do you want to conserve drinking water and contribute to the well-being of local waterways?
- Do you lease or own a property in the Gisborne area that needs water for irrigation?

If so, then we would like to hear from you. Western Water is currently assessing the viability of extending the Gisborne recycled water system to supply recycled water to the surrounding area.

For further information or a recycled water application pack, please contact Anna May, Recycled Water Officer, on 5421 9470, during normal business hours.

## AgriWest Business Plan Launch

Western Water's Renewable Resources Team was recently acknowledged as a key contributor to the development of a strategic Business and Marketing Plan for AgriWest. Officially launched at Werribee Mansion on 12 July 2006 by Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Geoff Howard, MLA, the new plan will guide AgriWest's operations over the next five years. More than 80 business and community leaders attended the launch, including Western Water Chairman Terry Larkins and Chief Executive John Wilkinson.

A non-profit organisation, AgriWest is a vehicle for regional agribusiness stakeholders to resolve regional issues and to assist in key regional development opportunities. AgriWest is recognised for its innovative initiatives and achievements. Western Water is one of its founding members.