



L-R Western Water Chairman, Terry Larkins, Minister for Water, John Thwaites and Member from Melton, Don Nardella, MP, examining a recycled water infrastructure model at the announcement of the new Class A Recycled Water Plant in Melton.

## Class A Plant Announcement: Recycled Water for Melton Growth

A new \$18 million world-class recycled water project that will provide the impetus for sustainable urban development at Melton has been unveiled by the Minister for Water, John Thwaites. The cornerstone of the project will be a regional Class A Recycled Water Plant to be constructed at Western Water's existing Melton Recycled Water Plant.

The project will maximise the substitution of drinking water at new large-scale greenfield urban developments, such as Eynesbury, as part of Western Water's strategy to introduce innovative water supply solutions.

Welcoming \$3.5 million State Government funding for the project, Western Water Chairman, Terry Larkins said more than 4,200 million litres of drinking water per year would be saved by 2030.

The new plant will deliver Class A recycled water via a separate pipeline for appropriate residential use. Potential uses for the Class A recycled water include toilet flushing and garden watering, recreational surface irrigation and fire fighting.

The initiative is expected to cut drinking water use by 50 per cent. The new plant will be particularly valuable as the area is in a 'rain shadow', making rain water tanks less effective.

Initially, Class A recycled water will be supplied to the new township of Eynesbury and eventually to the Toolern development at Melton South, which is a designated growth area under the Victorian Government's Melbourne 2030 strategy.

The project is one of a range of water security measures detailed in the Central Region Sustainable Water Strategy, released by Minister Thwaites earlier this year.

Eynesbury is being developed 12 kilometres south of Melton and will feature 2,900 residential allotments, equine facilities, a championship golf course and extensive parkland. Eynesbury will become the first Victorian town to be fully connected to recycled water. Class C recycled water is currently being supplied to the area for irrigation, agricultural use and construction.

The Toolern development is the centre of a \$15 billion investment initiative. It will ultimately provide 37,000 homes for up to 90,000 people and create an estimated 26,000 jobs.

Mr. Larkins said the Eynesbury and Toolern growth areas provided the ideal opportunity to implement sustainable water supply alternatives.

"Innovative solutions are required to meet sustainable water use targets and cope with a range of identified challenges, notably climate change," he said. "Dual water supplies are one such initiative that will reduce our reliance on existing drinking water sources."

Mr. Larkins said a further historic milestone was that State Government funding of \$3.5 million represented the largest grant awarded for a Western Water recycled water project.

Eynesbury development joint venture partners, Villa World Limited and Woodhouse Pastoral Company, described the project as a major step forward in sustainable residential development in Australia. Work on the new Class A plant is expected to begin in early 2007, with the first homes connected to recycled water later in the year.

## Local Business Blooms with Recycled Water

The Melton Christmas Tree Farm is testimony to the benefits of recycled water. The property supports more than 10,000 healthy radiata pines over 40 acres, which are thriving on Class B recycled water from the Sunbury-Melton Recycled Water Scheme.

Located on Leakes Road, Rockbank, the farm is one of fifty commercial enterprises that has access to a reliable water supply year round through the scheme.

Owners Michael and Fabian luele have been using recycled water for the past three years, irrigating their trees using sub-surface and sprinkler systems.

Michael established the Melton Christmas Tree farm in 1984. As expected, it is a hectic time pre-Christmas, with more than 6000 trees of varying sizes available for customers.

For more information about the farm, contact Michael or Fabian on 9747 1078 or 0402 049 362 or visit: [www.meltonchristmastreefarm.com.au](http://www.meltonchristmastreefarm.com.au)  
If you would like to find out about connecting your business to recycled water, please contact Western Water on 5421 9400.



Paul, Michael and Fabian luele, of Melton Christmas Tree Farm, Rockbank, show off one of their trees.

## Did you know?

In late April 2007, Western Water will be relocating its administration centre to Hume City Council's offices in Macedon Street, Sunbury.

Hume Council is centralising its operations in Broadmeadows.

Western Water's main number will remain the same, 1300 650 425, for all enquiries, including after hours emergencies.

## Sunbury-Melton Recycled Water Scheme Celebrates 50 Customers

Western Water's Sunbury-Melton Recycled Water Scheme has reached another milestone. Diggers Rest residents Angelis and Phyllis Ierodiaconou became the scheme's 50th customer when they connected to the recycled water pipeline this year. They will use the water to irrigate their 600-tree olive grove.

Western Water's Renewable Resources Manager, Peta Maddy said the milestone was tangible evidence of the scheme's success and a tribute to those who had placed their faith in the initiative.

"This project has demonstrated how community partnerships can deliver long-term social and environmental benefits to the region" she said. "The Sunbury-Melton Recycled Water Scheme not only represents significant savings of drinking water annually, but has helped protect supplies for future growth and development."

Commissioned in October 2002, the scheme supplies more than 650 million litres of recycled water to customers along the 40 km route between Sunbury and Melton each year.

Ms. Maddy said Western Water continued to enhance its recycled water business, recycling 78 per cent, or 5,821 million litres, of all water available at its seven recycled water plants in 2005/06.

"Western Water will continue to investigate new opportunities as we move toward a target of recycling 100 per cent of the region's treated water", she added.

## Western Water Welcomes Peta Maddy

In October 2006, Western Water welcomed a new manager to the Renewable Resources Team. Peta Maddy joins the team with 10 years experience in the water industry, including the Werribee South Class A Recycled Water, Wyndham Third Pipe and Albert Park Sewer Mining Projects.

Preferring to work for businesses that are environmentally sustainable, Peta comes from a rural background and has a strong connection with and respect for the natural environment. She joins Western Water at an exciting and challenging time as the organisation works towards its ultimate goal to recycle 100 per cent of all water.

## Recycled Water Annual Review 2006

The Recycled Water Annual Review for 2006 has been published. Copies are available from the Western Water Administration Office, Robertson Street, Gisborne, or visit [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au)

