

# recycledwater news

autumn 2008

WESTERN  
WATER



## Superheroes of sustainability

Spearheading a new education campaign in regional schools, Western Water's Superheroes of Sustainability, Recycled Water Man and Recycled Water Woman, flew into Eynesbury on 29 February for their first official public appearance.

Special agents of Western Water, the superheros use the guise of intergalactic travellers to point out the oddities of our very human ways and how our bad habits have impacted on Planet Earth.

"We identified the need for education programs to go beyond water conservation messages and keep up with the sophistication of today's students. Our Recycled Water Superheroes emerged from that opportunity and will play a lead role in raising awareness among students about conservation and recycling," said Western Water Chairman Terry Larkins.

"We recognise that educating young people on crucial issues such as climate change, carbon neutrality and conservation has a ripple effect beyond the school environment. For that reason, we are devoting significant time and resources to speaking to students, who will take the key messages to the wider community," he said.

The recycled water program will be modified for schools within Eynesbury to teach children about the particular uses and benefits of Class A recycled water. Recycled Water Man and Woman will also work with the general public at events and festivals.

## Update on Class A Recycled Water

The Class A Recycled Water Plant at Melton will be commissioned in May 2008 to supply recycled water to Eynesbury township and other new development in the surrounding region.

The result of a partnership between Western Water, the State Government and the Eynesbury joint venture group, this project will ultimately save an estimated 4,200 ML of drinking water a year.

Featuring 2,900 allotments, equine facilities and a championship golf course in a rural environment, the Eynesbury township will use Class A recycled water for toilet flushing, garden watering, recreational irrigation and fire fighting.



Recycled Water Man and Woman with Minister for Education Bronwyn Pike and students from Exford Primary School at Eynesbury Homestead on 29 February.

## Romsey standpipe ready for Council use

In February, Western Water gave approval to the Macedon Ranges Shire Council to use Class C recycled water from a new standpipe for road construction. The standpipe is located on land owned by the Council, adjacent to the Romsey Recycled Water Plant.

Western Water's Recycled Water Advisor Trevor Hayes said the approval followed two years of cooperation between Western Water and the Council.

Western Water offered to meet the cost of extending the recycled water reticulation to the Council property. This was subject to the Council signing a Customer Supply Contract with Western Water, developing a Customer Site Management Plan, and providing the necessary infrastructure on site. In November 2006 the Environment Protection Authority approved the project.

"The new standpipe will save the Council both time and money," said Kevin Keating, Works Officer at MRSC. "We used to cart water to the Romsey area from as far as Gisborne Recycled Water Plant. Less transportation will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

The standpipe is only for use by Macedon Ranges Shire Council staff and their contractors for approved purposes. The Class C recycled water from the standpipe is approved for use in road construction, gravel road maintenance, compaction works and municipal watering.

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[www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au)

  
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Greenhouse Challenge Plus Director Kathryn Anthonisz (second from right) with (from left ) Western Water's Chairman Terry Larkins, Managing Director John Wilkinson and Manager Renewable Resources Peta Maddy, at the launch of Western Water's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy on 19 March.

## Greenhouse Challenge Plus Partnership

As part of Western Water's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Strategy, the business has formed a partnership with the Australian Greenhouse Office by joining the Greenhouse Challenge Plus Program.

"Western Water's Strategy sends a powerful message to other businesses around Australia," said Greenhouse Challenge Plus Director Kathryn Anthonisz. "Western Water's leadership and commitment to the reduction of their greenhouse gas emissions is outstanding and should be used by other businesses as a model to be copied."

The Program provides GHG emissions inventory reporting, supports the integration of GHG reduction into business decision-making to achieve cost effective abatement of emissions, aids the development and implementation of GHG action plans, and recognises products and services with zero net emissions with Greenhouse Friendly certification.

"This partnership with the Australian Government will include independent validation of data, allowing Western Water to verify claims of our progress towards carbon neutrality," said Peta Maddy, Western Water's Manager Renewable Resources.



For more information about the Greenhouse Challenge Plus Program, visit [www.greenhouse.gov.au](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au)

## Stormwater and Urban Recycling Fund

On 8 February, the Minister for Water, the Hon Tim Holding MP announced the Stormwater and Urban Recycling Fund. Part of the Victorian Government's Our Water Our Future initiative, this \$10 million fund seeks out projects that will 'lead the way' for achieving significant savings in the use of drinking quality water.

The first round of funding targets high water users, particularly those obliged to develop waterMAPS (Water Management Action Plans). Registrations of Interest must be submitted by Thursday 24 April 2008. For more information, visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)



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## Water conservation reduces recycled supplies

There was a significant reduction in the availability of recycled water to Western Water's Sunbury and Melton customers during summer.

"The recent reduction in flows to our Recycled Water Plants can be attributed to many factors, including low rainfall, water conservation measures undertaken by residents, ongoing water restrictions and the number of people on holidays over the Christmas and New Year period." said Peta Maddy, Manager Renewable Resources.

Ms Maddy said the drought has focussed the community on sustainable water management, particularly household recycling from showers and washing machines. This has resulted in flows to the recycled water plants reducing by up to 40 percent. This reduction is likely to be ongoing with the community expected to continue to practice good water conservation measures.

In January, Western Water staff contacted recycled water customers to inform them of the low supplies and the possibility of intermittent interruptions to the supply. An alternate day roster system was implemented to allow customers to plan for their recycled water requirements. Normal access resumed in February.

Western Water is also in the process of creating additional recycled water storage facilities to improve services to customers. At the Sunbury Recycled Water Plant, an eight megalitre lined and covered earthen storage and associated pump station and pipework will be constructed over the next six months, to reduce the impacts of low flow and high demand periods.



Above: Sunbury Recycled Water Plant.

Below: The future site of the 8 ML recycled water storage facility at the Plant.

