



## Fire fighters sign up to recycled water

In a Victorian first, class A recycled water will be used for fire fighting purposes at the new Eynesbury Township, south of Melton. In March, Western Water signed an agreement with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFESB), to provide the alternative water supply for fire fighting within the Township.

Called the Environment Improvement Plan, the agreement will facilitate the partnership between the three parties regarding the safe use of class A recycled water for fire fighting purposes.

Western Water Managing Director, John Wilkinson said the signing would pave the way for class A recycled water to be used during operational activities, including training, conducted by the fire services.

Mr Wilkinson said Western Water's new \$7 million recycled water plant will provide class A recycled water to Eynesbury for the purposes of toilet flushing, open space irrigation, fire fighting and garden watering.

"The use of class A recycled water within the Eynesbury Township will save an estimated 50% of drinking water per year" he said.



(l to r) Parwan Fire Brigade 1st Lieutenant Graham Miles, Firefighter Frances Fitzpatrick, Captain Phil Bath, Western Water Managing Director John Wilkinson (signing), CFA Acting CEO Michael Wootten, MFESB Leading Firefighters Warren Janson and Peter Neski, and Station Officer John Sexton.



Tony Ramunno of Witchmount Estate inspects his vines, sustained by recycled water. Jason South / Photo courtesy of The Age

## Pioneer customer's shiraz is best in world

The Ramunno family's Witchmount Estate is now recognised internationally for its shiraz, the 2004 vintage being named the top shiraz in the world in the Syrah du Monde wine competition held in France.

Established 15 years ago, the Winery was a pioneering customer of the 42km Sunbury-Melton Recycled Water Scheme. Originally a hobby farm with 6,000 vines, the Winery now has more than 55,000 vines supported by recycled water through drip irrigation.

"During prolonged drought conditions and stage 3a water restrictions we would not have been able to support our plantings without recycled water" said Tony Ramunno, Owner.

"Rockbank is not a known winemaking district. The area has fantastic soils and our vines have low disease but what was missing was water. Recycled water is an integral part of our business."

Witchmount Estate is innovative in their approach to winemaking and have received intense interest from their latest win. For more information on Witchmount please visit their website:

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





Introducing the new members of Western Water's Renewable Resources team: Project Engineer Warren Price (left) and Graduate Stuart Ireland. Warren is working on Western Water's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy and delivery of the Riddells Creek Recycled Water Scheme. Stuart is focussed on customer service and optimisation of the Sunbury-Melton Recycled Water Scheme and biosolids recycling.

## Gisborne Recycled Water Plant nears completion

The \$3.1 million Gisborne Recycled Water Plant upgrade is nearing completion and is expected to be commissioned in August this year.

Western Water Managing Director John Wilkinson said the improvements would serve the township to the year 2025, meeting the demands of Gisborne's growing population and ensuring the continued supply of quality recycled water for recreational needs.

"This project is consistent with Western Water's commitment to water conservation and environmental management, further demonstrating the value of recycled water as a replacement for precious drinking water. The Gisborne Recycled Water Plant upgrade is another example of safeguarding our natural water resources while managing wastewater in an environmentally responsible manner.

"This not only meets the expectations of our customers, but accords with strategic initiatives by the State Government and Western Water to deliver water supply security across the region," he added

The plant currently treats 1.1 million litres of wastewater a day from 5,500 residents. The upgrade, which involves the construction of a sedimentation tank, upgrading the aeration tanks, and electrical and control systems, will increase capacity to 2 million litres a day.

Recycled water from the treatment process is used at the Gisborne Golf Club and other recreational sites and is available for agricultural and municipal purposes from a centrally located standpipe.

Mr Wilkinson said the existing plant had been built in 1981 and had almost reached capacity, particularly during heavy rainfall when flows increased dramatically due to stormwater incursion.

"The upgrade will ensure peak loads are managed and treated effectively for the next 20 years," he said.

## Update on Greenhouse Gas Reduction: Biodiesel on trial at Gisborne

As part of Western Water's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy, staff at the Gisborne depot are conducting a trial of a biodiesel blend as an alternative to petroleum diesel in their vehicle fleet.

The fuel on trial is Biomax B20 Biodiesel, which produces 15% less greenhouse emissions than standard diesel and requires no engine modifications.

Use of standard diesel in all Western Water vehicles during 2006/07 produced 551 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e greenhouse gas (see box below). Using Biomax B20 biodiesel could reduce emissions by 83 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

Biomax B20 is a blend of biodiesel manufactured from recycled vegetable oils and Ultra Low Sulphur petroleum diesel, produced by Smorgon Fuels Pty Ltd. This blend is used for the vehicle fleets of Hume City Council, Bendigo City Council and Ballarat City Council. The cost for Biomax B20 is similar to standard diesel.

The Gisborne depot was chosen for the trial because it already had a 5,000L tank and a chemical spill barrier. Fuel efficiency and vehicle usage will be monitored throughout the six month trial. The trial involves seven vehicles, including a truck and an excavator, used for maintenance work in Gisborne, Lancefield, Macedon, Romsey and Woodend.



The biodiesel tank, with a new solar panel and pump, at Western Water's Gisborne Depot.

**Greenhouse gas emissions** from electricity generation, deforestation, industry, transportation and agriculture are very likely the main cause of recently observed global warming. Examples of greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, water vapour and nitrous oxide.

**Carbon dioxide equivalent, or CO<sub>2</sub>e**, is an internationally accepted measure that expresses the amount of greenhouse gas in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that would have the same global warming potential.

For more information about Western Water's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy, please visit [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au)