



## Funding received for recycled water at Riddells Creek and Gisborne

With support from Macedon Ranges Shire Council and a Regional Development Victoria grant, a Western Water pipeline will link the Riddells Creek Recycled Water Plant with the local Recreation Reserve.

The new recycled water scheme will provide an alternative water supply option to a sports oval used for football and cricket, tennis courts and future recreational developments.

Construction will begin in February 2009.

At Gisborne, Macedon Ranges Shire Council secured government funding for a system to irrigate four soccer pitches on Dixons Field. Construction is due to start shortly on this project also.

**Western Water has recycled water available at its Gisborne and Woodend Recycled Water Plants. For more information, contact the Renewable Resources Team on 9218 5400.**



Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve will benefit from recycled water irrigation thanks to a new pipeline.



The new storage at Sunbury Recycled Water Plant will secure supply during periods of low inflow and high demand.

## Sunbury storage ready for summer demand

Western Water recently commissioned a new 8.8 million litre recycled water storage at the Sunbury Recycled Water Plant to provide greater security of supply for customers during the peak irrigation period over the coming summer. This is in addition to the existing 2.5 million litre storage at Jackson's Hill.

"Last summer was difficult for a number of our customers as recycled water supplies from the plant were rationed due to unprecedented low inflows," said Stephanie Gillespie, Manager Renewable Resources.

"Low inflows over summer can be attributed to many factors including water conservation measures undertaken by residents - particularly household recycling from showers and washing machines - and the number of people on holidays over the Christmas and New Year period," said Ms Gillespie.

"The new storage will allow recycled water to be stored during cooler days and then accessed during hot weather when demand for the recycled water increases considerably."

The lined earthen storage and associated pump station and pipework were constructed at a cost of \$1.9 million.

## Greenhouse Gas Reduction: one year in

Western Water commemorated the first anniversary of its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy in November 2008, presenting awards to business units and individuals throughout the organisation recognising innovative approaches to cutting waste, pollution and energy use.

"Western Water has set itself a 2017 target of zero net climate-harming carbon emissions, starting with a "green makeover" at our Sunbury headquarters," explained Managing Director John Wilkinson.

"But many awards this first year went to the teams at our depots and water treatment plants."

- At Gisborne depot a 5,000 litre biodiesel tank and solar powered pump now fuels vehicles and machinery instead of standard diesel. At publishing, more than 20,000 litres of biodiesel have been used and eight tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions saved.
- Western Water's first Solarbee™ aerator has been buzzing away since August 2008 at the Lancefield Basin and backup non-solar aerators have not been used since.
- Plans are being made at Melton Recycled Water Plant to capture biogas from sludge digesters and generate heat and electricity.
- Around 60% of the energy consumed by Western Water is used to pump water and sewage along pipelines. A new gravity outfall sewer at Melton South is well underway that will make one of Western Water's largest sewer pump stations redundant.

"In 2007/08, Western Water achieved a 23% reduction of emissions from the 2004/05 baseline, surpassing the target of 20% reduction," said Mr Wilkinson. "We are confident of reaching our milestone of 25% reduction by June 2009."



Innovative Western Water staff were presented with "Kermit" awards for being green to celebrate the first birthday of their Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy.

## Biosolids: an alternative fertiliser solution

Biosolids are a nutrient rich organic material derived from the production of recycled water. In the right agricultural setting biosolids are a valuable organic soil conditioner and fertiliser.

Western Water is seeking expressions of interest from suitable property owners who have innovative proposals aimed at maximum beneficial and appropriate use of biosolids.

**If you would like to learn more about this valuable resource, please contact Sarah Newell in the Renewable Resources Team, on 9218 5505 or email [sarah.newell@westernwater.com.au](mailto:sarah.newell@westernwater.com.au)**

## Recycled water and Target 155 are keys to drought plan

Western Water's recycled water customers have hit news headlines again as the longest drought on record continues and it dawns on Victorians that we need a new way of thinking about water.

With most towns in this region now dependent on Melbourne drinking water supplies, while Stage 3a restrictions continue, our customers are asked to adhere to the metropolitan Target 155 Campaign's aim of limiting water use to 155 litres per person per day and avoid the outdoor watering bans of Stage 4 restrictions.

"Water conservation, together with the \$130 million capital works program in our Corporate Plan for the next five years, will see the region through the drought," said Managing Director John Wilkinson. "Every litre of potable water saved by using a litre of recycled water instead, is keeping this garden state alive, with town and country working together to face these challenging times."

**For more information about water restrictions, Target 155 or the Support T155 program for businesses, please call 1300 653 126 or visit [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au)**

Western Water thanks the many *Recycled Water News* readers who completed our reader survey.

Congratulations to Nabil of Melton who won the \$300 hamper of goodies produced in our region using recycled water irrigation!

The survey revealed that:

- 74% of respondents are Western Water customers, but only 24% use recycled water
- The most common field of occupation is agriculture (42%)
- 91% of respondents wish to continue receiving *Recycled Water News*, with the preferred method of distribution evenly split between email, website and printed newsletter
- Topics of interest are varied, but "new recycled water projects in the Western Water region" ranks highest.

We will be adapting our communications in response to the survey results, with the aim of providing a better service.