

Recycling east of Melbourne

The Eastern Treatment Plant recycled 23,478 million litres of water during 2006/07. This is more than 8.7% of total flows, which already exceeds the 2010 target of 6.1%.

Most of the recycled water was used onsite in the treatment process. If the recycled water was not available, Melbourne Water would have needed to use drinking water for these process operations.

The Eastern Irrigation Scheme, a joint project between Melbourne Water and TopAq, delivers Class A recycled water to horticultural, recreational and residential customers in Melbourne's east.

Class C recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant is supplied to TopAq, which treats the water to Class A standard and supplies it to horticultural, recreational and industrial users to replace drinking water.

This year demand from the scheme increased significantly to 8296 million litres of recycled water, an increase of 62% over the previous year.

The Hunt Club residential estate in Cranbourne East is the first residential dual-pipe recycled water scheme in Victoria. In operation since October 2006, South East Water supplies Class A recycled water to homes via a separate purple-coloured pipe. The recycled water is used for non-drinking purposes such as watering gardens, washing cars and flushing toilets.

In addition to all new allotments being connected to recycled water, public areas throughout the estate such as Waterside Park, Broad Oak Wetlands and Hunt Club Gardens will also be irrigated using recycled water, keeping them green all year round.

About 4.7 million litres of recycled water originating from the Eastern Treatment Plant was supplied to this scheme via TopAq's Class A treatment plant in 2006/07.

There are also 40 customers who take Class C recycled water from the South East Outfall pipeline, which transports the treated effluent from the Eastern Treatment Plant to Boags Rocks on the Mornington Peninsula.

In 2006/07, these customers used 2128 million litres of recycled water for agricultural and horticultural activities, including watering golf courses and sports fields, for root crop irrigation, flower growing and drip irrigation of vineyards.

Several new customers including schools, nurseries and councils were connected to recycled water supplies from the South East Outfall this year.

Recycled water use 2006/07

Project	Actual 2005/06		Actual 2006/07		Target 2006/07		OWOF Target 2010	
	ML	%	ML	%	ML	%	ML	%
Western Treatment Plant								
Onsite recycling	21,707	7.25	26,317	9.799	37,000	11.5	37,000	11.3
Werribee Tourist Precinct	75	0.03	220	0.082	300	0.1	500	0.2
Werribee Technology Precinct	0	0	0.0	0.000	150	0.0	0	0
West Werribee Dual Reticulation Project	0	0	0.0	0.000	387	0.1	0	0
MacKillop College	0	0	13	0.005	0	0	0	0
Drought relief tankers	0	0	88	0.033				
Werribee Irrigation District	1,279	0.42	10,946	4.076	3000	0.9	8,500	2.6
Total	23,061	7.70	37,584	13.995	40,837	12.6	46,000	14.1
Eastern Treatment Plant								
Onsite recycling	14,067	4.69	13,054	4.861	13,800	4.3	13,800	4.2
Eastern Irrigation Scheme	5,174	1.73	8,296	3.089	4,150	1.3	5,000	1.5
South East Outfall	1,458	0.49	2,128	0.792	1,700	0.5	1,700	0.5
Cranbourne East					126	0.0		
Cranbourne West					42	0.0		
Total	20,699	6.91	23,478	8.742	19,818	6.1	20,500	6.2
Total	43,760	14.61	61,062	22.737	60,655	18.9	66,500	20.3
Wastewater discharge	299,481		268,556					
Environmental flow at Western Treatment Plant	15,065		13,856	5,159				

(ML = million litres)