

April 2009



## Concrete Trial Success

### Boral Concrete Class A recycled water trial



Boral Concrete Bendigo has completed a six week trial using Class A recycled water as a substitution for potable (drinking) water in the production of concrete during peak seasons.

At present, Boral Concrete Bendigo has an on site recycling system which captures and reuses all run-off water from around their plant (such as truck wash down water and storm water).

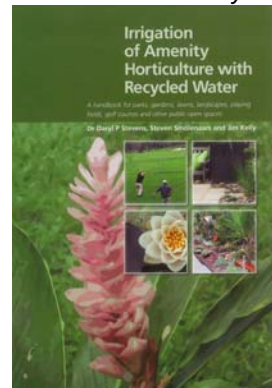
During periods of high concrete production and low rainfall, the amount of on site recycled water required to produce concrete exceeds the amount of water captured in the on site recycling system. Boral then relies on the potable (drinking) water to produce concrete and to top up their on site recycling system.

The recycled water substitution trial has been successful.

Final approval has been provided by the Environment Protection Authority and Coliban Water, therefore Boral Concrete will utilise the Class A recycled water on an ongoing basis during peak periods of concrete production.

### Recycled Water & Amenity Horticulture - New handbook developed

Arris Pty Ltd is a leading consultancy in communication and research that has developed a handbook titled *Irrigation of Amenity Horticulture with Recycled Water*.



This handbook has been designed for aiding those who manage recycled water on public open spaces such as parks and gardens, golf courses, race courses, turfs, nurseries and playing fields. It outlines practical 'how to' management advice such as salinity, nutrient balances, salt tolerant species and monitoring programs.

This handbook was presented in a workshop format in March by Dr Daryl Stevens from Arris Pty Ltd to Coliban Water public open space customers, and also representatives from other water corporations and councils that manage recycled water in Victoria. The workshop was made possible by the Commonwealth Government's 50% investment in all Horticulture Australia's research and development initiatives supported by Horticulture Australia Limited and a Smart Water Fund grant.



### Coliban Water

PO Box 2770 Bendigo  
Victoria 3554

Tel: 1300 363 200

Fax: 03 5434 1341

coliban@coliban.com.au



*Eaglehawk Golf Club now utilising recycled water*

This handbook and others can be downloaded from [www.recycledwater.com.au](http://www.recycledwater.com.au)

### Organic pollution

Organic pollution is an ongoing issue which occurs throughout waterways and rural systems in Victoria. It is not specific to any type of water source.

During long periods of low rainfall, dry manure, leaf litter and other organic materials blow into and settle in empty or low level dams.

When these dams receive water or the organic matter settles in water, it starts to decompose providing the ultimate food source for bacteria and algae. Once decomposition starts, bacteria and algae multiply at an excessive rate using up all the free oxygen in the water causing the following water quality issues:

- bad smell similar to septic or sewage
- dark coloured water and
- oily black film across the surface of the water which can disappear during the day.

Stock will find this type of water foul-tasting. It can be harmful to young or weak stock.

To prevent this type of pollution occurring, remove organic matter/rubbish from the water prior to a channel run or forecast of heavy rainfall. Try to prevent the organic matter from entering the storage dam by having vegetation (such as native sedges) around the dam. This acts as a filter for run off which contains debris. Also exclude general grazing. If the vegetation cover starts to suffer from the drought, a netted fence or earth banks can lower the risk of organic matter entering the storage dam.

If organic pollution does occur, remove any organic matter floating on the surface and from the water edge. Aeration will assist improving the taste of the water for stock. This does occur naturally over time after the organic matter is removed but can be accelerated by pumping the water out of the dam and back into the dam in a waterfall type motion. This will also stir up any organic matter lying on the bottom of

the dam which will need to be removed to prevent the pollution occurring again once pumping has ceased.

### *Examples of organic pollution:*



*Photo above:- oily film on water surface*



*Photo above:- dark coloured water*



*Photo above:- dark coloured water*

*If you wish to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact our Recycled Water Officer on 1300 363 200 or email [coliban@coliban.com.au](mailto:coliban@coliban.com.au)*