

NOVEMBER 2008

Victorian First!

Lake Weeroona gets a top up



Lake Weeroona is Victoria's first urban recreational lake to receive inflows of Class A recycled water. A joint effort between Coliban Water, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and City of Greater Bendigo saw the development of the Recreational Lakes Health and Environment Management Plan and the Individual Site Management Plan (SMP).

Ecological and health impact assessments were conducted by EPA and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure the water was safe for the environment and also to ensure the safety of recreational users – in particular rowing clubs.

The City of Greater Bendigo has allocated 50 megalitres (ML) per year to filling Lake Weeroona. A delivery inflow pit was installed (see picture above) to allow the water to enter the lake at a slow rate to prevent any disturbance to the sediment or to wildlife that inhabit the lake.

Lake Weeroona is the benchmark for other urban recreational lakes including Ballarat's Lake Wendouree.

Recycled Water Factory - It's official

The Bendigo Recycled Water Factory has been officially opened by the Minister for Water The Hon. Tim Holding.



Pictured on a tour of the Bendigo Recycled Water Factory last month: Minister for Water Tim Holding, Federal Member Steve Gibbons, Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan and Coliban Water Chairman John Brooke.

The Recycled Water Factory has the capacity to recycle 100% of Bendigo's wastewater, producing approximately four billion litres of water each year for parks and gardens, sporting grounds, industry and to support rural irrigation.

Schools are also included in the list of customers using recycled water to green play areas and sporting fields. These include:

- > White Hills Primary School
- > Spring Gully Primary School
- > St Therese's Primary School
- > Catholic College Bendigo (La Valla Campus)



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Case study - Bendigo Health

Bendigo Health's Anne Caudle Centre has connected to the Epsom Spring Gully recycled water pipeline via Water Street in Bendigo. The connection to recycled water will save approximately 80 megalitres of potable (drinking) water each year.

Grant money received from the Smart Water Fund and Community Water Grants has assisted Bendigo Health in substituting recycled water for toilet flushing, irrigation of grass and garden beds and in the commercial laundry – Loddon Linen Services.

An extension of this recycled water pipeline has been installed in the tunnel that runs underneath Arnold Street to the Bendigo Hospital site for garden irrigation and toilet flushing and for future use in the cooling towers. This substitution of recycled water will save a further 20 megalitres of potable drinking water each year.

Water terms confusion

There are several different terms used to describe water.

Black Water

Contains human excrement or is of a similar quality. This is generally toilet waste from the sewer system or septic tank disposals - typically called sewage.

Grey Water

Comes from the hand basin, shower, baths, kitchen sink, dishwasher, washing machine or laundry. It is not recommended to use the water from the kitchen sink or dishwasher as it is generally high in fats, grease and bacteria and can impact on the environment including garden beds and lawn. Grey water left to sit for a period of time can become black water.

Potable Water

Water which is suitable for drinking. It is treated to Australian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines. It is acceptable for drinking and cooking.

Non Potable or Raw Water

This is water that is not treated and does not meet drinking water standards, such as dam or river water. It is supplied for specific purposes (i.e. garden watering or irrigation of pasture) and is of unknown water quality. This is water in its natural state. This water can be treated to drinking water standards.

Recycled Water

This is water that is generated from black water, greywater and storm water systems and treated to a high standard that is appropriate for its specific use. For example: toilet flushing, rural irrigation, sports grounds and gardens.

Reclaimed Water

This is treated sewage water before it enters the treatment process to become recycled water.

Storm Water

This is water which has run off from urban and semi urban developments, roads, ground, roof and footpaths following a large rainfall event. Storm water collects contaminants from the surfaces it runs over and flows through drainage systems into storage basins or sewage treatment plants.



Stormwater racing through Bendigo Creek near the Bendigo Bank after December 07 rainfall event. Photo courtesy of Bree Moody.