



# Save it! Every drop counts!

Read on to find out more about our region's water situation and what you can do to save water.



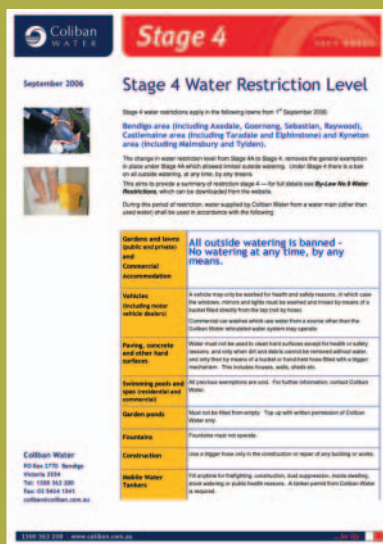
Spring Edition > October 2006

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From left: Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Water John Thwaites and Bob Cameron MP give away some water-saving showerheads to Coliban Water customers in the Hargreaves Mall this month.



Fact sheets on water restrictions are available from [www.coliban.com.au](http://www.coliban.com.au)

## The water situation

The Coliban system storages (Upper Coliban, Malmesbury and Lauriston reservoirs, together with our 18% share of Lake Eppalock) is at 13.4% of total capacity. Six years ago our storages were full. Historically we could rely on average inflows of around 59,000 Megalitres each year. In the last five years inflows have averaged approximately 16,000 ML each year. This year we have had only 2000 ML of inflows.

This summer we face our harshest ever urban restrictions and a zero allocation for our rural customers. We will remain on these restrictions until our water situation improves – either through the completion of water security projects or through inflows into our storages.

## Our region is not alone

Our region is not alone in its water shortage. Cities and towns throughout Australia, particularly in Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia and throughout our own state are feeling the effects of severe water restrictions as a result of ongoing dry conditions.

## To the future

Our region will have water security. We will not be without water. Multiple projects are underway to improve our water situation. *Waterplan 2055* sets out our key plans for:

- > urban savings
- > rural savings
- > greater use of recycled water
- > sourcing additional water

Our two key projects are a recycled water pipeline from Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant at Epsom to Spring Gully Reservoir to use for irrigation purposes from April 2007, and a 45 kilometre pipeline to bring water from the Goulburn System which is targeted for completion in late 2007.

Projects also include improving efficiencies in the Coliban system and ongoing community education. It is essential that the community takes every opportunity possible to save water.

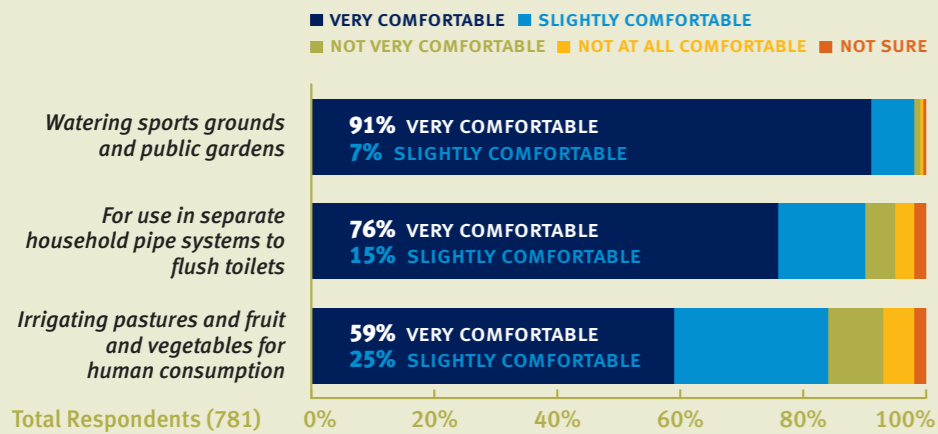


## Our region supports recycled water

Great community support has been received for the use of recycled water in our region.

In an independent telephone survey of 781 Coliban Water customers more than 98% said they were comfortable with its use on sports grounds and public gardens. More than 90% were comfortable with the idea of its use in separate household pipe systems to flush toilets and water gardens, and more than 80% were comfortable with its use for irrigating pastures and fruit and vegetables for human consumption.

Source: Coliban Water 2006 Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted by Market Solutions.



### Gardening Tips



While you cannot water gardens or lawn, you can use rainwater or grey water. Refer to EPA guidelines [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)



- › Use water from a rainwater tank
- › Spread mulch on garden beds and reduce water loss by up to 70%
- › Set up areas of shade cloth to protect your garden beds
- › Use grey water from the shower or laundry to water plants you particularly want to keep
- › Move aside mulch to check soil moisture before applying any rain water or grey water. Also make sure that the water applied soaks into the soil

## No Outside Watering

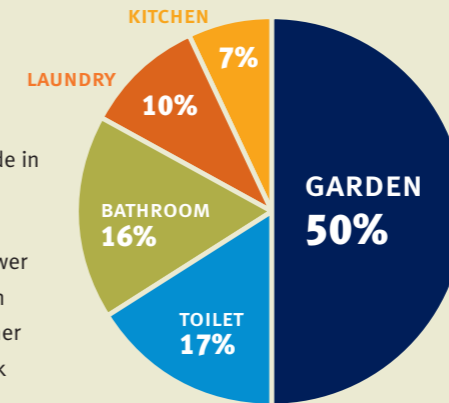
Our region moved to Stage 4 restrictions on September 1. Stage 4 restrictions mean a ban on all outdoor watering.

The new restrictions apply to the Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton and Heathcote areas including all towns in these areas receiving water from the Coliban supply system. A full list of towns is available from Coliban Water. The ban does not include use of grey water or rain water. Urban customers will receive with this newsletter a Stage 4 Fact Sheet with more information.

### Save water in your home

This shows where we use most of our water at home when we are not on water restrictions. You can see that in our region we use lots of water inside! If you haven't already, make a household plan to save water. Some simple things to include in your plan:

- › Reduce your showering time
- › Use the sink to shave instead of the shower
- › Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth
- › Use the economy cycle on your dishwasher
- › Replace tap washers as soon as they leak
- › Fully load your washing machine



Use a suitable container to capture water in the shower.



Use only the water you need to wash the dishes.

# Recycled water project

### Every drop of our recycled water will be used.

This means that every drop of recycled water we use for irrigation purposes will be a drop of water saved in our domestic water supply. Our recycled water projects, when all on-line, will provide us with an additional 6000ML of water each year. Our Epsom to Spring Gully Recycled Water Project is one of a number of water recycling projects in our region. We already recycle water for irrigation use at our Kyneton, Heathcote and Axedale water reclamation plants and we are making progress on our use of recycled water from our Castlemaine Water Reclamation Plant.

### What is the water used for?

All the recycled water we produce will be used for public gardens, sporting grounds, rural irrigation supply and passing flows. For the Bendigo project we have received expressions of interest from sporting clubs, schools and even a cemetery to tap into the recycled water pipeline.

### How much water?

In an unrestricted year, urban and rural customers in the Coliban system use on average 38,000ML of water. Last year in a restricted year we used 20,000ML. So 6000ML of recycled water generated for irrigation, is a significant saving of our domestic water supply.

### Recycling Project Fast Facts

- › Bendigo project cost is estimated as \$35M
- › Funding of \$6.3M has been sought from the National Water Initiative, and \$6.55M from the Water Resource Fund
- › 14km of underground pipeline from Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant to Spring Gully Reservoir
- › Spring Gully Reservoir is currently used to store water for rural outside use only
- › This water will be used for watering parks, gardens and sporting grounds, rural irrigation and passing flows

### Project timeline so far

Bendigo recycled water project announced	March 2006
Project team and consultant appointed	March 2006
Planning permit application to City of Greater Bendigo	July 2006
Detailed pipeline design and route finalised	August 2006
Tenders advertised for pipes and pumps	August 2006
Completion of approvals process	September 2006
Advertising and awarding of contract for construction	September 2006
Pipeline construction starts	October 2006
Pipeline completion	March 2007

### Aim to have a water efficient household

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	AVERAGE USE EXCLUDING GARDEN/LAWN WATERING (LITRES PER DAY)
1 person	150
2 people	270
3 people	390
4 people	500
5 people	620
6 people	740



These are indicative figures only and are based on estimated average use of water efficient appliances, fixtures and watering systems.

## Learn for free about:

- › Using grey water and rain water
- › Saving water inside your home
- › Sustaining gardens in dry times

### Bendigo sessions:

Tuesday 3 October - Bookings closed  
9am to 11am

Wednesday 4 October - Bookings closed  
1pm to 3pm or 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Monday 9 October  
1pm to 3pm or 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Sunday 15 October  
10am to 12pm or 12.45pm to 2.45pm

Registration: Bookings essential. Places limited. Call 1300 304 803 between 9am-4.30pm Monday to Friday. Admission is free.

Featuring information from the Plumbing Industry Commission, EPA Victoria, Department of Primary Industries, Savewater and the City of Greater Bendigo.

### Useful websites

Useful websites for complying with regulations and guidelines for using grey water and installing rainwater tanks:

Plumbing Industry Commission › [www.pic.vic.gov.au](http://www.pic.vic.gov.au)

Environment Protection Authority › [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

Green Plumbers › [www.greenplumbers.com.au](http://www.greenplumbers.com.au)

City of Greater Bendigo › [www.bendigo.vic.gov.au](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au)

## Rural Supply Plan Zero Allocation

An estimated 100 commercial rural customers will receive a limited volume of water to sustain permanent plantings, food production and intensive animal industry operations despite a zero initial rural allocation.

The Minister for Water has given a temporary qualification of rights in the Coliban Rural Water Supply System to allow some rural customers to receive an allocation to sustain their commercial operations.

This qualification is for commercial business operations only but it does not mean that all commercial businesses will qualify.



A thorough process has identified customers that may qualify, and a team has started contacting these customers to work with them one-on-one on supply needs and logistics for supplying water.

The Rural Customer Advisory Group was involved in the planning process to ensure Coliban Water met customer expectations.

It is estimated that to meet the 30% allocation for these customers approximately 1200ML will be needed.

The majority of Coliban Water's 1700 rural customers are non-commercial customers with small water entitlements under three megalitres.

Whilst the Minister's declaration does not allow for water to be provided to non-commercial customers, their essential in-house needs have not been overlooked.

Rural licence holders are eligible for a rebate of up to \$80 per 10,000 litres for a maximum of 30,000 litres of water. Further information was detailed in a letter sent to rural customers following the allocation announcement on September 15.

Unless significant rains result in inflows, the entire season will remain at a zero allocation.

Coliban Water has made every effort to ensure information is correct at time of printing, September 2006.

# Goulburn Campaspe Link

## The "Superpipe" Project

Whilst work continues in our own region on improving our urban and rural system efficiencies, educating our community to save water, and to recycle water, we have another key project underway and on track to bring water from outside our region when complete in late 2007. The Goulburn Campaspe Link Pipeline Project will transfer water from the Goulburn system to the Campaspe system via a pipeline from the Waranga Western Channel near Colbinabbin to connect with the Coliban system near Lake Eppalock.



Jacinta Allan MP, Bob Cameron MP, Minister John Thwaites, and Coliban's Chairman Gordon McKern



Botanist Tim Wills assessing native flora along the proposed Goulburn Campaspe Link Project pipeline route.

### Pipeline information

- › Pipeline estimated cost \$70M (includes \$30M State Government funding. \$25M has also been sought from National Water Initiative).
- › We are working with several statutory authorities on the approvals process necessary for the project to proceed.
- › 45 kilometres of underground pipe with some above ground structures (air valves, cathodic protection system components and potentially surge tanks).
- › The system will have the flexibility to allow water to be discharged into Lake Eppalock or directly into the existing Eppalock to Bendigo pipeline.
- › Even if all the water were discharged into Lake Eppalock, the increase in volume will not benefit recreational users. This is because the expected volumes of water are relatively small given the size of the Lake.
- › To avoid potential significant native vegetation areas, much of the alignment follows the existing powerline easement.
- › The recent announcement of the Ballarat pipeline link will not impact on the timeline of this project or impact on our customers. The only difference to the project may be a slightly larger pipe.
- › Over a long period of time we intend to purchase approximately 8000ML of permanent water. Any additional water will be purchased as temporary entitlement.
- › We will trade our permanent water in years when it isn't needed.
- › The water sought for the Bendigo project is 2% of the total capacity of the Goulburn system

### Project Timeline

**Selection of preliminary pipeline alignment**  
Early August 2006

**Contact landowners along preliminary alignment**  
Mid August 2006

**Project Information Days**  
26th/27th September 2006

**Confirmation of precise pipeline alignment**  
October 2006

**Approvals for pipeline sought**  
October 2006

**Begin construction of pipeline**  
Early 2007

**Begin operation of pipeline**  
Summer 2007 / 2008

