Romsey Recycled Water Management Update

31 January 2020

Project updates

We're committed to keeping you informed about the Romsey recycled water management plan. This page is a dedicated resource for the community, where we'll be providing regular updates as the project progresses.

Sign up to receive regular updates on the progress of the Romsey recycled water management plan. As soon as we add information to this page you'll get an alert from us.

If required, we'll hold a public forum to explain the options in the first few months of 2020. We'll promote this event in local newspapers, on our website and on social media, and give you plenty of notice before the event is held so that you can be involved.

To date, we have offered personalised visits to the community to anyone reaching in to us and this remains available to members of the community. If you'd like to talk to us, please contact us.

We'll provide our next update on the project on 28 February 2020.

About the project

Sign up to receive regular updates on our progress with these alternatives or read more about them below.

Updates as of 31 January 2020

Ecological surveys of the creek

Some of the feedback we've received on our Romsey Recycled Water Management Plan focussed on the ecological safeguards we have in place in the area. Recently, Western Water has been conducting several ecological surveys in Deep Creek, near the Romsey recycled water plant. These surveys will give us an up-to-date assessment of the fish and invertebrate fauna of the creek habitat. In the last two weeks, we completed the ecological, fish and platypus survey field work.

Consultants GHD are managing the surveys on behalf of Western Water. There were no adverse impacts on the fish or invertebrate population during the course of those studies. Once the results have been assessed, we will publish the findings on our website.

Background – Previous Survey

In March 2009, Western Water conducted a survey of fish fauna in Deep Creek, on the eastern side of the Western Water property in Romsey. Three native fish species were recorded - Short-finned eel, Southern pygmy perch and Flat headed gudgeon. Exotic fish included Eastern gambusia, Redfin and Tench. No threatened fish species were found and the remnant pools of Deep Creek were found to have intrinsic environmental value. The fish survey report recommended continuing the revegetation of the Deep Creek catchment to enhance biodiversity in the area, which Western Water is carrying out. Revegetation commenced along the 3km frontage of Deep Creek adjoining the Recycled Water Plant in 2005 and is ongoing.

Use existing infrastructure to irrigate land

This project will proceed in two stages.

The first stage of the project can proceed without delay. The Council has confirmed that Stage 1 does not require a planning permit since these initial works can be completed without removing any native vegetation.

To complete the second stage of the project, a planning permit to remove some native vegetation would be required. However, we are in the process of designing Stage 2 of the project to minimise the need to remove existing vegetation.

A cultural heritage assessment has already been completed, which concluded that a Cultural Heritage Management Plan was not required.

Increase capacity of plant to store excess recycled water

We are still looking into the costs and environmental implications of providing more storage capacity for recycled water at the Portingales Lane plant.

The expansion has been budgeted for in Western Water's capital program and will proceed as a separate project through Western Water's project approval process. We will provide more information on the timelines for the planning and design of this project in future updates.

Investigate alternative technology

We are continuing to investigate technologies which would allow us to reduce the excess recycled water, in particular the use of evaporative technology. We'll provide further updates on these alternative methods once we have assessed them.