Romsey Recycled Water Management Update

11 December 2020

This month's update includes an end to trucks taking recycled water offsite, long-term plans to upgrade the plant and the use of evaporation systems.

Although storage levels of recycled water have stabilised for the time being, volumes are still at critical levels coming into summer.

Current solutions - irrigation and other measures to manage excess recycled water

- Controlled onsite irrigation has been continuing, in accordance with our EPA approved Irrigation Management Plan
- The relatively dry weather and subsequent increased evaporation has allowed us to stop using tanker trucks to take excess recycled water to other treatment plants
- However, a wet summer is still predicted due to La Niña conditions. If that creates unseasonal wet conditions which limit our ability to irrigate onsite, we may need to consider seeking EPA approval for a short-term emergency discharge. If this is likely to occur, we will notify affected landholders in advance

Longer term planning – plant upgrade

- We are planning a significant treatment plant upgrade to support the growth of the Romsey and Lancefield communities. This will be a staged approach, with additional capacity to store recycled water at the plant being the main consideration
- The upgrade will increase both the irrigation area and provide additional storage capacity at the plant to manage excess recycled water, greatly reducing the risk of an emergency discharge to Deep Creek in the future
- These works are in the early planning phase and we expect to have an initial design concept by April 2021. We will keep you up to date as we work through these plans and will engage with affected members of the community as we progress

Using alternative technology (evaporation systems)

- Earlier in the year we looked at using evaporation systems to manage excess recycled water levels. We are now looking to purchase and trial a unit which would be used during high storage levels and reduce our reliance on tankers