



# Romsey Recycled Water Management Update

9 February 2021

Key points from this update include:

- lower recycled water levels
- improvement works to existing irrigation pivots
- longer-term upgrade works are progressing well
- two new evaporation systems are now operational
- Storage levels have continued to reduce, with onsite recycled water volumes no longer at capacity.

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

Relatively dry weather and subsequent increased evaporation is providing us with more favourable conditions for irrigation, as well as an opportunity for further improvements to our existing irrigation equipment

We're aiming to use the irrigation season (typically October to March) to reduce recycled water levels down even more, in preparation for the wetter winter months

Although highly unlikely at this stage, in the event of sustained extreme weather creating dangerous conditions onsite, we may need to consider seeking EPA approval for a short-term emergency discharge. If this is going to occur, we will notify affected landholders in advance

## **Longer term planning – stage 2 irrigation upgrade and plant upgrade**

The upgrade to increase the available irrigation area is progressing ahead of schedule, with the team aiming to have the new irrigation equipment in use by July this year

The plant upgrade works to provide additional storage capacity 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)**

While upgrades continue in the background, we have installed two new evaporators at the plant to help manage recycled water levels in the interim

Similar to the controls we have in place for the pivot irrigators, the units will be linked to our onsite weather station to ensure they are only operating in optimal climatic conditions

For example, they won't be used on high rainfall days – as evaporation will be negligible, or on high wind days – so any spray produced by the machines is always localised and confined to the lagoon areas of the plant.