



Romsey Recycled Water Management Update

31 March 2020

Our progress on the Romsey recycled water management plan is proceeding at pace despite coronavirus (COVID-19). For more information about our response to COVID-19, please visit our dedicated webpage.

Irrigation of Recycled Water

The detailed design phase of the first stage of the project is now being finalised:

Soil assessments undertaken by agronomists to determine the type and scale of irrigation equipment needed for the site have been completed. We've also taken into consideration the existing vegetation present and tailored the design so that vegetation impacts will be minimised. This has informed our decision to use a combination of a centre pivot irrigator and fixed sprinklers, which will maximise the amount of area we're able to irrigate. The design specifications for civil and electrical works required to provide the irrigation infrastructure are also in progress.

Our Irrigation Management Plan will ensure that all irrigation is undertaken sustainably and according to EPA requirements. A key feature of this is designing a site drainage system, including runoff collection dams, to ensure containment of all irrigated recycled water within Western Water's property boundary.

To complete the second stage of the project, we are working with the council to finalise the design to minimise the need to remove some of the large trees in the area.

Increase Capacity of Plant to Store Excess Recycled Water

We are continuing to look into the costs and environmental implications of providing more storage capacity for recycled water at the Portingales Lane plant. Current planning indicates that approximately 65 megalitres (ML) of new storage would be required.

As part of planning our forward program for capital works, any expansion of the plant will be required to proceed through a separate project approval and engagement process. We will provide more information on the timelines for the planning and engineering design of this project in future updates.

Investigate Alternative Technology

We continue to investigate new technologies which would allow us to reduce the excess recycled water. This includes ongoing preparation for a trial of evaporative technology at one of our other recycled water plants. Western Water has also investigated similar units in operation and we are currently assessing the feasibility of these units based on a cost-benefit analysis. We'll provide further updates on these alternative methods as we assess them.

Ecological surveys of the creek

The fish, platypus and macroinvertebrate surveys have been completed and assessed by Western Water. An information sheet summarising the findings of the report is published here (see attached).