

# Your Water News

Improving your service experience

We've made significant progress in addressing the technical issues with our new billing system and sincerely apologise for the inconvenience this has caused. We are committed to fully resolving these challenges and minimising further disruptions to your service.

This new system replaces outdated technology and introduces key improvements like multi-factor authentication, to better protect your information online. Our focus remains on delivering reliable and supported services to you while we make this important upgrade.

Our dedicated team have worked hard to resolve these issues and provide you with the support you need.

Thank you for your understanding as we work through this. If you need assistance, we're here to help every step of the way.

Maree



#### Shining a light on how we treat our water

We use ultraviolet (UV) disinfection to treat water at several of our plants. UV disinfection blasts powerful ultraviolet light through water to remove microscopic bugs like bacteria and viruses. UV disinfection supports our other treatment methods by adding an extra layer of protection to keep water safe.

Last year, we installed a new UV disinfection unit to service the Myrniong community and we have plans to add another at the Romsey Water Filtration Plant soon too. UV disinfection is an effective, sustainable treatment that uses minimal energy and is gentle on the environment.

Learn more about our UV disinfection process at

gww.com.au/watertreatment



### We're here to help if you need more time to pay your bill

Some of our bills have been delayed due to technical issues with our new billing and payment system. These delayed bills might cover a longer period and so might be higher than usual.

To make things easier, we're giving you 4 months to pay these delayed bills.

If you are experiencing financial pressures and need extra support to pay your bill, we're here to help with flexible options including payment plans, extensions and support programs.

To find out more about our payment support options, please call us on 13 44 99 or visit

gww.com.au/financialsupport



## **Read our latest Annual Water Outlook report**

The Annual Water Outlook report measures how we are currently using water, projects Melbourne's water use for the coming year and outlines what we are doing to protect and preserve water supplies.

The report is a collaboration between Greater Western Water, Melbourne Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water and is released every December.

Read the Annual Water Outlook report gww.com.au/MelbournesWaterOutlook



Werribee River

#### **Acknowledgement of Country**

Greater Western Water respectfully acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which our service area lies. We pay our deepest respects to their Ancestors and Elders past and present.

Your Water News January to March 2025

# What is PFAS testing?

PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are human-made chemicals found in everyday products. They're commonly known as 'forever chemicals' because they do not naturally break down and can last a long time in the environment and humans.

Melbourne's tap water is world-class and undergoes routine, rigorous testing. The testing follows strict Australian Drinking Water Guidelines set by the independent National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The guidelines establish safe levels of

PFAS in water, and tests on our local water supplies since 2018 as well as Melbourne Water's recent monitoring show all results are well within these safety limits.

PFAS are not added to drinking water, but tiny amounts are often detected in groundwater and surface water around the world. For most people, any exposure to PFAS through drinking water remains very low.

Learn more about water quality at gww.com.au/ waterquality

#### 2024 National Water Week poster competition winners

After a record 1240 entries across our service area in 2024, our National Water Week poster competition winners were announced. Creative youngsters from 47 schools, kindergartens and early learning centres across our service area entered the competition.

You can see all the winning posters at gww.com.au/nww



Second-place winner, Pardhu, from Bacchus Marsh Grammar

#### Your water supply during bushfires

We prepare our network every fire season to reduce the chance of water outages in high-risk areas.

Even though we're ready, we can't guarantee water supply, water pressure or water quality during a bushfire.

Disruptions may occur due to increased water use or network damage.

If there are water supply impacts in your area, we'll notify you via SMS. To stay informed, make sure we have your mobile number at

#### gww.com.au/contact.

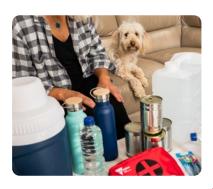
If you live in a high-risk fire area, you can also prepare by:

- having an alternative water supply available, like groundwater bores or rainwater tanks
- keeping enough drinking water in an emergency kit for all family members, including pets

checking for updates on our website and social media channels.

If you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, keep it wellmaintained, visible and easily accessible. This helps the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) during emergencies.

For more information, visit gww.com.au/bushfires



### **Our Annual Report has** been published

Our Annual Report for 2023-24 is now available. Read about our major achievements over the last twelve months. the service we delivered and the progress we have made towards supporting our customers, community and caring for Country.

Read the report at gww.com.au/reports

#### **Investing in the growing Macedon Ranges** communities

We've been making upgrades to our infrastructure across the Macedon Ranges area. A major upgrade at the Gisborne Recycled Water Plant is now in testing phase, the Lancefield community is benefiting from a new sewer main and Romsey is set for a major upgrade to their water filtration plant.

The Lancefield Sewer Upgrade replaced 6.5 km of sewer pipeline while major works on the Gisborne Recycled Water Plant and Romsey Water Filtration Plant will boost

capacity and introduce new energyefficient technologies.

Our service area is growing rapidly and in the next 30 years our region's population is forecast to double. These projects ensure that we can continue to deliver safe and reliable sewerage services to everyone living and working across the Macedon Ranges Shire.

Learn more about our upgrades at gww.com.au/major-projects



Gisborne Recycled Water Plant

#### Contact us

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