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- Mainstream: April 2010

Welcome to Mainstream, the Water Corporation's quarterly e-newsletter designed to keep our business partners and stakeholders informed about our latest projects, initiatives and business opportunities.

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Groundwater Replenishment Trial – newsletter

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First Public Private Partnership for the WA water industry

Late last month, Water Minister Graham Jacobs and Treasurer Troy Buswell announced a Public Private Partnership (PPP) would be used to deliver components of the Mundaring Weir Water Supply Improvement Project.

The project involved the construction of a water treatment plant, pump station, pipelines, upgrades to pump stations and the weir itself, as well as improvements to the tourism precinct.

"The Water Corporation released an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the new water treatment plant, pump station and various pipelines, which will be delivered by private industry," Dr Jacobs said.

A full industry briefing was held to outline the procurement process.

"Other parts of the project, including upgrades to the weir, existing pump stations and the precinct will be carried out by the corporation through traditional construction contracts."

Dr Jacobs said the provision of a new treatment plant would be the key component of the Mundaring Weir Water Supply Improvement Project.

"The treatment plant is required to keep pace with improving water quality standards," he said.

"While there have been a number of upgrades to the weir and its associated infrastructure during the years, parts of the facility are more than 100 years old and need upgrading to meet increasing water demands.

"This project will greatly improve the quality of water supplies for about 100,000 people living in the Hills area of Perth, and the Goldfields and agricultural regions."



Checking out an aerial view of what will be our first PPP project at Mundaring are Deanne McDonald, Principal Project Director and Ross Mignacca, Manager Private Finance.

Treasurer Troy Buswell confirmed the Mundaring PPP would be a first for the Western Australian water industry.

"A public private partnership is the best model to deliver this vital infrastructure to the community," Mr Buswell said.

"It will drive value for money for water consumers by creating greater incentives for innovation and by cost effective risk transfer to the private sector during the project life."

The Treasurer said the treatment plant, pump station and pipeline would be handed back to the corporation in full operating condition, within 35 years.

The project methodology was consistent with Infrastructure Australia PPP Guidelines and Western Australian Government jurisdictional requirements as developed via the Council of Australian Governments.

The Mundaring PPP followed the State Governments announcement in January of several PPPs for the WA prison system. →

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Mr Buswell said the Mundaring project was more evidence of the Governments commitment to offer a suite of PPP opportunities throughout 2010.

"We are actively pursuing public private partnerships where they offer value for money and are in the public interest," he said.

While the PPP was new ground for the Water Corporation, it had already significantly increased the role of the private sector in service delivery in recent years.

More than 95 per cent of our \$3.5billion four-year capital program is already delivered through the private sector.

In addition, both the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant and, when completed, the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant, will be operated and maintained for 25 years by the private sector.

The new water treatment plant and pump station were scheduled to be operational in 2013. ■



Stirling job on dam upgrades

Water Minister Graham Jacobs recently unveiled the completion of a two-year project to bring Stirling dam, one of the State's major dams, into line with today's engineering standards.

Dr Jacobs said upgrading of the 60-year-old, 57 billion litre Stirling Dam was part of the Government's ongoing State-wide dam safety and maintenance program.

"Western Australia's dams and water infrastructure are some of our most important assets," he said.

"This project forms part of a comprehensive suite of works which ensure WA's dams remain operational, protect downstream environments and communities, and create employment.

"The project involved modifying the dam's 52-metre-high earth embankment and widening its spillway, making it capable of withstanding the highest rainfall event that hydrologists predict can occur in the area."

The Minister said the project was estimated to have contributed up to \$5million to the South-West community through the use of local contractors, labourers and materials.

Dr Jacobs praised the Water Corporation and irrigation co-operative Harvey Water for working together throughout the project to maintain normal services to scheme water and the region's multi-million dollar irrigation industry.

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The upgraded dam was officially opened in February with the unveiling of the plaque by Minister for Water, Dr Graham Jacobs and Water Corporation CEO, Sue Murphy.

The Minister said the Water Corporation and Department of Environment and Conservation would establish suitable community facilities downstream of the reservoir and expected the site to be reopened during 2010.

This statewide program of works includes the recent commencement of a \$40million upgrade of Wellington Dam and work on Drakesbrook dam near Waroona. ■



Groundwater Replenishment Trial – newsletter

The Water Corporation is about to embark on a three-year trial to investigate the safety and viability of replenishing our groundwater supplies with recycled water.

To keep you informed on the progress of the trial, a quarterly newsletter has been produced. View the first edition [here](#).

This quarterly newsletter will:

- update you on the Advanced Water Recycling Plant at our Beenyup Facility;
- provide the latest findings on the quality of the water coming from the recycling plant; and
- bring you details of the environmental considerations and benefits of the Trial.

It will also provide information about other water recycling projects around the world, along with the latest on water treatment technologies.

The first issue of the newsletter is forwarded to you for information only. You can subscribe to receive the newsletter directly by clicking on the 'subscribe' button on the bottom left hand side. ■



Advanced Water Recycling Plant



Historic initiative for Dunsborough supply

The Dunsborough community will benefit from a bulk water trading agreement entered into with Busselton's drinking water provider, Busselton Water.

David Reid, Busselton Water Chairman, described the agreement as an iconic landmark initiative.

"The signing of this agreement between the Water Corporation and Busselton Water will see a number of major benefits for Dunsborough consumers," he says.

Dunsborough is one of the many towns that we supply drinking water to, and up until now that supply has been sourced exclusively from a series of bores accessing the Sue Coals Measure and Leederville aquifers. The new agreement will see Busselton Water supply us with up to 23,000kL of water per day to supplement current supplies.

Busselton Water has an existing allocation to draw water from the South West Yarragadee Aquifer that is sufficient to allow for the trade agreement. Accessing this resource prevents unnecessary spending on infrastructure upgrades and source development, and means there is no need for additional allocation of groundwater.

"We are pleased to join with Busselton Water in what we all regard as a sensible, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable plan to secure water supply to Dunsborough," says our CEO, Sue Murphy.

"This agreement will allow us to significantly defer the development of further water sources for the growing town."

A three-kilometre pipeline will be constructed for the delivery of water, to be funded by us. Construction is expected to begin in the first quarter of this year, with completion and commissioning due by next summer. ■



Water Corporation CEO Sue Murphy and Busselton Water Chairman David Reid officially sign the Dunsborough Bulk Water Agreement.



New permanent winter sprinkler bans to secure our water resources

Water Minister Graham Jacobs recently announced a permanent winter sprinkler ban from June 1 to August 31.

The decision followed a successful two-month trial ban during July and August last year, with an estimated 2.2 billion litres of water saved.

This is equivalent to filling 880 Olympic-sized pools or enough to supply Manjimup or Collie with water for a year.

"The result of the ban was an outstanding community achievement because, while there was reasonably consistent rain, we were still well below the long-term average," Dr Jacobs said.

"Last year's trial was definitely a success with an independent survey indicating 93 per cent community support."

The Minister appealed to Perth households and businesses to embrace the permanent ban with the same enthusiasm, pointing out the city had just experienced its hottest and driest summer on record.

"We are in a good supply position right now with the dams still at 40 per cent capacity and the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant operating consistently at full pace so the State has water in the bank," he said.

"However, it would be a shame to waste any of it unnecessarily."

Dr Jacobs said for the financial year to date, water use was still about four billion litres inside target for the Perth region.

"This is a good result, but we must continue the great work conserving our water reserves," he said.



Following the experience of the 2009 trial, the boundary for future winter sprinkler bans had been limited to the Perth-Mandurah area and the South-West.

"The boundary was determined using evapo-transpiration rates and rainfall data and based on local government boundaries for ease of management and communication," the Minister said.

"The winter sprinkler ban will not apply to the Goldfields and Kalbarri where temperatures are higher and there is less winter rainfall."

While the winter sprinkler ban dates are in line with climatic conditions, the Minister is able to alter them annually depending on rainfall and subsequent water availability.

Outside the winter period, the existing water efficiency measures (ie the two and three day per week watering rosters and daytime sprinkler bans) will continue to apply.

Dr Jacobs said that during the trial ban, feedback showed bore users needed to be able to regularly operate bores for short periods for maintenance. This would be permitted under new by-laws. ■