

MEDIA RELEASE



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Rains delay Meeniyen Sewerage System

Recent rains across South Gippsland have been most welcome to put moisture in the soil and fill streams and dams across the region - unfortunately they have not helped the construction process of the Meeniyen Sewerage scheme.

The sewerage system construction process is made up of four parts; Town reticulation system, which is the pipe work that collects the waste from the houses and businesses. The rising main and pump station, together transporting the waste from the reticulation system to the lagoon system. And The final stage is the lagoon and wetlands system, which treats the wastewater to a grade that is safe to be released into the environment or for use on local sports ovals.

This system is quite innovative in that it is made up of the standard lagoons systems as well as wetlands that will complete the final stage of treatment. Of the four parts of construction, the rising main and pump station are both completed.

The township reticulation system is 95% completed. Contractors are continuing these works and will also revisit sites where the landscape has been disrupted and return these areas to their original state including nature strips and private property.

Lagoon system construction commenced six months ago in November 2009. The lagoons are an area of 5.0Ha that will eventually have a capacity of 64ML through the three treatment lagoons, and three wetlands ponds.

Construction on the lagoons has been an arduous process due to the amount of rain that has periodically fallen over the past six months at the site. When building systems such as these, the lagoon surface must be 'dry compacted' to ensure it is water tight and meets EPA standards, "a difficult process when it keeps raining," commented South Gippsland Water's Managing Director Steve Evans.

There is approximately two months of work remaining to be done on the lagoon construction and there is a low possibility of continuing the works over the next few months, given the Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a 30% - 40% chance that our area will receive above average winter rainfall.

Never one to complain about rain, Steve concluded, "We are pleased with the progress made to date given the wet year our region has experienced. South Gippsland Water is making every effort possible to complete these lagoons as soon as we can, ultimately this will result in a system that will be a great long term benefit to the area."