

MEDIA RELEASE



Tuesday, April 05, 2011

Outfalls on the way out

South Gippsland water currently operates ten separate domestic wastewater treatment systems across the region; from these ten systems, five sites discharge treated water into the ocean. The ocean outfalls have been in place from many decades, with installations dating back to the 1950's.

During 2008 South Gippsland Water developed a ten year strategy regarding ocean outfalls;

- To promote water reuse and reduce discharge from all wastewater treatment plants, ultimately removing all outfalls along our coastline.

This strategy is well underway; of the four discharge points into Corner Inlet, two, the Yarram and Welshpool systems, now have 100% reuse. The schemes are in partnership with a local land holder where pasture is irrigated and there will be no further discharge to the outfalls.

The three remaining outfalls all are undergoing major projects in line with the removal strategy;

Water from the Toora Waste Water Treatment Plant has been used to irrigate the Toora recreation reserve since 2008. The Corporation is currently designing a winter storage lagoon to enable 100% reuse for the remaining wastewater.

Foster Water Treatment Plant has been subject to intensive studies to increase the treatment process for future town growth. An upgrade of the current treatment system including a winter-storage will result in 100% wastewater reuse and the decommissioning of the outfall by 2013.

Baxter's Beach outfall that services Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Cape Paterson, has recently completed interim maintenance works to protect the existing pipe. New technology was used where the pipe is incased in cast-iron sections, in a modular system to protect the pipe without disrupting the existing natural landscape.

The Baxter's Beach wastewater treatment system has an existing water reuse scheme and the Corporation will continue sourcing potential alternate options to use additional wastewater, achieve their 100% reuse goal, and decommission the final ocean outfall.