
Update on Korumburra Wastewater Treatment Plant

South Gippsland residents may have noticed an increased number of trucks on our roads as South Gippsland Water works hard to bring Korumburra Wastewater Treatment Plant back to its normal operation.

Over the past week, South Gippsland Water has been using local contractors to safely, and securely, truck wastewater from the plant to other sites.

Our major trade waste customers have been supportive in reducing the amount of waste they produce and implementing a process to transfer directly from their factories to alternate wastewater treatment plants. We thank them for those efforts.

Wastewater treatment is largely a natural process, completed by micro bugs. We're removing wastewater from the Korumburra plant to better aerate the remaining wastewater and increase the number of healthy micro bugs, as well as reseeded the plant with new micro bugs.

The unusual waste discharge that impacted our operations at the plant seriously impacted these micro bugs and the natural balance of this process.

Due to the nature of the unusual discharge, we were also forced to discharge water outside of normal environmental limits to Foster Creek.

Our staff are continuing to monitor Foster Creek's water quality downstream from the plant.

We're working with the Environment Protection Authority, Agriculture Victoria, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to protect the environment and those who use the water from Foster Creek.

We cannot yet give an exact timeframe on when we're able to return Korumburra Wastewater Treatment Plant to normal operations.

For this reason, along with stakeholder advice, we're continuing to advise landholders not to take water for stock and domestic purposes from Foster Creek until further notice, seek alternative arrangements to access water and continue to monitor stock.

We've had conversations with those farmers who may be directly affected by this event and will continue to keep them informed as we return to more normal operations.

We also advise the community not to swim in Foster Creek, drink the water or use it for any other purpose such as filling backyard swimming pools until further notice.

We would like to remind the community to be mindful of the additional traffic on the roads. We thank you for your patience, as we work hard to return Korumburra Wastewater Treatment Plant to its normal operations.

For further information, visit our website at sgwater.com.au. If you would like to know more about the wastewater treatment process contact our friendly customer service team on 1300 851 636.