



# Romsey Recycled Water Management Update

5 October 2020

With the first stage of the irrigation project now complete, this month's update is centred on our ongoing efforts to reduce onsite recycled water volumes – see below for more detail.

We are doing everything we can to reduce onsite volumes, however, ongoing wet onsite conditions are hampering our efforts to reduce our storages of recycled water, which are now at capacity.

We have fast-tracked new works to make extra land that we own ready for irrigation with recycled water ahead of our original plan. We have also purchased additional land for the same purpose.

Longer term planning has commenced to increase the available irrigation area and storage capacity of the plant.

## **Irrigation and other measures to manage excess recycled water**

- In addition to controlled onsite irrigation (in accordance with our EPA approved Irrigation Management Plan), extra measures to manage onsite volumes have now been put into place
- This includes temporarily transferring recycled water using tanker trucks to other sites in the Western Water service network which have spare capacity, in consultation with the EPA
- Local residents may have noticed increased truck traffic in the area while this work is carried out
- We are monitoring the site daily and working on all the alternative options available to us. However, in the event of ongoing and persistent rain we may need to consider seeking EPA approval for an emergency discharge. If this is likely to occur, we will notify affected landholders in advance
- The Bureau of Meteorology has declared a La Niña is officially underway, signalling we could be in for a wet spring and summer. The extent to which this prevents or severely limits our ability to irrigate on site will determine whether the contingency measure mentioned in the previous point is required
- If wet onsite conditions persist, the land we're currently using could soon become unsustainable for further irrigation
- We want to ensure the Romsey treatment plant and the vital services it provides to the community aren't compromised in the event of more persistent rainfall in the area
- While short-term and temporary measures offer some relief during seasonal weather cycles, longer-term measures providing permanent and more sustainable solutions are also being worked on – such as increasing both the irrigation area and the additional storage capacity of the plant to manage and contain excess recycled water