



AGENDA

S86 Moorabool Growth Management Committee Meeting Wednesday, 4 December 2019

I hereby give notice that a S86 Moorabool Growth Management Committee Meeting will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 4 December 2019

Time: 4.00pm

Location: Council Chamber, 15 Stead Street, Ballan

**Derek Madden
Chief Executive Officer**

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1 OPENING

2 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

3 RECORDING OF MEETING

As well as the Council for its minute taking purposes, the following organisations have been granted permission to make an audio recording of this meeting:

- The Moorabool News; and
- The Star Weekly.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

S86 Moorabool Growth Management Committee Meeting - Wednesday 4 September 2019

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

Under the Local Government Act (1989), the classification of the type of interest giving rise to a conflict is; a direct interest; or an indirect interest (section 77A and 77B). The type of indirect interest specified under Section 78, 78A, 78B, 78C or 78D of the Local Government Act 1989 set out the requirements of a Councillor or member of a Special Committee to disclose any conflicts of interest that the Councillor or member of a Special Committee may have in a matter being or likely to be considered at a meeting of the Council or Committee.

Definitions of the class of the interest are:

- A direct interest (section 77A, 77B)
- An indirect interest (see below)
 - indirect interest by close association (section 78)
 - indirect financial interest (section 78A)
 - indirect interest because of conflicting duty (section 78B)
 - indirect interest because of receipt of gift(s) (section 78C)
 - indirect interest through civil proceedings (section 78D)
 - indirect interest because of impact on residential amenity (section 78E)

Time for Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

In addition to the Council protocol relating to disclosure at the beginning of the meeting, section 79 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) requires a Councillor to disclose the details, classification and the nature of the conflict of interest immediately at the beginning of the meeting and/or before consideration or discussion of the Item.

Section 79(6) of the Act states:

While the matter is being considered or any vote is taken in relation to the matter, the Councillor or member of a special committee must:

- (a) Leave the room and notify the Mayor or the Chairperson of the special committee that he or she is doing so; and
- (b) Remain outside the room and any gallery or other area in view of hearing of the room.

The Councillor is to be notified by the Mayor or Chairperson of the special committee that he or she may return to the room after consideration of the matter and all votes on the matter.

There are important reasons for requiring this disclosure immediately before the relevant matter is considered.

- Firstly, members of the public might only be in attendance for part of a meeting and should be able to see that all matters are considered in an appropriately transparent manner.
- Secondly, if conflicts of interest are not disclosed immediately before an item there is a risk that a Councillor who arrives late to a meeting may fail to disclose their conflict of interest and be in breach of the Act.

7 COMMUNITY PLANNING REPORTS

7.1 WESTERN WATER WESTERN IRRIGATION NETWORK (WIN) PROJECT

Author: Ana Mitrov, Strategic Planner

Authoriser: Henry Bezuidenhout, Executive Manager Community Planning & Economic Development

Attachments: 1. WIN project area

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with an update on the Western Irrigation Network project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Western Water is leading the Western Irrigation Network project that will provide a Class C recycled wastewater network for agriculture to the west of Melbourne.
- The capacity of the existing recycled water management systems will not cope with the recycled water volumes forecast for the next 40 years.
- The project aim is to create a recycled water network reaching the high-quality soils in Balliang and Parwan through 50km of the pipelines.
- A planning permit and/or planning scheme amendment will be required to implement the WIN project.
- Western Irrigation Network will be fully constructed and operational by July 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the updates regarding Western Irrigation Network project.

BACKGROUND

Western Water provides water, recycled water and sewerage services to a region incorporating Sunbury, Melton, Bacchus Marsh, the Macedon Ranges and surrounds. The driver for the WIN project is the need to address increasing population growth occurring across the catchment area, notably Sunbury, Bacchus Marsh and Melton, which is resulting in increasing wastewater being received. Western Water currently produces recycled water by treating urban wastewater to standards set by Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The Melton Recycled Water Plant (RWP) is their largest RWP and is experiencing rapid growth in annual production of recycled water. Bacchus Marsh RWP is the third largest RWP and is also experiencing rapid growth.

Western Water currently recycles wastewater into Class A, Class B or Class C. Class A is produced at the Melton RWP and is supplied to residential growth areas in Melton for non-drinking purposes such as toilet flushing, garden watering and car washing. Class B and C can be used for a number of commercial and agricultural operations such as irrigation of crops. Western Water sell the various classes recycled water to customers consistent with the uses outlined above. Any excess recycled water is managed via licensed discharges into waterways. The existing capacity for recycled water (users), and licensed discharge restrictions mean that they will not be able to meet the demand/increases in recycled water volumes forecast over the next 40 years.

In April 2018 Western Water completed a 12 month feasibility study partnered by Melton City Council and Moorabool Shire Council into recycled water reuse options for the Bacchus Marsh, Melton, Sunbury and Gisborne Recycled Water Plants through interconnections to develop an integrated recycled water supply network. This project is known as a Western Irrigation Network (WIN). A map of the WIN area is provided at Attachment 1. The project was presented by Western Water at an Assembly of Council on 4 April 2018. The background and importance of the project was presented, along with an update of the WIN feasibility study, further opportunities and the next phase of work.

As part of the feasibility study expressions of interest were sought from agricultural landowners in Parwan and Balliang potentially seeking access to Class C recycled water from the Western Water recycled water network. These areas have low rainfall reliability which impacts on the productive potential of the high-quality soils in this area. The WIN project seeks to address both this issue, and the issue of increasing recycled water volumes, by transferring recycled water to the Parwan/Balliang region for irrigation. This has the potential to deliver more efficient use of these productive soils by enabling a reliable and year round source of recycled water and would assist in addressing future EPA compliance requirements for the Sunbury, Bacchus Marsh and Melton recycled wastewater treatment plants.

The feasibility study did not include an assessment on the provision of recycled water for use in urban areas or Class A recycled water to the Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District and Parwan Employment Precinct. If in the future, should demand exist, a further review of recycled water to either Class A or B quality could still occur. It should be noted that Class C water can be treated to a higher standard by individual landowners at their own farms (use dependent).

PROPOSAL

Project Progress

Following the completion of the feasibility study in April 2018, the Western Water board agreed to proceed with detailed planning of the WIN project. Based on the results of the feasibility study and subsequent investigations, a business case report was tabled and endorsed by the board in June 2019, which allowed the project team to move into the commercial negotiation phase.

Western Water are currently working with local landowners who will be potential future WIN customers. Subject to successful negotiations Western Water will proceed to finalise legally binding commitment agreements with landowners, along with a deposit of the capital contribution required to access WIN. The outcomes of the Commitment Agreement process will be communicated to the Board, at which time project approval will be sought (expected from October to December 2019). This will allow them to finalise the pipeline alignment and progress the functional design and approvals of the new irrigation scheme.

Funding

Western Water will fund majority of the total capital investment, with a small portion from the WIN customers. The Western Water share of total capital investment will be recovered through urban customers (residential and non-residential), water and wastewater tariffs, new customer contributions and potential grants.

Planning Implementation

In order to implement the WIN project Western Water will need to install a header tank in Balliang and a storage basin in Parwan that will be connected to Bacchus Marsh, Melton and Sunbury recycled water plants. New pipelines are required to connect these facilities. Western Water has also expressed a desire to Council officers for the consideration of planning mechanisms to ensure the long term protection of the area for agricultural uses.

A planning permit and/or planning scheme amendment will be required to implement the WIN project. The best way to facilitate the WIN project is considered to be through the combined permit and planning scheme amendment process which will enable both the development of the network, and the long term protection of the WIN. As a planning scheme amendment will be required to both the Melton and Moorabool Planning Scheme, a joint amendment could be undertaken by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. This is similar to amendments undertaken by DELWP for other similar large-scale infrastructure projects such as the Ballarat Line Upgrade. Council Officers would be consulted as part of the drafting of the amendment and associated controls.

Other non-planning tools may also be required to implement the WIN project, such as declaration of the proposed irrigation area as an irrigation district. Western Water are currently exploring such options.

Next Steps

Western Water is seeking to complete commercial negotiations with landowners by December 2019. Following the completion of commercial negotiations, the next key dates and actions regarding the WIN project will be:

- Mid 2021: Melton Recycled Water Plant 1.3GL recycled water storage completed.
- December 2021: Melton Recycled Water Plant to Bacchus March Recycled Water Plant interconnector completed.
- July 2021-July 2022: WIN constructed (include Balliang header tank and Parwan storage)
- July 2022: WIN fully operational.

Western Water have advised that they would be happy to provide another presentation to Councillors regarding the progress of WIN project at the conclusion of the negotiation stage.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2017-2021 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 3: Stimulating Economic Development

Context 3B: Investment and Employment

The WIN project contributes to Council's strategic framework by stimulating economic development and improving social outcomes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications associated with the consideration of this report.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no direct risk or occupational health and safety issues associated with the recommendation within this report.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Western Water as the authority leading the project are responsible for communication with key stakeholders, including landowners. The WIN project was communicated to potential customers and stakeholders through the feasibility study. Communication has been ongoing during the detailed planning phase of the WIN project, particularly with the landowners in the Parwan-Balliang region who have expressed an interest in receiving recycled water.

Stakeholder Reference Group

Western Water formed a Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) for the WIN project in September 2018. The purpose of the SRG is to provide key stakeholders from relevant government agencies, local government and relevant water authorities with a forum to provide input into the detailed planning phase for the WIN project.

The SRG consists of representatives from Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Melbourne Water, Southern Rural Water, City West Water, Barwon Water, Moorabool Shire Council, and Melton City Council.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* (as amended), officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Executive Manager Community Planning and Economic Development – Henry Bezuidenhout

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

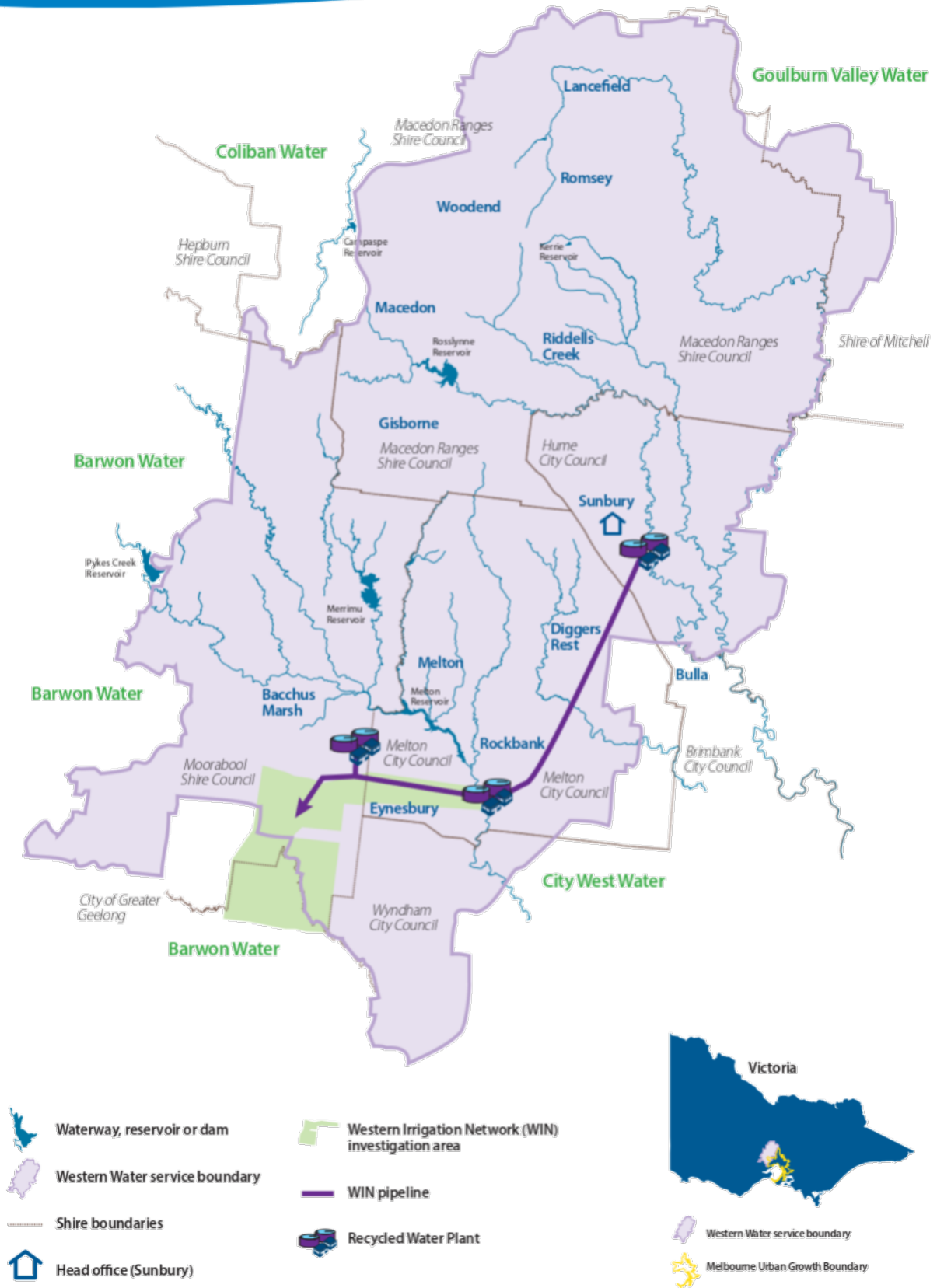
Author – Ana Mitrov

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

The Western Water WIN project seeks to address future compliances issues as a result of increasing recycled water volumes by providing recycled water to the productive agricultural land in the Parwan and Balliang region. Western Water are currently in the negotiation phase with potential future customers. A future combined permit and planning scheme amendment process will likely be required to enable both the development of the network, and the long-term protection of the WIN project.

WIN scheme map



- 8 UPDATE ON TRENDS, ISSUES AND OTHER MATTERS**
- 9 PROCESS FORWARD AND WORK PROGRAM**
- 10 UPDATE ON VCAT DECISIONS**
- 11 OTHER BUSINESS**
- 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13 CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the meeting now be closed to members of the public to enable the meeting to discuss the following matters:

13.1 Bacchus Marsh Strategic Growth Area Update

Council is satisfied that, pursuant to Section 89(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item is proposed developments.

Item 13.1 is a confidential item and therefore not included as part of this Agenda.

14 MEETING CLOSE