

VIC – Pakenham Cora Lynn Recycled Water Scheme for Agriculture



Project phase:	Detailed Business Case
Project phase cost:	\$2.4 million
Australian Government funding:	\$1.2 million
Other funding:	\$1.2 million (South East Water)
Indicative start/finish:	mid-2021 / late 2022

Project description

The Pakenham Cora Lynn Recycled Water Scheme for Agriculture Project would aim to divert sewage flows from nearby urban areas to Pakenham Recycled Water Plant for treatment and transfer up to 2,800 ML per annum of Class A recycled water, which aims to support the expansion of irrigated agricultural development east and south of Pakenham. The scheme aims to provide a resilient source of water for prime agricultural land whose current expanded development is constrained by limits on traditional local water sources.

The detailed business case will:

- identify optimal transfer pipe routes, pump station location and associated other infrastructure requirements;
- quantify the broader community benefits; and
- confirm the timing of the treatment plant upgrades and clarification of diversion of flows from sewage effluent and stormwater sources for early supply expansion.

Proposed benefits

- Increase potential productive value of quality agricultural land by providing drought-proof water supply for irrigation purposes for food growing horticultural areas of Cora Lynn and Catani.
- Encourage development and investment in the local economy whose current expanded development is constrained by limits on traditional local water sources.
- Create long-term resilience and better protection of water quality for the area by supplementing groundwater and surface water with 2,800 ML per annum of Class A recycled water.

Project location

The Project is located 60km southeast of Melbourne. The proposed irrigation scheme is located in a special use land planning zone, providing long-term protection for the area from urban encroachment. About 90 per cent of asparagus produced in Australia is grown in this region (Dalmore).

