

# Boneo Water Recycling Plant Upgrade

## Frequently Asked Questions

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As one of the three government-owned retail water companies in Melbourne, South East Water provide water, sewerage and recycled water services to over 1.6 million people living and working in Melbourne's south east - from Port Melbourne to Portsea and from Parkdale to Pakenham.

South East Water also collects sewage and trade waste from our customer's homes and businesses. The majority of wastewater is transferred to Melbourne Water's Eastern Treatment Plant with the remainder going to one of our eight water recycling plants.

One of those water recycling plants is at Boneo which treats wastewater from the southern Mornington Peninsula. During the summer months peak flows into the Boneo Water Recycling Plant (WRP) increase by up to 50 percent (December to February) - currently the WRP treats an average wastewater inflow of 11 Megalitres per day (ML/d), increasing to 16 ML/d during the summer period.

In order to facilitate the growing demand of connection to the sewerage network and to cater for future growth in the area, South East Water is required to upgrade Boneo WRP. The proposed major upgrade is part of the masterplan to meet growth in the area for the next 30 years (up to 2050).

South East Water is committed to working closely with the community to deliver vital infrastructure projects and we want to keep you informed. If you have any questions or would like more information please call **1800 055 465** or email **boneo@sew.com.au**

## The project

### **Q. Why does the Boneo WRP need to be upgraded?**

**A.** In 2015, South East Water completed the Peninsula ECO project to allow more than 16,000 properties between Rye and Portsea to connect to the sewerage network. As a result of the number of properties connecting to sewer in these areas, the Boneo WRP is nearing its capacity.

### **Q. What will the upgrade consist of?**

**A.** This is a major upgrade of the Boneo WRP and consists of a range of infrastructure being installed, including a biogas treatment and co-generation facility, a dewatering building, several anaerobic digesters, settling and mixing tanks as well as a new administration building. Further details of all the components of the upgrade can be viewed in the attached map.

### **Q. How will the upgraded water recycling plant impact the community?**

#### **A. Visual amenity**

Residents will notice some new above ground infrastructure as a result of the upgrade to the WRP.

Several new buildings, housing various infrastructure components of the upgrade, will range up to 11 metres in height. A range of other equipment will be installed and may be noticeable to some neighbours.

South East Water has undertaken additional planting at the water recycling plant to minimise the amount of infrastructure visible to the local community.

Upon completion of the upgrade, South East Water will re-evaluate the impact of the visual amenity of the WRP on neighbours and may undertake further planting if required.

#### **Noise**

The upgraded WRP will be designed to meet the noise level limits set by the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA). No noticeable increase in noise will be evident once construction is completed.

#### **Odour**

The upgrade will include new odour control equipment designed to meet odour limits set by the EPA. It is not anticipated that any noticeable odour will be detected from the upgraded WRP.

**Q. Who has been appointed to undertake the works?**

**A.** John Holland Suez Beca Joint Venture (JHSB) signed a contract with South East Water in September 2018 to design and construct the upgrade to the Boneo WRP. They will also continue to operate and maintain it for ten years, with the potential for a five year extension.

**Q. When will the upgrade start and finish?**

**A.** It is anticipated that construction on the upgrade will commence in February 2019 and last until mid-2020, with the plant fully operational by December 2020.

**Q. Where will the upgrade take place?**

**A.** The upgrade to the plant will be completed within the existing site at Limestone Road. The attached map shows the location of where new infrastructure is being installed.

**Q. How safe is the new infrastructure?**

**A.** South East Water has to comply with regulations from the EPA, the Department of Health and other government agencies to ensure that all of its assets and infrastructure meet legal and statutory requirements in regards to public safety and to ensure the health and wellbeing of operators and maintenance staff.

**Q. What are the construction hours?**

**A.** The majority of works are scheduled to take place during normal working hours - 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and 7am to 3pm on Saturday (*weather permitting*). If construction is required to be undertaken outside of these hours, nearby residents will be notified at least 48 hours in advance (*emergencies excepted*).

**Q. What will the impacts be to the local community during construction?**

**A.** During construction you may notice:

- An increase in truck movements in the area.
- Periods of noise when heavy machinery is being used, including reversing beepers.
- Traffic management including speed restrictions along Limestone Road and Boneo Road.

South East Water and JHSB will work with the community and stakeholders to minimise construction, social and environmental impacts.

**Q. Will the environment be affected by this upgrade?**

**A.** An Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken for this project. All areas of high environmental importance or sensitivity within the project area have been taken into consideration. Various options have been looked at during the design of this project.

A comprehensive Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be created and implemented prior to construction commencing on this project. Regular environmental monitoring and auditing will ensure the EMP is being adhered to. This will include methods to minimise the amount of vegetation removal to protect the local flora and fauna.

## Contact us

Please contact our Project Team on:

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