

MEDIA RELEASE

South East Water steps up sustainability in national parks with new solar sewer technology

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South East Water has installed a new solar-powered sewer system at Koonya Beach in the Mornington Peninsula National Park, providing environmentally-friendly toilet facilities for beachgoers.

In partnership with Parks Victoria, South East Water has upgraded the toilets to a system which runs on 100 per cent sustainable energy. This is a first for the national park which has several ageing septic systems exceeding capacity due to increasing visitor numbers.

With help of a \$1.2million commitment from the State Government, South East Water is working towards connecting eight sites along the national park's main sewer system. This will eliminate the risk of pollution and help maintain a clean and healthy national park.

South East Water will next install an additional solar powered connection at Portsea Ocean Beach, reducing the need to rely on electricity to power its sewer systems in the national park.

"The installation of solar powered pressure sewer systems on the Mornington Peninsula not only delivers environmental and cost benefits to Parks Victoria, but is also an important step forward in improving the liveability and sustainability of our communities," said Terri Benson, South East Water's Managing Director.

The new system uses modern technology and has an increased capacity to deal with the growing number of visitors.

South East Water developed the OneBox® technology behind the solar powered sewer system which is manufactured locally. This technology allows South East Water to monitor the sewer system in real time and control system flows during peak periods. The solar system and batteries are also a local product manufactured by Magefekt in Dandenong.

The off-grid solar system provides an opportunity to take this technology to remote areas of Victoria where limited or no electricity supply is available.

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