

MEDIA RELEASE

Solar generation hits the roof in Frankston

16 January 2016

South East Water's Frankston head office is expected to meet more than 10 per cent of its energy needs using solar power, thanks to a new 99kW rooftop solar panel installation.

Member for Frankston Paul Edbrooke MP officially switched on the installation at WatersEdge, which will generate an average electricity output of more than 350 kilowatt hours per day to help power South East Water's head office operations.

During the summer months, the system is expected to deliver up to a third of the electricity used at WatersEdge during office hours.

The project forms part of South East Water's upcoming pledge to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, a target established by the Andrews Labor Government in the recently released Water for Victoria plan.

The plan sets out a range of climate mitigation strategies for water utilities, the largest carbon emitters in the public sector.

The installation comprises almost 400 panels covering 620 square metres, and will feed into the building's electricity network, including its data centre, which houses more than 300 servers.

South East Water has a range of carbon mitigation projects underway or complete in order to achieve the targets set out in the Water for Victoria plan. These include:

- hydro-electric generation using energy from its pressure management systems in the water network.
- solar installations at water recycling plants and key pump stations.
- integrating solar energy into South East Water's pressure sewer network, as demonstrated last month on the Peninsula ECO project.
- greater fugitive emissions capture, such as the thermophilic anaerobic digestion process at the Mt Martha water recycling plant upgrade.

Completed in September 2015, WatersEdge already has a range of environmental features including rainwater capture and storage for toilet flushing and garden irrigation and LED lighting systems.

More...

Quotes attributable to Paul Edbrooke MP, Member for Frankston

“This is a great initiative that will deliver clean renewable energy for South East Water right here in Frankston.”

Quotes attributable to Kevin Hutchings, Managing Director, South East Water.

“Reducing our reliance on non-renewable energy at our Frankston office is a small but important step towards achieving a carbon neutral footprint for our organisation.”