

# Frequently Asked Questions

September 2021

## Introduction

South East Water is working in partnership with Southern Rural Water to plan and deliver the Pakenham Regional Recycled Water Scheme. If the investigation is successful the scheme will provide Class A recycled water to customers in the Pakenham South and Cora Lynn region.

The aim of the scheme is to provide an alternative water source for current and new rural water uses in the region that is reliable and will help adaptation to climate change.

## Project overview

### What is the Pakenham Regional Recycled Water Scheme?

South East Water and Southern Rural Water are working in partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to investigate the feasibility of upgrading and expanding the existing Pakenham Recycled Water Scheme to supply Class A recycled water in the Pakenham South and Cora Lynn region, for non-residential purposes.

### What is the status of the scheme?

We're now undertaking functional design and costings of service options to the Cora Lynn and Dalmore regions, which we aim to complete by the end of 2021.

Implementation of the scheme is subject to finding sufficient demand for recycled water at a price point that funds the ongoing operation of the scheme.

### What are the benefits of the scheme?

The benefits of the scheme include:

- Increasing agricultural production in the region by providing farmers with a high quality and reliable alternative water supply.
- Supporting local food production and creating local jobs by making more water available for the agricultural industry.
- Reducing the reliance on surface water and groundwater for irrigation, which are fully allocated and subject to restrictions.
- Reducing the amount of treated wastewater going out to sea.

### What needs to be considered in the planning for the scheme?

Over the next six months, we will carry out desktop studies and field investigations to understand what will be involved to construct the necessary infrastructure. This will be supported by engagement with potential customers to understand the demand for recycled water and the price customers are willing to pay for this service.

Once we complete our investigations, we will identify a price point that customers will need to pay for the service. We'll then ask those interested to sign-up to the scheme. In order to proceed with the next stage of the project, we'll need a minimum number of customers signed up to the scheme.

### **I've already been approached multiple times about connecting to recycled water and nothing ever happened. Why should I participate again?**

We acknowledge that some residents and businesses may have been approached in the past about using recycled water to the Cora Lynn area. These previous projects were found to be too expensive to progress, which we acknowledge can be frustrating for those who were willing to connect.

The current scheme includes repurposing existing recycled water infrastructure in the area which will keep the initial cost of supply as low as possible. We're also planning to expand the scheme as supply and demand for recycled water increases.

We encourage anyone located in, or in close proximity to the investigation area who is interested in being supplied with recycled water to get in contact with our team as this will help us determine if there is enough demand in the area for the project to progress.

### **How much will the total project cost?**

We will have a better indication of the price once the functional design and costing is completed by the end of 2021.

### **Where will you supply recycled water?**

We are currently exploring options to provide water to Dalmore and Cora Lynn. The current concept is to supply the Dalmore region with up to 500ML/year and the Cora Lynn region with up to 2,400ML/year. We have identified a broad area of investigation and will refine this area as planning progresses and more information becomes available. See map below for the proposed investigation area.



## Who can connect to the scheme?

We are initially targeting landholders, farmers and businesses in the Cora Lynn and Pakenham South areas who are located within, or in close proximity to the investigation area, who meet some or all of the following criteria:

- Use large volumes of water for irrigation or agricultural purposes.
- Grow multiple crops and irrigate for long periods across the year.
- Has existing capacity in onsite storage to hold recycled water or would consider constructing additional storage.

Preference will be given to users who will take recycled water throughout the year, providing regular demand.

We will also consider opportunities for new enterprises looking to start in the area requiring large volumes of water.

## How much will I need to pay for recycled water?

We are currently looking at pricing models as part of the development of the business case.

We'll meet with customers to understand predicted volumes of recycled water and willingness to pay which will help inform pricing models for the scheme.

Once we've confirmed volumes with potential customers, we'll have a better indication of what you will need to pay by late 2021.

## I want to connect to recycled water but will only use it during extreme drought conditions or to top up my current supply? Can I still connect?

We're targeting customers who will use large volumes of recycled water throughout the year to ensure the scheme will provide value for money. While we'll consider all applications to connect to the scheme, priority will be given to customers who will consistently use large volumes of recycled water.

## Need to get in touch?

We're here to help. For more information, please contact either of the following:

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### For further information about this project:

Visit: [www.southeastwater.com.au](http://www.southeastwater.com.au)



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