



Warrnambool Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade

Protecting public health and the environment

Newsletter - December 2022

We want to ensure we are doing all we can to protect and enhance the local environment and support the economic growth and prosperity of South West Victoria. That's why we're upgrading the Warrnambool Sewage Treatment Plant.



Contractors appointed

Wannon Water's Board has signed a contract with specialist Melbourne-based contractor CCB Envico for the main construction stage of the upgrade project. CCB Envico will partner with several local contractors throughout construction.

The company has been operating for nearly 20 years in the water and sewerage sector. Together with one of the main subcontractors, Laurie Curran Water, CCB Envico has already delivered previous projects for us, including significant work on the upgrade of the Warrnambool Water Treatment Plant.

The company's major clients in Victoria include Yarra Valley Water, Western Water, North East Water, Coliban Water and Gippsland Water. Prior to the pandemic, they completed a

\$34 million, joint-venture sewage treatment plant in Drouin of similar scale and scope to the Warrnambool project.

About the project

While it is successfully meeting current demand, the sewage treatment plant is operating near capacity.

This upgrade will provide vital extra capacity to cater for our region's future development, allowing for an additional \$199 million of annual economic value and 1,512 more jobs for our region by 2040.

The upgrade will be based on the proven technology of the existing plant. However, new treatment technologies, the latest design principles and allowances for the future will be incorporated into the new structure.

The key components of the design include:

- **New influent pump station and screening facility** - raw sewage will be screened, removing rubbish, grit and other coarse solids. Once operational, the existing inlet screening facility will be decommissioned.
- **Septage receival system** - to screen wastewater from septage tankers prior to treatment from within the secure site.
- **Treatment tanks** - adjacent to the four existing treatment tanks and designed to operate in parallel with the existing tanks. They will enhance the treatment processes and increase the plant's storage capacity. Allowances for a future upgrade to a new technology will be made to avoid extensive modification works in the future.
- **Chemical dosing facility** - to the entire site, improving the treatment process and increasing the flexibility to rapidly adapt to any changing sewage characteristics.
- **Odour control facility** - treating foul air from the influent pump station, inlet screening and septage receival facility. The existing site does not have an odour facility.
- **Tertiary effluent screening** - providing tertiary screening in the effluent channel of the two new IDEA tanks, ensuring no particles greater than one millimetre are discharged to the ocean.

Cost

The upgrade is Wannon Water's largest-ever single infrastructure project with a total cost of around \$85 million, including the construction contract of nearly \$67 million. This is much higher than we originally estimated more than five years ago but reflects the state of the current market.

More recently we've seen a step-change across all elements of the project. The design and approvals process took much longer than anticipated and the impact of the pandemic was unavoidable. One of the biggest factors driving up the cost is supply and demand, with:

- A huge rise in construction activity across the state
- A shortage of specialised contractors in regional areas
- The volatile nature of global supply chains for materials
- Associated cost escalations.

Funding for the project is included in our 2018-23 Price Submission. The additional funding required for the full project has been included in our next five-year price submission.

Our strong financial position allows us to borrow money to help fund the additional costs rather than increase customer bills now. The sewage treatment plant is a long-lived asset so it's prudent that we pay the cost off over the life of the plant.

Timeline

Stage 1 - Complete

July to October 2022 - Initial site clearing and the removal of material contaminated with heavy metal from the abandoned rifle target facility.

Stage 2

December 2022 - Initial site work.

January 2023 - Construction starts.

2025 - Construction complete.

Stage 3

Late 2024 to 2025 - Revegetation of old rifle butt and disturbed areas with local flora in partnership with community groups.

Keeping you updated

We'll be keeping local residents, nearby user groups, stakeholders and interested people updated as on-site activities progress with:

- Regular newsletters
- A dedicated website page
- Social media posts (follow Wannon Water on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter)
- Project signage.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the project, you can always contact us on 1300 926 666.

Remember - we're here for you!