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Media Release

Mount Barker recycled water project pumping along

The Mount Barker District Council is continuing the expansion of its recycled water infrastructure network along new sections of Heysen Boulevard being built in the Bluestone development area and a nearby development site east of Wellington Road.

The 1.66 kilometres of recycled water pipelines coincides with works being done by contractors for three housing estate developers and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport to build the new sections of Heysen Boulevard.

The council's original budget was \$680,000 but factors which include escalating construction costs has meant an increase of \$100,000.

Mount Barker District Council's Head of Wastewater, Helen Edmonds says the increase is being accommodated within the adopted 2022/23 wastewater capital budget as a result of the changed timing of other wastewater investment into the next financial year.

"Funding for this essential capital investment will be progressively recovered from the sale of recycled water to customers," Dr Edmonds said.

"Once the recycled water pipeline expansion is constructed, developers will be able to purchase recycled water from Council to irrigate their parks and reserves until the assets are gifted to Council and the community.

"Once the sites become Council's to maintain, recycled water will remain in use and cost the Council significantly less for irrigation than mains water.

"By expanding our recycled water network, we are creating long-term environmental benefits by reducing our town's reliance on mains water while still maintaining high-quality public spaces with our own recycled water. Maximising our reuse also reduces our long-term water costs."

The Council is continuing to work under its Recycled Water Directions and Interim Strategy to identify new opportunities for reuse of its recycled water, including in parks and reserves across Mount Barker. It is also investigating options for expanding the recycled water network for commercial users into areas including Nairne and Hay Valley, Callington and south of the district.

“By using recycled water, Mount Barker District Council provides all residents and visitors full use of parks and gardens while conserving valuable resources,” Dr Edmonds said.

“The current phase of delivery of recycled water infrastructure on Heysen Boulevard will expand the Mount Barker recycled water scheme and promote Council’s commitment to water security, sustainability and circular economy.”

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