



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

13 December 2021
Media Release

Additional Parks and Reserves to get Recycled Water

The Mount Barker District Council has approved a \$640,000 expansion of its recycled water infrastructure network along new sections of Heysen Boulevard to be built in the Bluestone development area and a nearby development site east of Wellington Road.

The project will coincide with works to be undertaken by contractors for two housing estate developers and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport to build the new sections of Heysen Boulevard, resulting in a significant cost saving for Council of up to 50%.

The 1.66km of recycled water pipelines will have capacity to deliver an expected 20-25ML a year - enough to irrigate a further 25ha of parks and reserves in the growth area. This builds on Council's increasing use of recycled water at other public facilities in Mount Barker and the surrounding district including schools, ovals, parks and reserves.

Funding for the required capital investment will be progressively recovered from the sale of recycled water to customers. 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.

Mount Barker Mayor Ann Ferguson says the project will assist in enhancing Mount Barker's future amenity and sustainability.

"Council is always looking for new opportunities to increase our recycled water reuse in line with our ambitious aim to put 100% of all recycled water we produce to productive use in the future," Mayor Ferguson says.

"This project means that from the moment these new parks and reserves are developed, they will be sustainable and water efficient. We will also have greater water supply security, especially in times of drought, but not relying on our finite groundwater and Murray River water supplies to maintain our new public spaces."

Mount Barker District Council's General Manager Infrastructure, Phil Burton says the project would be a win for both the community and the environment.

"Over the next 30 years, Council expects to receive about 200ha of extra parks and reserves across the Mount Barker growth area once developments are completed – and most of these will rely on irrigation for ongoing maintenance," Mr Burton says.

“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 work under its *Recycled Water Directions and Interim Strategy* to identify new potential 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.

- ENDS -

MEDIA CONTACT:

Mount Barker District Council Communications Manager Ian Hildebrand

P: (08) 8391 7200 | E: ihildebrand@mountbarker.sa.gov.au