



Birregurra Sustainable Communities Water Update

The Birregurra Sustainable Communities project is now in its third year and over this time we've seen some real changes in water use. There's been lots of interest in our Living Laboratory projects recently, with the ABC highlighting the shorter shower project in an online article, follow this link to find out more www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-28/birregurra-undertakes-water-cost-saving-experiment/102150206. Our garden Living Laboratory has now closed, however we'll continue to investigate new Living Lab projects to implement during 2023 and beyond so stay tuned.



23% of
properties had
a leak (in 26
months)



89 leaks
identified and
repaired



**Up to 38 ML per
year saved (if
leaks left
unrepaired)**

1 ML = 1 million litres

Learn more about the Birregurra water supply upgrade

Barwon Water is upgrading Birregurra's drinking water supply by constructing a new underground pipeline to connect Birregurra to the Colac water supply system. The upgrade will ensure we can continue to provide high quality, affordable and secure services for our existing customers, as well as cater for future growth. Construction is scheduled to commence in May 2023 and be completed by mid-2024. Works will take place along the pipeline alignment, between Forrest Street in Colac, and Bowden Street in Birregurra.

We're hosting a community pop up this week so please drop by to chat to us about the project. We're keen to tell you more about it and answer any questions you may have.

Where: Outside the Birregurra General Store,
59 – 61 Main Street, Birregurra

When: Wednesday 5 April 8am – 11am
Drop in any time.

Should you have any questions about this project please telephone us on 1300 656 007 or email projects@barwonwater.vic.gov.au or visit our project website www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birre-upgrade.

Customer water usage

Now that Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water project is in its third year, we're taking a closer look at water usage patterns and customer leaks. To date, the digital meter technology has helped identify small and large leaks at 23% of properties in Birregurra. Although the leaks have been repaired, 15 million litres of water has been lost to leaks since December 2020 when the meters were first installed. It has been wonderful to see that when customers are notified of a possible leak that they act on it quickly. Since January 2021, 89 leaks have been repaired. This has saved Birregurra customers approximately \$81,000 on water bills and around 38 million litres of water if they were left unrepaired for a 12-month period! If you are notified of a leak and you can't find or fix it, contact a licensed plumber or if you're renting, contact your landlord or agent. Barwon Water also has a range of support and plumbing assistance programs to help with leaks so if you're unsure where to start, contact us on 1300 656 007 or email info@barwonwater.vic.gov.au.

For further details on the Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water program and our Living Laboratory project, visit www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra.