



Birregurra Sustainable Communities Water Update

We're looking forward to working with the Birregurra community in 2023 as we head into the third year of our Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water project. This year our Education Advisor will be working with the Birregurra Primary School on a sustainable water project, we will provide a summary of the outcomes of the Living Laboratory Initiatives (shower exercises and waterwise garden program) and continue to monitor for leaks and notify customers of leaks. Also keep your eyes peeled for more exciting programs and opportunities to help the Birregurra community continue to use water wisely and sustainably.

Waterwise Garden program – sign up today!

We still have some Waterwise Garden program places available to support Birregurra residents to adopt sustainable water use behaviours in their gardens. An irrigation/water efficient garden specialist will carry out a **FREE** garden health check at your property. If you are finding that your garden watering system is not working properly or needs some repairs then a **FREE** garden health check might be just what you need! A specialist will visit your property to conduct a garden health check and carry out quick fixes or adjustments to your garden watering system set-ups during the visit. So far we have had nine residents sign up to the program who have all provided very positive feedback and a number of them had their garden watering systems repaired. If you'd like to participate in this fantastic opportunity please contact our Sustainable Water Use team on 1300 656 007 or info@barwonwater.vic.gov.au and we'll be able to book you in for a free garden health check at a time that suits you.

Drinking water use comparison

There has been an increase in residential water use coinciding with warmer weather during the start of summer. Water use is around 202 litres per person per day an increase of 85 litres per person per day from the previous month (117 litres per person per day).

Water supply upgrade

Barwon Water's upgrade of the Birregurra water supply system is underway and planning has commenced to build 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. Site investigations commenced last year and we're continuing our work to help determine the most suitable pipeline alignment. Our site investigations are mostly complete with some minor aspects remaining. We'll share the final alignment as soon as it's available via our webpage: www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birre-upgrade.

Class C recycled water releases continue

Our releases of treated Class C recycled water to the Barwon River at Birregurra continue in line with EPA licence conditions. The releases are needed to safely manage recycled water storage levels resulting from high winter and spring rainfall and wet ground conditions limiting irrigation opportunities. Recycled water lagoon levels are coming down, but releases will continue intermittently, until the lagoon levels return to normal operational levels, as river flows and weather conditions permit.

Barwon Water is monitoring water quality of the Barwon River upstream and downstream of the release point and no adverse impacts have been detected as a result of the release of the treated Class C recycled water. To date we have released 19.1 megalitres at Birregurra. The volumes represent less than 1 per cent of the river's flow in Birregurra since releases began. Releases will continue until sustainable irrigation using the recycled water can take place, which we envisage will be later in January when the ground dries. Depending on irrigation volumes, releases to the river may need to continue until levels have been lowered enough to create sufficient storage capacity before winter.

The recycled water is treated to Class C recycled water standard under EPA guidelines and is suitable for irrigating sporting fields, including golf courses, public open space and certain crops.

