



## Birregurra Sustainable Communities Water Update

We've commenced planning for another exciting year of water and sustainability projects under the Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water banner. We'll continue to roll out Living Laboratory trials to test sustainable water use initiatives to determine if and how they can be implemented more broadly across our region. Don't forget we also have lots of waterwise offers available to Birregurra customers, read on to find out more.

### Free garden health check – sign up today!

Our Waterwise Garden Living Laboratory is continuing and we still have a few places available to support Birregurra residents to adopt sustainable water use practices in their gardens. An irrigation/water efficient garden specialist will carry out a **FREE** garden health check at your property. So if you're finding that your garden watering system is not working properly or needs some repairs, or you'd just like some advice on what to plant, then a **FREE** garden health check is for you. A specialist will visit your property to conduct a garden check and carry out quick fixes or adjustments to your garden watering system set-up during the visit. We've had a number of Birregurra residents take up the offer and all have provided really positive feedback with many having 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](mailto: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 a warm start to the new year. During January water use was around 275 litres per person per day, an increase of 73 litres per person per day from the previous month (202 litres per person per day).

### Birregurra water supply upgrade

Barwon Water is upgrading Birregurra's drinking water supply by building 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. Over the last 18 months we've completed several site investigations, including cultural heritage and flora and fauna assessments, service proving, geotechnical and land surveys. These investigations have helped inform the final alignment of the new pipeline which follows a combination of road reserves and farmland. Above ground infrastructure, such as tanks, air valves and a pressure reducing valve (PRV), will be constructed along the alignment. You can view a map of the of the final pipeline alignment on our project website: [www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birre-upgrade](http://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birre-upgrade). Construction is expected to commence in mid-2023 and be completed by mid-2024.

### Class C recycled water release paused

We have now paused our releases of treated Class C recycled water to the Barwon River at Birregurra following a drier month and an increase in irrigation demand, which helps to reduce high recycled water lagoon levels. This approach is in line with our monitoring plan to protect the health of the Barwon River during the warmer months. Releases to the river may resume if river flows improve and modelling shows the lagoon levels need to be lowered further before winter. The releases have been managed in line with our EPA licence conditions and have been required to safely manage recycled water storage levels in response to the high winter and spring rainfall and ongoing wet conditions. 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.

### Waterwise offers

Did you know Barwon Water has tailored waterwise offers available to Birregurra customers? If you have a leak at your home that you can't find or is difficult to fix, we have a variety of free plumbing support programs to assist. We also have rebates and grants available for our business and agricultural customers too, to help upgrade water related fixtures and fittings or for projects that improve water efficiency or achieve permanent water savings. To find out more visit [www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au](http://www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au).

For further details on the Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water project, visit [www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra](http://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra).

