



Birregurra Sustainable Communities Water Update

This month we take a closer look at water usage patterns in Birregurra across the summer months. One of the aims of the Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water program, is to reduce water usage in the township when consumption is usually at its highest, during summer. We're pleased to report that we've seen some real changes in water use patterns over the past few years, read on to find out more.

Summer water consumption comparison

An analysis of water consumption over the previous six summer water billing periods (January to March) has been undertaken to determine what changes in usage have occurred since the Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water program commenced in January 2021.

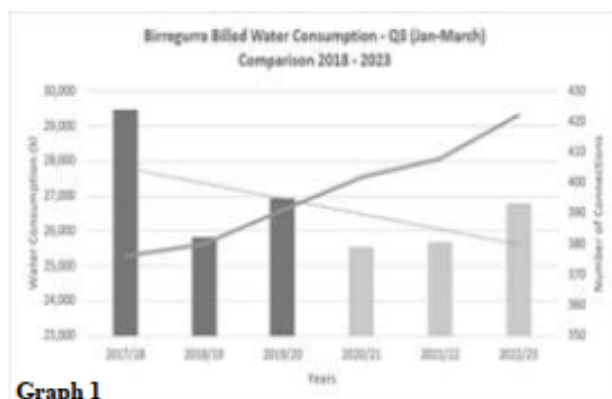
Graph 1 indicates that over the past six years, billed water consumption in the township has **reduced by 9%** during summer (or the Quarter 3 billing period), while the number of new water connections has increased. Average water use per property during the summer months has **reduced by 19%**, decreasing from 78 kilolitres per property to 64 kilolitres per property.

Graph 2 shows that residential customers have reduced their summer water use **by 8%** over the six year period, while new water connections to the supply system have increased. Average water use for residential properties during the summer billing period **reduced by 20%**, from 80 kilolitres down to 64 kilolitres per property. The good news is that consumption data indicates that Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water has been successful in reducing water use during summer (January – March), well done Birregurra and keep up the great work! For those interested, a summer consumption report will be available in June at www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra.

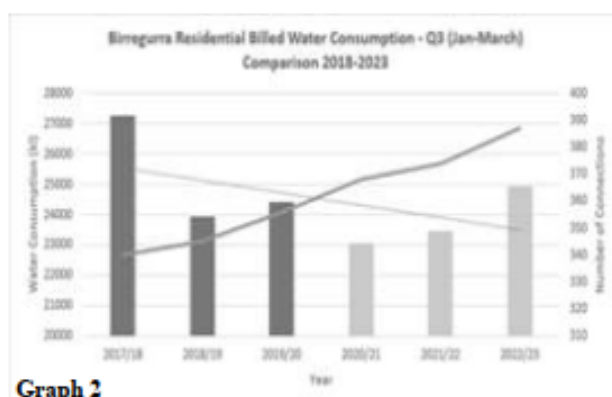
Birregurra water supply upgrade

Thanks to everyone who came along to our community pop up events last month, it was great to chat to you all. Construction of the new underground pipeline to connect Birregurra to the Colac water supply system is due to start this month (May). Works will take place along the pipeline alignment, between Forrest Street in Colac, and Bowden Street in Birregurra. You can view a map of the final pipeline alignment and details of the project at www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birre-upgrade. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-2024.

For further details on the Birregurra Sustainable Communities – Water program visit www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra.



Graph 1



Graph 2

Scrub Wrens in Birregurra

By John James

I wonder how many people in Birregurra have these tiny birds in their gardens.

A few days ago, I caught a glimpse of one in our garden in Sladen Street. I was quite excited because we have not seen one for about five years. Scrub wrens are not related to Blue Wrens and even though they are roughly the same size they never elevate their tails like the Blue Wrens. Scrub Wrens often fall prey to cats as they are a ground feeding bird and nest on or near the ground. I can't be certain of my identification as I didn't get a really good look, but I think that the way it scuttled away into the shrubbery, made me fairly confident that it was a White-browed Scrub Wren.

By the way, I expect that most people call Blue Wrens, Fairy Wrens, but I tend to always call them Blue Wrens, even though the females and juvenile birds are dull brown.