



MEDIA RELEASE

International accreditation marks environmental milestone

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Gippsland Water has achieved an environmental milestone with the corporation now managing its environmental performance against worldwide standards following the accreditation of its Environmental Management System (EMS).

An EMS is an effective tool that is used to identify, manage and reduce an organisation's impact on the environment and generate reports on its environmental performance.

Gippsland Water's managing director David Mawer said that seeking certification of the EMS against international standards had involved an environmental review of all of the corporation's core activities, including those undertaken by contractors, to ensure conformance.

"Gaining international accreditation for the EMS is a significant achievement for Gippsland Water as it ensures environmental issues are addressed in our day-to-day business operations," Mr Mawer said.

"Gippsland Water is now managing its environmental risk with a consistent approach, and we are measuring that against international standards which will be regularly monitored by external agencies," he continued.

To gain accreditation, Gippsland Water engaged Davis Langdon Certification Services (DLCS) to assess a number of the corporation's facilities to ensure its environmental performance conforms with the EMS.

This included auditing Gippsland Water's agribusiness sites, flora and fauna management at Moondarra, water storages in Traralgon and Maryvale, the Saline Wastewater Outfall Pipeline (SWOP) pump station, water and wastewater treatment plants in Warragul, Drouin, Mirboo North, Moe, Morwell and Tyers, and Gippsland Water's head office in Traralgon.

DLCS granted certification of Gippsland Water's EMS against AS/NZS ISO14001:2004 international standard on 18 January 2011 following the successful completion of these audits. Certification is valid for three years.

"Gippsland Water continues to recognise the importance of effective environmental management by developing policies that promote sustainability," Mr Mawer said.

“The certification of the EMS has many benefits for Gippsland Water, its customers and the community as it ensures environmental standards at all of our sites are best practice,” he concluded.

More information about Gippsland Water’s Environmental Management System is available by telephoning Gippsland Water on FREECALL 1800 066 401.

Authorised:
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