



MEDIA RELEASE

LONGFORD PUMP STATION COMMISSIONED

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The final stage of the Gippsland Water Factory Project, the Longford Pump Station, will be commissioned on Monday. The pump station will service the communities of Sale, Wurruk and the Fulham Correctional Centre.

The commissioning will divert wastewater (sewerage and industrial waste) from the towns that previously flowed through the open channel section of the Regional Outfall Sewer (ROS), through a 21 Kilometre pipeline directly to Dutson Downs.

The booster pump station contains two pumps, an odour control facility, an on site storage buffer and remote on site monitoring, and will assist with the transportation of wastewater when Sale's main wastewater pump station experiences an increase in flows.

"The commissioning of the pump station is a landmark achievement in what has been a major infrastructure investment for the Wellington community," General Manager of Customer Services Mr Peter Skeels said.

"It also means that after more than 50 years we have an end to the flow of any raw sewerage in the open channel of the ROS, said Mr Skeels.

Meanwhile Gippsland Water has adopted contingency plans to release untreated trade wastewater into the Regional Outfall Sewer (ROS) in the face of a weather forecast that predicts a wet weekend.

Following the commissioning of the industrial wastewater component of the Gippsland Water Factory (GWF) in January of this year all industrial wastewater flowing into the ROS has been treated and this has significantly reduced the odour from the open channel that flows from Longford to Dutson Downs.

The GWF is currently progressing through a two year proving and optimising stage during which the technology employed will be challenged and improved to meet the long term requirements of the industrial wastewater treatment process.

The purpose of the proving and optimising stage of this project is to deal with new challenges or issues that could arise including those that may require a change to operation processes to provide a long-term sustainable solution.

Mr Skeels said it was important that Gippsland Water advised the public when these challenges occurred.

“We are currently experiencing an operational event that requires us to hold industrial wastewater that would normally go through the plant. This is straining our holding capacity and in the face of a pending rain event posing unacceptable risk of overflow of our storage ponds.

“While the exact factors contributing to the current situation are being determined, they include the impact of chemical change on the biological process of the industrial wastewater system,” said Mr Skeels.

“During this proving and optimising stage of the GWF project, we are continuing to increase our network of specialists from industry and universities who can assist us to understand the chemical process occurring in this early stage of the industrial wastewater treatment plant and they are working through the current situation with us,” Mr Skeels commented.

Gippsland Water acknowledges the release of untreated industrial wastewater may impact on residents in the Wellington Shire living or travelling in the vicinity of the open channel from Longford to Dutson from which odours may be detectable. Although the odour will not return to the pre-water Gippsland Water Factory level, it will be more notable than it has been in recent weeks.

Mr Skeels said Gippsland Water will immediately implement the odour mitigation strategy to address odours. This includes the introduction of alkaline salts dosing that will be instrumental in minimising odour issues.

Gippsland Water apologises to the community for any inconvenience caused through odour emissions and seeks the patience and understanding of the community throughout the proving and optimising of this new technology for industrial wastewater management.

Gippsland Water is committed to keeping the community regularly informed throughout the course of any operational event that will result in odours being created by the ROS,” concluded Mr Skeels.

Authorised:
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