

Community Information Bulletin

Reconnecting Tarago Reservoir - project update

Construction of the new water treatment plant in Drouin West to reconnect Tarago Reservoir to Westernport and the Mornington Peninsula is progressing well.

The bulk earthworks were completed two weeks ahead of schedule, and the truck movements on and off the site have lessened considerably as a result.

Detailed excavation will be completed before Christmas, and concrete works will begin early in the new year.

What is the Tarago Reconnection Project?

The Tarago Reservoir near the township of Neerim South was constructed in 1968 to supply water to the Mornington Peninsula, Westernport regions and some local communities.

Melbourne Water managed the reservoir from 1991 until 1994, when supply to the Mornington Peninsula and Westernport regions was transferred from Tarago to Cardinia Reservoir because of water quality issues.

In June 2005, the Victorian Minister for Water announced that Tarago Reservoir would be reconnected to Melbourne Water's supply network in response to the likely reduction in water supply associated with climate change.



Artist impression of Tarago Water Treatment Plant, looking west

Melbourne Water is building a new water treatment plant to handle the additional volume of water to be drawn for its customers, and it is scheduled to be completed during 2009. Gippsland Water will continue to treat and supply water from the reservoir to residents in Neerim South, Warragul and Drouin.

Road safety

The road widening work at the new entrance to the water treatment plant on Main Neerim Road is on schedule for completion by the end of the year.

Once the road works are complete, the speed limit along Main Neerim Road, between the junctions at Old Telegraph Road West and Main Jindivick Road, will change to 80 km per hour. This will be in place for the duration of the plant's construction.

Minimising dust

With the bulk earthworks completed, there will now be considerably fewer trucks operating on site, and a reduction in dust is expected as a result. We will continue to make every effort to reduce the amount of dust. This includes using a water truck to dampen the soil, covering the earth mound with top soil, and compressing and spraying the remaining area with a substance that is commonly used in road landscaping projects to create a crust over the soil.

Melbourne Water is owned by the Victorian Government. We manage Melbourne's water supply catchments, remove and treat most of Melbourne's sewage, and manage rivers and creeks and major drainage systems throughout the Port Phillip and Westernport region. Telephone 131 722 or visit melbournewater.com.au

Keeping the community informed

Melbourne Water is committed to keeping the community informed during the construction of the new treatment plant.

■ Artist impressions and landscape plans on display

We were pleased to sponsor the Neerim South Music Festival, which took place on Sunday 18 November, and we would like to thank everyone who visited our marquee.

If you missed our display at the festival, visit our website at melbournewater.com.au/tarago to view the project plans that were on show.

■ Construction site inquiries - 1800 096 546

Please contact us toll-free on 1800 096 546 with any questions or comments about the construction process.

■ Tarago Project website – melbournewater.com.au/tarago

Log on to Melbourne Water's website for information about the wider Tarago Catchment Project, including details of the Tarago Catchment Sustainable Farms Project, the recent Baw Baw Planning Scheme Amendment, the Tarago River environmental flows study and other projects to improve the quality of water in the Tarago Reservoir and surrounding waterways, as well as plans and pictures of the water treatment plant.

■ Agency Reference Group update

Community representatives Karen and Charlie Azzopardi attended the Tarago Agency Reference Group meeting in Warragul on Tuesday 4 December. Melbourne Water was pleased to report that the construction project was progressing well and the planning approval conditions were being complied with.

Karen or Charlie can be contacted on 5626 8212, and John Petty can be contacted on 5626 8544. The next Agency Reference Group meeting is scheduled for March 2008.

Alternatively, you can contact Melbourne Water toll-free on 1800 096 546 if you have any questions.

Site closed for the holiday period

All construction work will stop over the holiday period, and the site will close on Saturday 22 December and will reopen on Monday 7 January 2008.

The site will be patrolled by security during the break, and access to the site will be prohibited for safety reasons.

Melbourne Water and our project partners Boulderstone Hornibrook, United Group, GHD and Sinclair Knight Merz would like to wish you well for the holiday season and thank you for your patience and cooperation during the construction works.

For more information please contact:

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or call **1800 096 546** (free call)

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Site plans on display at Neerim South Music Festival