



promotional feature

words Geoff Russell photos Warren Reed

Planning for the sustainable future of San Remo

A community designed with *water in mind*



“Victorian Government funding will help Westernport Water plan and develop local low cost water solutions that take advantage of all water for fit-for-purpose use”.

We live in a unique area on the Victorian Coastline, Western Port on one side and the exposed coastline of the Bass Strait on the other.

As Melbourne expands its boundaries, increasing numbers of people are moving from suburbia to live along the shores of San Remo and the surrounding area. San Remo will grow significantly in the next decade and now is the right time to begin planning to deliver water solutions for a liveable and sustainable future.

Understanding the importance of sustainable development and the need to take action, Westernport Water is partnering with Bass Coast Shire Council and has committed to investigate and develop a model for future residential developments in the San Remo and Newhaven district.

Thanks to the Victorian Government, \$210,000 has been committed from the Living Victoria Fund to develop a whole-of-water-cycle management plan.

Over the next 12 months, Westernport Water will be conducting feasibility studies, researching current and future technologies and estimating consumer demand to project communities needs into the future.

The study will look at options for developing an integrated water cycle management solution to address the future impacts of development, and will examine options for water harvesting to expand the use of locally captured rainwater and stormwater for non-drinking purposes.

Westernport Water Managing Director Murray Jackson said “By developing a smart and resilient whole-of-water-cycle plan for San Remo, we can reduce the drinking water demand in each new property and lower energy costs by reducing the need to pump water and wastewater over long distances.

“Tailoring whole-of-water-cycle projects to local conditions delivers

greater economic and environmental benefits and ensures Westernport Water is better placed to deal with the next drought and the increasing demand our ever increasing population generates.

“The smarter, more sustainable use of water resources planned for San Remo will reduce the use of drinking water for watering parks and gardens and flushing toilets by substituting recycled water in its place,” said Mr Jackson.

The capture and use of stormwater from wet weather events will have the added benefit of reducing the amount of polluted runoff flowing into Western Port, which includes the internationally recognised RAMSAR listed wetlands and ecological communities listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Act 1978.

Western Port supports some 10,000 birds from 37 species and is one of the three most important sites in Victoria in terms of wader numbers and density. One of the great strengths of whole-of-water-cycle management is the potential environmental gains from reduced stormwater flows.

The Victorian Government funding for this study will pave the way for a future of ample water supplies for all our needs at an affordable price.



WESTERNPORT
WATER.

