



A MESSAGE FROM HUNTER WATER  
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER #2 JANUARY 2010



## PAXTON WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS UPGRADE



WE'RE UPGRADING YOUR LOCAL WASTEWATER SYSTEM TO IMPROVE OUR WATERWAYS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN PAXTON, MILLFIELD AND ELLALONG.

THIS NEWSLETTER PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT UPDATE ABOUT A KEY PROJECT HAPPENING IN YOUR LOCAL AREA.

### **IMPROVING YOUR WASTEWATER SYSTEM**

Paxton WWTW is undergoing an upgrade to provide additional treatment capacity to cater for homes at Millfield and Ellalong that will be connected to the sewer system under the State Government's Priority Sewerage Program as well as new properties as the area grows over the next 20 years.

### **WHY UPGRADE?**

The provision of a reticulated sewerage system at Millfield and Ellalong and the upgrading of the Paxton WWTW will allow residents of Millfield and Ellalong to replace port-a-loos, septic tanks and other on-site wastewater disposal systems.

The upgrade means that the plant can service 3,200 people.

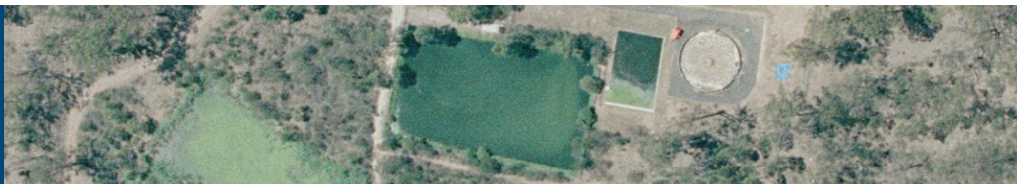
### **HOW WILL THE PLANT WORK?**

Until recently, Hunter Water had planned to use biological treatment and UV disinfection to improve effluent quality by reducing nitrogen, phosphorous and faecal coliforms.

However, recent discussions with community groups, as well as Hunter Water's review of the scheme, has meant that the Paxton Wastewater Treatment Works would now feature advanced technology reducing the levels of phosphorous in treated wastewater.

This new membrane technology will have significant benefits at Paxton WWTW, including a small footprint requiring little clearing on the site, significant cost savings compared to conventional systems and reductions in phosphorous contained in the treated wastewater.

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Darren Cleary, Hunter Water's Manager Treatment Delivery, said the technology also addressed the local community's concerns.

"This project shows the value of early community consultation, which in this case has resulted in Hunter Water finding a new technology to create a solution which results in significantly lower levels of phosphorous in the treated wastewater," he said.

The treated effluent will still be beneficially reused on site irrigating the tree plantation, with the remainder discharged to Congewai Creek.

Hunter Water will continue to investigate potential options for additional reuse of effluent in the future.

### **MINIMISING ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACTS**

Hunter Water will establish management and mitigation measures to ensure no significant environmental impacts occur during the construction or operation of the WWTW.

### **WHEN WILL WORK COMMENCE?**

Construction of the Paxton WWTW upgrade is expected to start in the first two weeks of February 2010 and is expected to last 12 to 18 months. The first signs of construction will be site clearing, and residents are likely to see earthmoving equipment and activity at the site.

Hunter Water is committed to minimising local impacts during the construction phase. The work will be conducted by Hunter Water and its construction partners.

In April 2009, Hunter Water formed an Alliance partnership with CH2M HILL and Abigroup to undertake \$240 million worth of wastewater treatment works upgrades over the next five years, and this includes the upgrade to Paxton WWTW.

Known as the Hunter Treatment Alliance, the one experienced team will undertake design and construction across upgrades across 13 of Hunter Water's wastewater treatment works.

### **HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE UPGRADE?**

You can find out more by visiting our website at [www.hunterwater.com.au](http://www.hunterwater.com.au) or by calling (02) 4913 5644.

#### **KEY FACTS ABOUT THE UPGRADE**

**WORK COMMENCES:**  
EARLY 2010

**WORK FINISHES:**  
MID 2011

**CURRENT CAPACITY:**  
1,000 PEOPLE

**CAPACITY AS A RESULT OF THE  
UPGRADE:**  
3,200 PEOPLE