



Media Release

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For immediate release

Chinese drawn to world-class Hunter infrastructure

Local expertise in wastewater nutrient removal has proven to be an international drawcard to the Hunter, attracting a delegation all the way from China to inspect Hunter Water's cutting edge wastewater treatment facilities.

Senior industry officials from the Lake Tai region will be visiting as part of the Australia-China Environment Development Partnership, with the aim of improving environmental protection and natural resource management in China.

"The area surrounding Lake Tai is home to around 13 million people and with a fast growing population causing major pollution problems for the lake, the Chinese government is looking for sustainable ways to manage its natural resources," said Hunter Water's General Manager System, Strategy and Sustainability Peter Dennis.

"By visiting our world-class wastewater treatment facilities and seeing firsthand the latest technology being applied, I am certain they will return to China with solutions that can be incorporated into their own wastewater management practices back home."

The delegation, hosted by Hunter Water, will be visiting the Morpeth and Branxton Wastewater Treatment facilities. The Branxton facility has recently undergone a major upgrade to improve effluent quality and cater for growth in surrounding areas.

"With nitrogen being a key concern regarding Lake Tai's pollution, our visitors will benefit from a trip to these treatment plants, as both are designed to biologically remove nutrients, including nitrogen, and provide a high level of disinfection," Mr Dennis said.

Branxton Wastewater Treatment Works uses advanced membrane treatment, which combines microscopic filtering with biological treatment to produce consistently high quality effluent. The plant is now one of the most technologically advanced of its kind in the region, producing high quality recycled water - a process that could have beneficial applications in China.

"This is an opportunity for knowledge to be shared both ways and at Hunter Water we welcome the opportunity to build these important long terms relationships with our international industry colleagues," Mr Dennis said.

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