



MEDIA STATEMENT

12 April 2018

FEDERAL COURT DECISION ON 'FLUSHABLE' WIPES A WIN FOR CUSTOMERS

Hunter Water welcomes today's decision by the Federal Court, which found a major wet wipes manufacturer had made false and misleading representations about its 'flushable' products.

Like other utilities around Australia, Hunter Water has strongly advocated that these products do not break down like toilet paper after flushing, and they contribute to expensive blockages for our customers at their homes and in wastewater systems.

Wet wipes are involved in around 80 per cent of Hunter Water's sewer system blockages. If wet wipes do make it through the system without contributing to a blockage, they need to be manually removed at our waste water treatment plants.

It is estimated Hunter Water removes approximately 75 tonnes of the products each year. In February 2016, Hunter Water crews had to use a crane to remove a one-tonne fatberg from a pumping station at Eleebana.

Our advice to customers is to only ever flush human waste and toilet paper. If people do use these products, they should always be disposed of in the bin, regardless of what the packaging says. This is a consistent view of major water utilities across the globe.