

MEDIA RELEASE

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Taking care of business

East Gippsland Water's Board and executive team have been meeting with local business representatives to discuss mutually beneficial business opportunities, as well as local economic trends and issues.

As part of this ongoing engagement with the business community a fact-finding tour of water facilities was recently conducted with East Gippsland Shire's Mayor, Cr Peter Neal and Chief Executive Officer, Gary Gaffney. Arranged through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that exists between both organisations, the Woodglen Water Treatment Plant and Glenaladale pumping station were inspected. These, and similar facilities servicing towns throughout the region, underpin local economic growth and are essential for the health and wellbeing of our communities in East Gippsland.



On the top deck at Woodglen are (L to R): East Gippsland Shire's Mayor Cr Peter Neal, East Gippsland Water's Chairperson Joe Rettino, East Gippsland Shire's CEO Gary Gaffney and East Gippsland Water's MD Bruce Hammond.

East Gippsland Water and the Shire signed the MoU in 2008, committing to work together on projects, issues and strategic objectives of common interest to deliver further service improvements and cost benefits to East Gippsland. Since then the partners have worked closely on particular aspects of the provision of quality water and wastewater services including:

- the sewerage of small towns like Bemm River
- the replacement and relocation of sections of ageing water main in Bairnsdale, coordinated with road and stormwater drainage works.

More recently they worked closely to coordinate the #SoNotCrap events program – a thought-provoking exploration of how East Gippsland is safeguarding its beautiful, natural environment through the smart use of recycled water.

In past weeks the Board of East Gippsland Water has also met with Lindenow-based Bonaccord, one of Eastern Victoria's largest vegetable production and logistics companies, and local community representative for Lakes Entrance, Bruce Hurley.

Said East Gippsland Water's Chairperson, Joe Rettino: "It's important that we understand and work together with the business community in key areas relating to the local economy and the delivery of water and wastewater services.

"An appreciation of each other's needs also helps on those occasions where a united business voice may be needed to advocate vigorously on behalf of East Gippsland."

In May East Gippsland Water directors, headed by Joe Rettino will join with the Southern Rural Water Board to meet with Patties Foods and Vegco. Water and trade waste services are important for the sustainable operation of these businesses and the Board is keen to understand their business requirements, to support their continued operation and growth.

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