

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Ronan Carroll Ph: 5150 4434



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The grass is greener

The local community, economy and environment all stand to benefit from an enterprising collaborative water recycling initiative involving a turf grower and East Gippsland Water.

Locally based Tambo Turf has signed a five year lease with East Gippsland Water to maintain the water corporation's irrigation properties at Metung and Bruce's Track near Swan Reach – totalling around 479 hectares. In return Tambo Turf is using land and recycled water at both sites for the large scale production of quality turf, to be sold commercially across Victoria and New South Wales.



Checking out the Metung site are (left to right): Dean Lawson and Andrew Longmore from Tambo Turf, and East Gippsland Water's Bruce Hammond

High quality recycled water produced by East Gippsland Water's wastewater treatment facilities has been used for many years to irrigate pasture, tree plantations and open areas, so commercial turf growing is a logical next step to take.

The lease arrangement will also reduce East Gippsland Water's operational and maintenance costs, which means cost benefits for customers.

Said the corporation's Managing Director, Bruce Hammond: "We are delighted to be able to put recycled water to good use in this way. The high quality recycled water we generate from all our wastewater treatment plants across the region is suitable for a wide range of non-drinking applications, including the irrigation of pasture, tree plantations, alpine woodland, golf courses and Bairnsdale Racecourse. It is also helping to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the internationally significant Macleod Morass."

Said Tonya Longmore of Tambo Turf "We are excited about our opportunity to provide quality turf products into the East Gippsland and wider Victorian regions in conjunction with EGW. This environmentally progressive use of the recycled water from the region to irrigate turf is a win win for our business, EGW and the wider East Gippsland community. The nutrient rich water available from EGW, along with the favourable coastal climate, provides us with opportunity to trial and develop new and more environmentally sustainable turf varieties. We are currently trialling a new buffalo variety which looks very promising".

East Gippsland Water adheres to strict standards to ensure that its recycled water is safe to use for non-drinking purposes.

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