

Annual Report 2022-23

The 2022-23 East Gippsland Water Annual Report is now available highlighting the activities and initiatives undertaken during the past 12 months and the close out of the 2018-2023 Price Submission.

We have spent \$17.58 million on our capital works program, including the completion of \$12.1 million in asset improvements during the 2022-23 financial year.

Key projects included a new 430,000L raw water storage tank at the Buchan Water Plant; significant upgrades to the Lakes Entrance Water Recycling Plant to replace ageing infrastructure and planning for a significant program of works at our Bairnsdale Water Recycling Plant; Paynesville Water Recycling Plant upgrades to install 26 hectares of fixed sprinkler irrigation and installation of a 99kW solar array.

Community engagement was also undertaken to shape customer priorities and preferences for our 2023-2028 Price Submission.

To view a copy of the Annual Report, visit the website egwater.vic.gov.au.



Turning sewage waste into organic compost

In a first for East Gippsland Water and as part of our commitment to environmental sustainability, we have entered into a contract with Gippsland Regional Organics, east of Sale, to recycle biosolids into compost products. The first collection of materials took place at the beginning of November.

Biosolids are the solid material left over from the waste water recycling process, they are rich in organic matter and nutrients and makes an excellent organic compost, enriching the soil, reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and reducing materials to landfill.

The agreement allows for around 1,300 tonnes of biosolids, equivalent to the weight of approximately 2,000 cows or four Boeing 747's, to be transported each year for recycling.

Talking Water

Tune into our monthly podcast broadcasts on REG FM (90.7 and 105.5FM) as well as on our website.



Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

We have a target to reduce our net greenhouse gas emissions by 44 per cent by 1 July 2025. This will take our annual emissions down to a maximum of 4,650 tonnes of CO2-e equivalent. Even more significant, we are committed to achieving zero net emissions by 2035.

During the past six months our annual recorded greenhouse emissions, 7443 t CO2-e, is almost five per cent lower than our 2021/22 result. This is due to increased renewable energy activities and initiatives, such as the installation of our 99kW solar system at Paynesville Recycled Water and Reuse Facility and the commissioning of our new 80kW Combined Heat and Power Biogas engine at our Bairnsdale Water Recycling Plant.

We are continuing our major ongoing program to reduce stormwater and groundwater infiltration into the sewer network to reduce our electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

For further information, visit our website at egwater.vic.gov.au.

Customer Connect

We are continuing our Customer Connect program at our Orbost office and you can also visit us at a number of local markets and events:

- Saturday, 18 November – Omeo & District Show
- Saturday, 2 December – Mallacoota Artisan Market
- Sunday, 10 December – Paynesville Market.

We will be able to tell you more about our new Water Efficiency Rebate Program, provide you with information about our services, answer any general enquiries you may have and you may be able to pick up some water saving products and some fun stuff for the kids to take away.



Customer Connect

Where: Orbost Office, 6 Clarke Street
When: Thursday, 16 November 2023 | Time: 9am to 4pm

Drop in and chat to a Customer Support Team member face-to-face about your bill, flexible payment options, financial hardship or for any general enquiry you may have.

Stream flows, November 2023

Stream flow information as of 8 November 2023	Current stream flow (million litres/day)	5 year average stream flow (million litres/day)	Rating of current flow	Current flow as a percentage of 5 year average
Bemm River	188.3	470.4	Low	40%
Betka River - Mallacoota	1.5	39.0	Low	4%
Brodrigg River - Orbost, Marlo, Newmerella	125.5	348.6	Low	36%
Buchan River - Buchan	87.4	315.4	Low	28%
Butchers Creek - Omeo	6.1	6.2	Average	99%
Cann River	49.2	249.9	Low	20%
Mitchell River	1267.0	2142.0	Average	59%
Tambo River - Swifts Creek	55.7	208.1	Low	27%

* Mitchell River supply system = Bairnsdale, Walpa, Lindenow South, Lindenow, Eagle Point, Newlands Arm, Paynesville, Raymond Island, Sarsfield, Bruthen, Nicholson, Johnsonville, Swan Reach, Metung, Kalinna, Lakes Entrance, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, Lake Tyers Beach, Nowa Nowa and surrounding areas.

National Water Week Poster Competition 2023 Winners

It is with great pleasure that we can announce the winners of our regional poster competition and the lucky State winners!

We really appreciate the involvement of 14 schools from across East Gippsland in this year's competition. We received 287 fantastic entries across the five categories incorporating this year's theme 'United by Water'.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:



Early Learning/Kindergarten - Laila from Wild Cherry Primary School. Laila is also the winner of the State competition in this category, a fantastic achievement!



Grade 1-2 - Cambell from Buchan Primary School



Grade 5-6 - Grace from Bairnsdale Primary School. Grace also placed second in the State competition -- great work Grace!



Prep/Foundation - Maizie from Swan Reach Primary School and we have another State winner with Maizie. Well done.



Grade 3-4 - Stella from St Mary's Primary School

All of our participants did a fantastic job, but a big shout out should also go to the teachers for encouraging the children to get involved!

Additional congratulations to the runners up:

Early Learning/Kindergarten - 2nd Place Caprice and 3rd Place Ruby both from Paynesville Uniting Kindergarten

Prep/Foundation - 2nd Place Ben, Marlo Primary School and 3rd Place Charlotte, Swan Reach Primary School

Grade 1-2 - 2nd Place Esther, St Mary's Primary School Bairnsdale and 3rd Place Dylan, Bairnsdale Primary School

Grade 3-4 - 2nd Place Layla and 3rd Place Natalie both from Bairnsdale Primary School

Grade 5-6 - 2nd Place Taylah, Swan Reach Primary School and 3rd Place Luke, Bairnsdale Primary School.



East Gippsland Water Managing Director Steve McKenzie presented the winners with their prizes during National Water Week 16-19 October 2023 at The Hub in Bairnsdale. All participants also received a participation certificate. Pictured: Prep/Foundation